
ICANN72 | Prep Week – Policy Update
Thursday, October 14, 2021 – 09:00 to 10:30 PDT

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Hello and welcome to the policy update session. My name is Maryam Bakoshi 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 this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. I will read them now during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session.

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DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you very much, Maryam, and welcome, everyone. I’d like to present the ICANN72 policy update webinar. This is something that the policy team does before every ICANN meeting. The update provides a high-level overview of the planned work and activities of our supporting organizations and advisory committees, as well as the empowered committees, at ICANN72. This ICANN meeting is an Annual General Meeting, AGM, as it’s called.

This will be the second virtual AGM. ICANN72 will take place in the time zone of the original host city, Seattle. You see a picture behind me of their [skyline] in the United States. At the meeting, of course, we’ll have one plenary session dealing with what might next steps be for a hybrid meeting, one public forum, and many working sessions.

We will also celebrate our community during ICANN72 and you will be hearing more about this from our colleagues. I want to thank all of you for taking the time and contributing many, many hours to prepare for the ICANN meeting, either in working groups or session and prep sessions, including the planning for this meeting of the ICANN planning group.

We want to thank you and we encourage you to participate. Whether you're going to be a regular, occasional participant, or a newcomer, I encourage you to actively be part of this meeting. We have a different format that we tried recently and we hope you will enjoy this new approach to hearing about policy and advice development in other community activities. I'll now turn it over to our master of ceremony, Melissa Allgood. Melissa, please.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Thanks, David. Hello, all. My name is Melissa Allgood and we are so happy to have you joining us today. Before we begin, I wanted to share a few updates about today's session. So, unfortunately, we are not all together in Seattle, so we visit Seattle virtually. And we're doing our best to make this session as interactive as we can, so we really, really welcome your feedback. We're going to be having a quick survey at the end of the session, so I really encourage all of you to fill it out. Let us know what you feel works and what doesn't.

Now, as you can see, we are in a webinar room. Please direct any questions you may have into the Q&A pod. Your questions will either be answered in the pod itself or will be asked live during our panel Q&A toward the end of our session. As for format, we've changed things up a bit. Immediately following my brief remarks here, we're trying something called "the policy pop-up."

A number of the policy team will be asking you questions. We encourage you to respond in the chat because then they'll be answering those questions and providing additional information. From there,

we’re going to move into one-on-one conversations with policy team members supporting all SOs and ACs, much like we did in the policy update webinar before ICANN71. These conversations will highlight the work of each part of the community and focus on ICANN72 highlights. And finally, as I mentioned, we’re going to wrap up with a panel Q&A. So, with that, I hand it over to my colleague, Kathy Schnitt, to begin our policy pop-up.

KATHY SCHNITT:

Thank you, Melissa. So, my goal today with the pop-up is I want to see if I could possibly give you all a little “wow” factor. So, what I want to do is talk about you, the community, and what you have accomplished over the last fiscal year. So, please. I’m going to ask a question. Type in in the chat. We’re really curious to see what your thoughts are. So, how many calls/meetings did you conduct over the last year? Was it 1,467, 3,552, or 4,513? Put your thoughts in chat and let’s see what folks think. You might be surprised.

Impressive. Oh, good to see folks are ... D, all of the above. I like that. All right. Let’s move on. The answer was 4,513. Does that not blow your mind? That is more than 372 on average per month, and the policy team was there supporting you all along the way. Not for nothing, guys. That’s amazing. It shows how committed you are.

So, along that line, I just wanted to share another little “do you know.” You also engaged in 24,942 mailing list exchanges and 299 publicly archived mailing lists. So, I hope this statistics [wowed] you a little. And again, it just shows how well you have been committed to this. And I

have to say I am thoroughly impressed. Now with that, I'd like to turn that over to Maryam Bakoshi.

MARYAM BAKOSHI:

Thank you very much, Kathy. Hello, everyone. Now, let's talk about the additional budget request process and when this happens. The additional budget request, also known as ABR, reflects potential ICANN community activities that are not already included in the annual ICANN operating plan and budget. The process helps the board and Org better understand and develop resources for present and future ICANN community needs.

As to the timeline, the ABR process runs from October to May. You can find further details of the ABR and its process on the finance Wiki. Lastly, ICANN Org will have an informational webinar on Thursday, 2nd December 2021 at 16:00 UTC. We invite you to attend. The registration link will be posted in the chat. Thank you for listening. I'll pass this onto my colleague, Chantelle Doerksen. Chantelle, please.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Thank you, Maryam, and hello, everyone. One moment, my slide ... Whoops. Sorry, one moment. There we go. Sorry about that. Today, I'm going to be talking to you about public comments. My name is Chantelle Doerksen and I'm a part of the policy development support team, of course. And it might surprise you to know that, since 2015, the policy development support team is a team that has been managing the public comment process.

Public comment gives the ICANN community, the Internet stakeholders, and the general public an opportunity to provide input on ICANN work and policies. It might surprise you to know that, since 2010, there have been 593 public comment proceedings opened, and the average length of a proceeding is 51 days.

You might also be aware that, in August, ICANN Org launched an improved public comment feature that includes a new user experience, better search capabilities, and guided submission options. There are also new public consultation pages which provide the community a central location for other forms of consultation that fall outside of public comment.

These updates would not have been possible without the input of 30 stakeholders from every ICANN community group. These stakeholders help us to determine what updates would be useful to the users, and our thanks to all who participated in that effort. If you haven't already done so, please visit ICANN Org's public comment page to view the improvements. I would now like to turn it over to my colleague, Ozan Sahin.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you, Chantelle, and hello, everyone. ICANN policy development support team oversees the community recognition at ICANN, and here comes our final pop-up question. What community recognition activities are planned during ICANN72? And here are the answers. During ICANN72 we will see two community recognition activities to recognize the contributions of the ICANN community members.

First, Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building recipient will be announced. And as a reminder, ICANN Board selects the recipient of Tarek Kamel Award. And in addition we will have a community recognition program, during which we will recognize ICANN community leaders who have completed a term of service since ICANN69 or will be completing a term of service during ICANN72.

On average, 50 ICANN community members are recognized in community recognition program each year. But community recognition at ICANN is not limited to these two activities. You may also recall that ICANN Community Excellence Award is presented at ICANN Policy Forums in June to community members for their contributions to the ICANN multi-stakeholder model. With that, I will now turn it back to my colleague, Melissa Allgood.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Thanks, Ozan. Now, we all know that Seattle is known for its coffee culture, so we thought it only appropriate to continue our tradition of having these conversations as coffee chats. Kim's going to be popping us into the immersive view and we are going to start engaging in those dialogs. But before we do, I wanted to give you an update. Oh, there I am! I wanted to give you an update on the Address Supporting Organization.

As many of you know, the ASO recommends global policies for Internet number resources to the ICANN Board as developed by the communities of the regional Internet registries. There are currently no global policy proposals but regional policy development continues.

Members of the numbers community will be participating at ICANN72 but they have no scheduled sessions. So, no ASO sessions on the ICANN72 schedule.

With that, I think we should move onto the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization. The ccNSO is responsible for developing and recommending to ICANN’s board global policies relating to country-code top-level domains. It provides a platform for the ccTLD community to develop best practices, exchange information, and discuss globally relevant issues to all ccTLDs. Here to discuss the ccNSO in preparation for ICANN72, I welcome Joke Braeken. Hi, Joke.

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Hi, Melissa. Good to see you. Thanks for the introduction.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Ah, any time. All right. Let’s dive into the ccNSO. We all know that some of the core functions of your community involve information sharing and best practices. How are those core functions being addressed at ICANN72?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Thanks for the question, Melissa. Indeed, best practice sharing and information sharing is absolutely relevant for the ccNSO, and we focus many of our sessions around these concepts, not only at ICANN72, but let’s focus on ICANN72 today. So, two of the sessions that I would like

to highlight are particularly relevant in that perspective, and that is first and foremost tech day.

Tech day is really a session where newcomers and also experienced members meet and discuss topics of relevance to them. Mostly technical topics, also operational topics, such as, for instance, DNSSEC or DNS abuse mitigation. Very relevant session taking place on the first day. But there is also another session by the TLD Ops Standing Committee, which you might want to attend.

The TLD Ops community is actually the incident response community for and by ccTLD managers where they detect and try to mitigate incidents that affect the security and stability of ccTLDs. And the committee that governs the TLD Ops mailing list is meeting at ICANN72 and they will reflect on past activities such as, for instance, disaster recovery and business continuity playbooks they developed, and reflect on what they could do in terms of future activities.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Well, thank you for that very comprehensive response. Now, let's shift gears a bit. I see that there is a DNS abuse session scheduled for ICANN72 but I believe the ccNSO is tackling this conversation in a different way. Can you explain?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Yeah, happy to do so. Yes, we do indeed things differently. It's not a session about defining DNS abuse and it's also not a session about what kind of DNS abuse mitigation efforts you could undertake. The goal of

this session, really, is to determine what the ccNSO could do to assist ccTLDs when it comes to discussions and other related activities that pertain to DNS abuse.

The session will be consisting of two parts. The first part is more a bit of setting the scene. And then on the second part, there will be a consultation with the audience and anybody attending on what the ccNSO in particular should be doing.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Fantastic. Are there any other ICANN72 highlights?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

There are a number of sessions that we will organize. One aspect that is important for the ccNSO is, for instance, the governance of the ccNSO. We have been organizing a number of sessions, governance sessions, ccNSO governance sessions, at past ICANN meetings, and we will continue at ICANN72. The main topic of the governance session is the new set of rules for the ccNSO. They were developed in 2004, and ICANN has changed, and the ccTLD community has changed, and the world has changed.

So, we need to update those rules. And it's really about the social contract between the ccTLD community, the ccNSO members, and the ccNSO council. That's quite unique, as well, for the ccNSO, because when we talk about ccNSO it's really a combination of both the council and the ccNSO members, and that is quite special within the ICANN environment.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: I appreciate you highlighting that, Joke, because that is really different, the interaction between your council and your membership.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Correct, yes. And that’s also why we organize a question and answer session, for instance, with the candidates for the ccNSO council. There were nominations in September and, depending on the number of candidates per region, there might be elections in November. So, the ccTLDs can have an opportunity to consult the candidates and discuss matters with them at the Q&A session. The full council is meeting, as well, at ICANN72, and the meetings are open to all who are interested to attend, so please join.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Well, let’s talk a little bit about the council. I see that they are slated to meet with the board. What is on the agenda for that meeting?

JOKE BRAEKEN: There is, indeed, a joint meeting with the board. And as usual, the board has suggested topics that they would like to discuss, and the ccNSO did the same. There are three topics that the ccNSO would like to put on the table. First and foremost, a proposed policy on the retirement of ccTLDs. So, recently, council submitted the proposed policy to the board for its consideration and, eventually, perhaps, adoption.

So, in case the policy gets adopted, we would like to know what the next steps are in terms of implementation and to make sure that there are no questions or concerns. Secondly, there is also a recent request to change the ICANN bylaws to allow ccTLD managers to become members of the ccNSO. And we would like to know what the next steps are, the timeframe, etc. So, those are the main topics.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Thanks so much, Joke. Did we miss anything?

JOKE BRAEKEN: I don't think so. I think I'm ready for a coffee now.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Well, thank you so much for your time. We're going to go ahead and move onto the Generic Names Supporting Organization. The GNSO is the policy-making body responsible for generic top-level domains. To discuss this community's work I welcome Ariel Liang. Hi, Ariel.

ARIEL LIANG: Hi, Melissa. How are you?

MELISSA ALLGOOD: I am great. How are you?

ARIEL LIANG: Very good.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, there are a lot of policy discussions happening at the moment in the GNSO. First, I'd like to touch on the status of some completed PDP efforts, where they are in their process. The first of these is EPDP on the Temporary Specification for GTLD Registration Data, Phase 2A. Where does this effort currently stand?

ARIEL LIANG: So, this effort, basically, the final report has been submitted to the GNSO Council in early September. And what's next going to happen is the council is going to consider review approval, basically, for this report at its ICANN72 session.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: And that session is on the 27th, correct?

ARIEL LIANG: Yes, correct.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fantastic. Let's move onto the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, which was known as SubPro. Where does this effort stand?

ARIEL LIANG: So, for SubPro, the ICANN Board directed the ICANN Org to initiate its operational design phase, also called the ODP. And it is a topic of a wider interest across the ICANN community, I believe.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fantastic. We'll have to see how that all plays out. Finally, rights protection mechanisms in all gTLDs PDP, which was known as RPM. Where is this effort currently?

ARIEL LIANG: Currently, the public comment for the final report for Phase 1 concluded. So, the next step is for the ICANN Board to consider the Phase 1 final recommendations.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fantastic. Now, those of us that were on the GNSO update earlier this week, that group discussed the accuracy scoping effort happening in the GNSO. But I'd like to talk about that a little bit more because this is not a Policy Development Process. It's not a PDP. So, can you explain a little bit about what it is and what they're working on?

ARIEL LIANG: Of course. So, the scoping team, as the name suggests, is to scope the issue under question and also to provide recommendations to the GNSO Council on the appropriate mechanism to address these issues. And in fact, the accuracy scoping team is not the first scoping team.

GNSO Council has also established other scoping teams that I may touch on in later parts of my section.

So, for the accuracy scoping team, what it is [meant] to do is to address the effects of GDPR, the General Data Protection Policy on the accuracy requirements of registration data, as well as the WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System.

So, eventually, what the scoping team are going to deliberate will help inform the council to understand whether any changes may be recommended to improve the accuracy level and, if so, how those changes would be developed. So, for example, if it is recommended that a change to existing contractual requirement is needed, then maybe a PDP or a contractual negotiation would be necessary to effect such change. So, this scoping team has started its work in late September, after the council confirmed its chair. And it will also meet at ICANN72.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Thank you so much for drawing some brighter lines around that effort. Now, Ariel, looking at the schedule for ICANN72, it looks like the 26th of October is a very busy day for active PDPs and their work. I'd like to touch on what we can expect that day. What groups are meeting?

ARIEL LIANG:

Yes, of course. So, as mentioned earlier, the accuracy scoping team will meet that day, and there are another two working groups who will meet that day, as well. The first one is the Review of Transfer Policy Policy

Development Process Working Group. What this group does is to review the policy governing the transfer of domain names from one registrar to another and to understand whether any improvement is needed to enhance the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar transfer and inter-registrant transfer. Currently, this group has started its Phase 1 of the work, so it actually has multi-phases.

So, what the group did is to deliberate the questions relating to the auth-info codes, and then it is moving in to deliberating the questions related to the losing and gaining forms of authorization, also called FOA. So, once the group has come up with answers to the FOA-related questions, it will return to the auth-info codes topic. So, that's what this group does.

And then, the second group that will meet is the Internationalized Domain Names Expedited Policy Development Process team. So, this EPDP team on IDNs is basically focusing on two areas. One is the definition of all gTLDs and the management at varying levels. Second is, how should the implementation guidelines for IDNs be updated in the future? So, the IDN implementation guidelines actually have contractual implications. So, that the two topics this EPDP team is focusing on.

So, what the group has done recently is it has started its work in August and it is focusing on topic A of seven of its main topics, which is using the consistent definition of gTLDs and their varying labels via the root zone label generation rule, which is also called RZLGR. It is a really

useful tool to physically validate the top-level labels and calculate their variants, as well as their disposition value.

And I just want to have a quick plug that there will be a session on RZLGR today in this prep week. So, welcome folks who are interested in this topic to join. So, this group will also meet that day and welcome everyone to participate and to observe in those sessions.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Well, Ariel, thank you for that wealth of information. By all means, we encourage everyone to join today's session and then it is clear that the 26th will be a very, very busy day. So, let's move onto the GNSO Council. What should we be on the lookout with regard to council?

ARIEL LIANG:

The council, similar to the ccNSO Council, that the Annual General Meeting is a time of transition. So, the newly appointed councilors will be seated in this meeting and also will elect a new chair and two vice-chairs. So, that's what's going to happen in this meeting. And as the usual council public sessions in ICANN meetings, we will also have one this time, and it has two parts.

So, first part will focus on priority issues related to Policy Development Processes that are managed by the council. So, as mentioned earlier, the EPDP Phase 2A final report will be voted on during the part one of the session. And part two will focus on administrative matters as well as planning for policy priorities or projects for the council in the next year. So, that's what to expect for the council meeting in ICANN72.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Well, thank you so much, Ariel. Are there any other ICANN72 highlights for the GNSO community?

ARIEL LIANG: Yes, I do want to mention two highlights. The first one is that the GNSO Council will hold its strategic planning session following ICANN72. It is an opportunity for the council to evaluate its projects and priorities in the pipeline and have a candid discussion about what to do next with all these projects.

But the incoming councilors will actually have the opportunity to meet with the full council via a virtual meet-and-greet session that's part of the strategic planning session, and that will happen next week. So, they will get to know the colleagues before they start working together in next year. That's the first highlight.

And the second highlight is I'd like to all promote a communications product from the GNSO Council, which is the ICANN72 edition GNSO policy briefing. So, this document provides in-depth details about the policy activities in the GNSO, as well as implementation status of the concluded PDPs. So, I welcome all of you to read it and to use it as one of the prep materials for ICANN72. And I believe my colleague will post the link in the chat and you can download it and read it as your free time.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: What a great tip, Ariel. Thank you so much for joining us.

ARIEL LIANG: Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, we're going to move onto the At-Large community. The At-Large Advisory Committee, the ALAC, provides advice to the ICANN Board. ALAC is a subset of the larger At-Large community, which has a ground-up tiered structure that's organized regionally. This community is focused on the end-user, and to discuss the activities of the At-Large community I welcome Silvia Vivanco. Hi, Silvia. Silvia, I think you're on mute.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Sorry about that. Yes, I was. Hello, Melissa. How are you? Hello, everyone.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: I'm good, how are you?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Good.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, let's dive right in. Can you first explain to us how the At-Large community structures its work?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Sure, yes. The At-Large community structure works in three tracks: the policy track, the outreach and engagement track, and the operations track. The policy track coordinates ALAC policy advice to the board, ALAC policy statements related to ICANN public comments, and also the ALAC contribution to ICANN Policy Development Processes. The outreach and engagement track develops and implements regional and global outreach and capacity-building activities, as well as coordinated promotion through social media platforms. And the operations track includes budgets and finance work.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, Silvia, let’s talk a little bit more about the policy track activities of At-Large. What specifically has happened since ICANN71?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, Melissa. The At-Large community continues to be very active in policy and policy advice development. And since ICANN71, At-Large has submitted five policy statements.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Now, where do these efforts originate within your community?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes. The majority of the policy and policy advice coordination work occurs in the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group. This group

meets weekly to review both policy advice statements as well as the At-Large perspective in all ongoing PDPs and EPDPs.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Now, Silvia, I understand this is something we'd like to draw some attention to. The At-Large is choosing to hold most of its sessions during what has been otherwise known as the intersessional week, the week beginning October 18th, which is technically the week before the official start of ICANN72. What does At-Large have scheduled first?

SILVIA VIVANCO: That's right. At-Large will hold a total of six sessions during the At-Large week, which is from 18th to 20th October. And the first session will be on Monday. It's the welcome session, which will include updates from the At-Large working groups, as well as the At-Large aims and objectives for ICANN72.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: What can we anticipate after the welcome session?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay, yes. The Consolidated Policy Working Group mentioned before has organized three sessions focused on topics of interest from ALAC and the At-Large community, and these sessions are open to all. The first session will be on "closed generics: what's next?" This session will discuss the possible scenarios in which closed generics could be

authorized and endeavor to advance the discussion prior to board consideration.

The second session will be on tackling DNS abuse. This session brings together the technical community, governments, and businesses from around the world to offer different perspectives on DNS abuse with the aim of bridging the gap between policy development and relevant legal and policy measures on this issue.

Then, we have session three, “ICANN accountability and transparency and ICANN reviews,” which will be held in two successive parts. Part one; this session addresses the issues related to ATRT3 and implementation of recommendations. Approximately ten representatives from ICANN SO/ACs, stakeholder groups, and the RALOs will take part in a [flash pitch] tour through the table of constituency points of view. And the point two; this will include a discussion with participants and concluding remarks by ICANN CEO.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Certainly a busy few days with those sessions. Is there anything else we can expect during this intersessional week known as At-Large week?

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Yes, very busy indeed. And we have a meeting with the ALAC and SSAC. They will meet and they will have the participation of Steve Crocker as a guest and also the At-Large NARALO trivia event. This will be a very fun event where participants will have the chance to play an interactive

game and test their knowledge about ICANN, the At-Large, and the North American region, the region hosting ICANN72, virtually this time.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: You're At-Large community has done such a great job of creating fun virtual events. Where can people go to get more information on all of these activities and these sessions?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes. People can go to At-Large's Wiki workspaces, our website, of course, the At-Large social media channels, which are super-active, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: All right. Well, let's move on to the official ICANN72 week. Does the At-Large have any sessions scheduled?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, indeed, Melissa. It's another very busy week for us. We will hold five sessions. I'll go through them very quickly but you can see all the details on the Wiki pages, please. The ALAC and the board meeting will meet. The ALAC and the GAC meeting. The AFRALO AfrICANN meeting on data security, and this will be the 26th meeting held at nearly every ICANN public meeting since 2010. The At-Large leadership transitions meeting. This session will welcome incoming ALAC members and will say farewell to the parting ALAC members. And the At-Large wrap-up session.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Did we miss any highlights, Silvia? Is there anything else we need to know?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, yes. I would like to highlight a couple of points. First, our current chair, the ALAC Chair Maureen Hilyard, will continue to be the ALAC Chair for one more year. And another highlight is the NARALO social event, “What’s on Tap?” And this is a virtual social event with alcohol and non-alcohol tasting and cultural tour hosted by NARALO. Please, all ICANN72 participants are invited to join.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Another fun, virtual At-Large event. Looking forward to it. Thank you, Silvia.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: We are now going to move onto the Government Advisory Committee. The GAC serves as the voice of governments and international governmental organizations in ICANN. I welcome Fabien Betremieux to discuss GAC and its work. Hi, Fabian.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Hello, Melissa. Good to be with you.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Have your coffee ready for our chats?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: I do, absolutely.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Ah, love it. So, let's dive right in. What are GAC's current priorities?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: So, I think it will come nobody's surprise that the GAC will be talking about WHOIS and data protection, mitigation of DNS abuse, subsequent rounds of new gTLDs, protection of IGO names and acronyms. And so, those are the recurring priorities of the GAC, as are reflected in the communiqué, usually either as an issue of importance or advice to the ICANN Board.

But what that doesn't say, though, is the more operational priorities of the GAC, and there have been two in particular. One has been adjusting its preparation efforts to make sure that the government delegates are as effectively prepared as possible for the ICANN meetings. And so we've seen, in that realm in particular the GAC work on preparing input and questions for all of its bilateral meetings.

So, this used to be the case for the board meetings. But since ICANN71, maybe ICANN70 already, the GAC has started to work with the ALAC and

the GNSO on a list of topics, as well as questions, prior to those meetings, to make sure that they are more fruitful and effective. And then, another effort in that space has been a webinar that was held earlier this week of GAC members to prepare them for those deliberations that the GAC will conduct during the meeting.

And the other operational priority has been increasing the delegates' readiness and the committee's readiness—the GAC, entirely—to contribute to various initiatives and efforts within the community, and that is being done in particular with the adoption of a GAC action decision radar, which is a tool that is similar, and actually inspired from, the one that the GNSO Council has adopted before. And that enables the GAC to prepare and to see what's coming down the line for the community to contribute to, and then, therefore, to be more prepared.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

And it's this latter concept that I'd like to talk about a little bit because we've seen GAC members increasingly taking part in PDPs over recent years. And so, how is that impacting GAC's deliberations and its role within the ICANN ecosphere?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

So it's true that we've seen, over the last few years, an increased attention and participation to Policy Development Processes, and particularly GNSO has been the case in the Subsequent Procedures for new gTLDs, curative rights mechanisms, rights protection mechanisms review, the recent EPDP on IGO protection, and also, obviously, the

EPDP on gTLD registration data. And in the context of these we have seen firsts, such as the GAC issuing a minority statement to a final report [such working groups].

And so, this has actually also been referred. The one that was actually issued on the EPDP Phase 2 final report was referred in a GAC advice, as you may be aware, in the ICANN70 communiqué, and this is the subject of exchanges with the board that are still ongoing. So, this is a novelty that we are witnessing. And with the fact of the GAC and government representatives bringing the public policy perspective earlier in the process and in those weekly deliberations, we're seeing a need for the GAC to evolve its work, in a sense.

And we've seen the creation of small groups within the GAC of experts and topic leads that prepare the positions of the GAC, that draft those, that then circulate those with GAC members for the review, and then to feed that into PDP processes. So, this has had, indeed, operational implications. And I'll just mention, also, that this earlier involvement of bringing the public policy perspective early in the process might have played a part, or maybe either a contributing factor or a product, of some evolutions in the PDPs.

For instance, the fact that advisory committees are being invited to some of those PDPs, to scoping efforts in the GNSO, and also to the type of mediation efforts we have seen in the context of the EPDP on gTLD registration data. So, this is all, I think, playing out. It has been going on for a few years, and we're seeing this evolving, and we are, [in the GAC, certainly eager] to support that type of engagement.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fabien, I'd like to change directions just a bit. At our last policy update webinar, before ICANN71, we discussed how the pandemic has broadly impacted the work of the GAC. But taking that one step further, has the pandemic impacted GAC's ability to advise the board in that traditional role it has?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: It has indeed. And in particular, early in the pandemic, the GAC chose not to issue advice, not to develop advice, actually, due to barriers to life participation, be it the issues of the time zones of the meetings now going virtual and the impact that that's having across time zones, or language-related challenges. And so this is why, initially, the GAC did not develop advice.

Now, what we have seen since ICANN69 is the GAC developing a new process to provide more opportunities for all GAC participants to either contribute to deliberations or to have more time to review a communiqué that's drafted that could include advice. And so, this process affords pre-ICANN-meeting preparations around the communiqué, as well as a review period after the communiqué is drafted, to enable some representatives to potentially further review and raise concerns with any of the text.

So this has, indeed, produced advice in the last two communiqués in the ICANN70 and ICANN71 communiqués. So we're working, now, under this new process. And I should note that there are also some

other evolutions around the consideration of the communiqué outside of the GAC so that you're aware that the GNSO Council has now been sharing its review of the GAC communiqué for some time.

What we're seeing with the board—who obviously considers the communiqué quite thoroughly—is an increased level of dialog between the GAC and the board with clarifying questions. And we'll post in the chat, in particular, some recent GAC responses to board clarifying questions on the ICANN70 and ICANN71 advice. So these, again, are evolutions that we are watching and supporting that I think are beneficial for the ecosystem.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Fabien, thank you so much for sharing that in such detail. Before I let you go, are there any sessions at ICANN72 that you want to draw our attention to?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Well, you know, the ICANN72 schedule of the GAC is fairly similar to those of previous ICANN meetings. The GAC meetings culminate in the drafting of the GAC communiqué. But before the GAC gets there, the GAC holds topical sessions or bilateral meetings that do inform the GAC deliberations about its communiqué.

And so, depending on the participants' interest ... You know, one may be interested in topical sessions, in those four priority topics that I mentioned earlier, or in the bilateral meetings that are planned with the

board, with the GNSO Council, with the ALAC, with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group.

So, those are at everybody's discretion. One particular aspect of ICANN72 is going to be the election of the GAC Advice Chairs for a new one-year term starting at the next meeting. So, an election will be held. We're in the process, and the election will conclude, and the results will be known on the Thursday of the meeting.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Thank you so much, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: With that, we're going to move onto the Root Server System Advisory Committee. The RSSAC is an advisory committee to the ICANN Board about the operation of the Root Name Servers of the domain name system. To discuss the RSSAC, I welcome Andrew McConachie. Hi, Andrew.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Hi, Melissa. Great to be here.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, let's dive right in. Please share with us a bit about what RSSAC is currently working on.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Sure. So, the RSSAC Caucus currently has one work party active right now, and it's on updating RSSAC 047. RSSAC 047 is a document that was written last year and it provides specifications of metrics for the DNS Root Server System. During the implementation of RSSAC 047, there were some issues discovered. And this work party is working to resolve and address those issues with a new version of the document. So, this work party will be producing an RSSAC 047, V2, and there's a meeting of this work party at ICANN72.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fantastic. Have there been any other recent publications that you'd like to let us know about?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Sure, I've got three to tell you about. So, the first is RSSAC 055, and this is "Principles Guiding the Operation of the Public Root Server System. This comes out of work on RSSAC 037. RSSAC 037 contained 11 principles that are core principles and that have enabled the success of the Root Server System in our main core going forward to its operation. And this document provides further clarification and a bit more information on each one of the principles.

The second document is RSSAC 056. This is the “RSSAC Advisory on Rogue DNS Root Server Operators.” This publication aims to inform future Root Server System governance bodies on types of Root Server Operator activity that might be considered rogue and the risks that these activities may pose to the Internet community. It also comes out of continued work on RSSAC 037 in evolving the governance of the Root Server System.

The third document is RSSAC 057, and this is “Requirements for Measurements of the Local Perspective on the Root Server System.” This publication defines some requirements for a tool that will collect and report some measurements on the Root Server System from different local perspectives. So, once developed, this tool will help in the determination of under-served areas, help Root Server Operators plan new locations for root servers, and also help recursive operators in deciding where to deploy new recursive servers.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Thank you for all of the explanation behind those. Briefly, what can we expect from RSSAC at ICANN72?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE:

So, the RSSAC will hold four sessions. There is going to be a monthly general RSSAC meeting on the Monday. There is the RSSAC and ICANN Board joint meeting. There is the general RSSAC Caucus meeting. That’s on the Tuesday. And then, finally, as I previously mentioned, there is the

RSSAC Caucus session on updating RSSAC 047. That's a work party meeting.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Sounds great. Did we miss anything that we want to share with our community on this call?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: I don't think so.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Well, thank you so much, Andrew. We are going to move on to the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. The SSAC is an advisory committee to the ICANN Board and its activities relate to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems. I welcome, again, Kathy Schnitt to discuss SSAC. Hi, Kathy.

KATHY SCHNITT: Hi, Melissa. Thank you. And I want to say thank you very much for inviting me for coffee. It has been so long.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: If we were only together in Seattle. So, talk to us about SSAC's current work parties. What are they working on?

KATHY SCHNITT:

Wonderful, I'd be happy to. We have three. The first one I'll talk about is routing security. This work party is writing an SSAC publication to inform network operators, including DNS operators, of risk inherent in the Internet's routing system. So, as the Internet has grown, obviously, the number of networks has increased and the number of routing incidents has increased. So, the routing system today is subject to a continuous stream of routing anomalies that affects its integrity and that sometimes cause large DNS outages.

So, the target audience of this work party is for the non-technical members of the ICANN community and elsewhere, including policymakers and legal experts. The next thing I'll talk about is the SSAC SubPro Work Party. In light of the external feedback on SAC114, which was the comments on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Draft Report, the SSAC will conduct a review of SAC114 to see if it warrants an updated version or some other follow-up.

And the last one I'd like to talk about is the Name Collision Analysis Project, also known as NCAP. So, the ICANN Board tasked SSAC to conduct studies to present data analysis and points of view and provide advice to the board on name collisions. In response to the board's request, the SSAC charted the Name Collision Analysis Project, or NCAP, and this currently is in Phase 2, where the study group tries to better understand the root cause and impact of name collisions. The result of the study will be delivered to the board by June 2022 and the studies are conducted in a thorough and inclusive manner through open membership, open mailing lists, and teleconferences.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, Kathy, have there been any recent SSAC publications?

KATHY SCHNITT: Yes, thank you for asking. There have. There have been three. Seems to be our lucky number. We had SAC117, which was the report on root service early warning systems, SAC118, which is the SSAC comments on the initial report of the EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team, Phase 2A, and SAC119, which is feedback to the GNSO transfer policy on the PDP Working Group.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Let's switch gears a little bit. I want to touch on tech day again. So, Joke, when she was on discussing the ccNSO, emphasized tech day as part of her community's best practice and information sharing. What color can you give to us for tech day? What is it? Who should join?

KATHY SCHNITT: Well, tech day brings together ICANN's technical community to discuss and share interests in technical and security-related topics. We actually have a lot of the same folks that joined both in the audience and as presenters from DNSSEC in security workshop to tech day. Therefore, we try not to conflict with one another and we work very closely to ensure that we are not duplicating the same presentations. We want folks from both to join all the sessions and, obviously, learn something new.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, speaking about DNSSEC, there is the workshop during ICANN72. Are there any other open sessions that SSAC is involved in?

KATHY SCHNITT: Thank you for asking, Melissa. Yes, we actually have our SSAC public meeting on Tuesday, and it would be great for you to join because, obviously, those three recent publications I just mentioned, we will go through those in detail at our public session. And then, of course, we have our SSAC and ICANN Board joining on Tuesday.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Anything else we want to highlight before ICANN72?

KATHY SCHNITT: Sure. What I'm going to do is, after I'm done here, I'm going to plug into chat the SSAC link to the SSAC website because we're always looking for new folks. So, there is information on there on who to contact if, maybe, you're interested in joining the SSAC. And I'll also go ahead and plug in the website for you to go ahead and take a look at those recent publications, as mentioned above.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Thank you so much, Kathy.

KATHY SCHNITT: Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Finally, we're going to discuss the Root Zone Evolution Review Committee, the RZERC. Here to tell us more is Danielle Rutherford, last but not least. Hello, Danielle.

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Hi, Melissa. Great to be here. How are you doing?

MELISSA ALLGOOD: We made it through.

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: We made it through.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, can you please tell us, what is RZERC?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Yeah. So, RZERC stands for the Root Zone Evolution Review Committee. This is actually a Standing Committee, not an advisory committee like we've just heard about before. The RZERC is a relatively new Standing Committee because it came out of the IANA stewardship transition in 2016. The Cross-Community Working Group on Accountability put a recommendation into the ICANN Board, who chartered RZERC to review the proposed architectural changes to the

content of the DNS Root Zone and the mechanisms used for distribution of the DNS Root Zone.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: So, who are members? What parts of the community do they come from?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Yeah. So, RZERC members are actually appointed by nine communities within ICANN: RSSAC, SSAC, ccNSO, the GNSO, Registries Stakeholder Group, ICANN Board, IETF. And I'm missing a couple more but it's a pretty representative group of the ICANN community.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: And you mentioned that it meets annually, right? So, what has happened in RZERC since the last Annual General Meeting?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Yeah. So, the RZERC itself actually meets monthly, but those are closed meetings that the recordings are then posted afterward on the public website. The RZERC is also committed to hosting at least one public session a year at the AGM. So, this year, you'll hear from our new chair, Tim April. He was appointed by the IETF and he'll give a presentation on our recent publications. There is RZERC 002, and that contains recommendations regarding signing root zone name server data, and RZERC 003, and this is about reviewing a proposed RFC for [message

digest] for the DNS root zone and adding zone data protections to the root zone.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Thank you for clarifying that for me. Are there any other RZERC highlights that we need to know about?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: I don't think so. Just come to our public session on Thursday during ICANN72 and we'll answer any and all questions during that session.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fantastic. Thank you so much, Danielle.

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Thanks, Melissa.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: At this time, I welcome all of our presenters from today's policy update webinar to turn on their cameras for our question and answer panel. Hello, guys. Nice to see you all again. So, it looks like we have not had any questions in our Q&A pod. I have a few questions for the panel. But before I do that, I want to open it to the audience. Does anyone have a question for our panelists? And I'm going to ask the remote participation managers to let me know if anyone raises their hand.

KATHY SCHNITT: Come on, don't be shy. This is the time to ask.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Perhaps while you as the community and the audience raise your hand I'll start with a question. And I'm going to direct this one to Chantelle. After an ICANN meeting wraps, what does the policy team do with all of the meeting results, the action items, etc.? What happens with all of that?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thanks, Melissa, for the question. After an ICANN public meeting, such as after ICANN72, we'll publish what we call "the policy outcomes report." It's published after every ICANN public meeting and it's designed to highlight the decisions and outcomes from the supporting organizations and the advisory committee sessions. It also serves as a resource on the important issues all the community groups are working on.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Fantastic. Thank you for that. I'm going to circle back to the remote participation managers. Do we have any hands up? I'm getting an indication we don't, so I'm going to ask one more question. This is your last chance to raise your hand or put your question in the pod while I go to Ozan. Ozan, let's discuss the plenary session at ICANN72. It's likely to be a very, very interesting one. Will you please explain to us what we're going to be talking about, what we can anticipate during the plenary?

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you, Melissa. Indeed, we will have a plenary session at ICANN72 and it will be on designing hybrid ICANN public meetings to equalize in-person and remote participation. The plenary session has been selected by the ICANN community. With ICANN72, we will have had six virtual ICANN public meetings, and this is an important topic for the ICANN community, ICANN Board, and ICANN Organization.

The session will include a panel discussion featuring panelists from other organizations that have organized or will be organizing virtual or hybrid events. We will have panelists from EuroDIG, the European Dialog on Internet Governance, IGF, the Internet Governance Forum, and CENTR, the Association of European Country-Code Top-Level Domain Name Registries.

And also, Chris Disspain, former ICANN Board member, will be moderating a connected discussion where we will hear different perspectives of the ICANN communities on this topic. And Ashwin Rangan, ICANN Organization’s Chief Information Officer, will be providing an update on ICANN Org’s readiness on organizing hybrid ICANN public meetings. Hopefully, all these discussions in the session will provide input to ICANN Board discussions on this topic, and we invite all ICANN72 participants to join this plenary, which will take place on day three of ICANN72, or Wednesday 27th of October.

MELISSA ALLGOOD:

Thank you so much, Ozan. I want to let you guys know we have received three comments in the Q&A pod. My colleagues are addressing those right now. In the interest of time, I'm going to go ahead and hand our session back to David Olive. Thank you so much for your time and your attention. Like I mentioned at the top, please fill out the survey. We'd love to hear your feedback. With that, back to you, David.

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you very much, Melissa and members of the policy team, for providing an informative conversation about the important activities of policy development and advice work that are expected at ICANN72, the Annual General Meeting. With that, of course, we do appreciate hearing your feedback. We will have a survey for you to provide that feedback on the format we're using here.

We're trying to make it a combination of our written documents, the outlook and the outcomes documents, as well as the new members of our team, or newer faces on the team, to talk to you about the activities that we facilitate for your work in policy and advice activities. With that, I think this has been a most productive and interesting session for all of us, and I wish you well as we prepare for our ICANN72 Annual General Meeting, some preparatory meetings in between as we move policy and advice forward, and the other activities of our ICANN community in the multi-stakeholder model that we're following.

With that, I'd like to see if there are any other final questions or comments. If not, I would like to wish everyone a good evening, good afternoon, or good morning, wherever you may be. And we look

forward to having you as active participants in all the meetings leading up to and including ICANN72, the Annual General Meeting. Thank you and goodbye.

MARYAM BAKOSHI:

Thank you, David. Thank you all for joining. You may stop the recording now. Have a good evening.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]