
ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum – At-Large Leadership Wrap-Up
Thursday, March 10, 2022 – 10:30 to 12:00 AST

YESIM SAGLAM:

Hello and welcome to the At-Large Leadership Wrap-Up Session. My name is Yesim Saglam, and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form as I've noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and, once the session facilitator calls up your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation.

To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model, we ask that you sign in to Zoom sessions using your full name—for example, a first name and last name or surname. You may be removed from the session if you do not sign in using your full name.

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

With that, I will hand the floor over to Maureen Hilyard.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much, Yesim, for that. So this is Maureen Hilyard, your ALAC Chair, for the record. This would be the first time and probably the last time I'll get to say that for this session. Well, good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, wherever you are. Of course, this is our wrap-up. This is the last session for the At-Large meeting formally together. And it's really just a time for reflection with some highlights from this meeting. Within we've got our special guests who are coming in to our gathering. Edmon being the newbie, he's been really keen. He's here early. And then we've got a couple of announcements before we actually go on to discussing the next meeting, as we do.

So I think that what we'll ... I know the [inaudible] are gathering anyway, so this gives us a bit of time to look at some of the highlights of our ICANN73 meeting that we're just currently experiencing. And I know that I would really like to hear from the people who did a lot of work during this week, namely Jonathan, Marita, Hadia, Cheryl, and anyone else who wants to say anything within the given time that we have. But it would be really good to get some idea of how people have actually assessed what has happened during the meeting and what we can use from it, moving on in readiness for ICANN74.

So I'll pass it over now to Jonathan to start. And I'll have to just cut you off as soon as the 20 minutes is up so that we don't eat into the time of our guests. Thank you. Jonathan?

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Sure, Maureen. Thanks. And I think my efforts at this ICANN meeting we really dwarfed by some incredible work by some of our At-Large volunteers. And we should probably talk about some of the sessions that took place and get maybe two-minute summaries from the people who were responsible for bringing them about.

So one of the most interesting sessions this week happened very early and was moderated by our own Marita Moll, which was a discussion of the global public interest framework.

Marita, if you are available, do you want to give us a couple minutes on takeaways from that and maybe what next steps for the At-Large will be?

MARITA MOLL:

Thanks, Jonathan Cut me off any time you want, Maureen. I already feel like I've done way too much talking. I started off with a session at the very beginning of the meeting. It went very well with a lot of attendance and a lot of interest. We actually started our discussion about having this public forum months ago. The first round was really the review session that happened at ICANN72, and then this time was an explanation of the public interest framework. And this time it was actually an investigation or an interrogation by a number of community members.

It's still very early in the game with respect to this exercise: the global public interest framework. One of the people in the design team said

it's like a slow simmer crockpot discussion and we won't be able to microwave our way out of it. I think that's really a good way of putting it. It's going to take time. We have to see how the community would be able to apply it. At the moment, it's very much designed for application on the Board side—necessarily so.

And, if the intention is for the community to take it up, then we'll have to see how that actually is going to work out in practice. So far, there's been very little practice. Our own Justine Chew has done a little bit of work on it when she was responding to the Board questions on the SubPro issue. And so she was able to speak about how it worked. When she tried to apply it, she found it quite practical. But there's still going to be issues around measuring it and seeing who it works for and how. So it's going to be an ongoing thing.

I guess that's two minutes. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

That's great, Marita. Thanks so much. And thanks for wrangling the whole ICANN community to get that plenary going. So it was a great job on that.

The other thing that was happening this week as a NARALO meeting as well. And they had a session a little bit about blockchain, NFTs, and decentralized domains.

Eduardo, do you have two minutes to speak a little about how that session went?

EDUARDO DIAZ:

Sure. That was a very interesting presentation that we had by Tom Barrett and Jeff Neuman about the prioritization of domain names. The thing that impressed me more that they said is that there is a network there—a blockchain network—that has sold more than 3.5 million top-level domains. And they compared that with the 1,500 from ICANN and they talked about possible collisions in the future. It wasn't clear how you were going to visit this site. They say they have alternate roots in the blockchain, and they're talking about new browsers called 3.0 that will allow you to select the network that you want to go to. And there are some issues there about [not, at the moment ...] We did this in prioritization. There probably will not be any consumer defenses about DNS abuse and things like because it's really decentralized and not regulated.

So I believe this conversation is going to continue in the future. And the more people start exploring these blockchain technologies, the more we'll see more intersection between ICANN and these new technologies.

So that's my two minutes there. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thanks, Eduardo. That's great. And thanks for all that NARALO has done to innovate during the pandemic and get this whole speaker series going. It's led to a lot of interesting sessions. Thanks, Eduardo.

Cheryl, who is perhaps At-Large’s most experienced cat herder, has been hard at work with a small team trying to wrangle all of us that think that our recommendations to the ICANN are the most important ones to try and keep compromise and consensus around what our priorities should be and gave a little introduction to the prioritization assessment tool that we’ve been building. Cheryl, do you have two minutes to talk about how that session went?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you, Jonathan. Cat wrangler? Yeah, I guess I’ve had a bit of practice. No, I was going to be so complimentary and I was going to say how smoothly how all the teamwork had gone and how everything else ... All right. Being honest, no, it was a very interesting, from our point of view—the small team’s point of view—exercise because to distill the huge amount of work that these weekly meetings have created and all the work we’ve done with subject matter experts and everything else and try to put that into what was effectively all of a 90-minute session (but little five-minute vignettes) really did help our work and for us to refocus and to refine our work. So the opportunity to actually do the presentation, to try and bring ALAC and the At-Large community up to speed with this sort of update was really, really valuable. And I hope—and I believe, from what I’ve heard—it was well-received.

We found that, by trying to get very complex issues just plugged-and-played into systems in any ICANN context is not necessarily going to work; getting something off the shelf—there are tools out there—and just saying, “Oh, this’ll work for ICANN.” So the testing of the tools was

an important part of it. And I hope we also made that part of the presentation ... But we have involved in the development of the ALAC's (At-Large Advisory Committee's) prioritization assessment tool. And we recognize that the tool itself will need to continue to evolve. So hopefully you all found it useful.

And I like herding cats. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Well, thank goodness for that, Cheryl. I think that we got a lot of positive feedback from ICANN Org and Xavier and others that are trying to lead the overall prioritization effort as to the rigor with which we're approaching our participation in that effort. So I think that you're work on this and the work of the small team showed the At-Large off well as diligent participants in what's going to be a gargantuan activity of overall community prioritization. So thanks for all your hard work on that.

I will mention ... I'm sort of going chronologically. Another thing that's obviously a longstanding set of discussions in ICANN, with particular intensity since Montreal, is the discussion of DNS abuse. And that took place in a number of different places. There was another plenary that took place a couple days later involving the DNS abuse discussion. And I think Graeme Bunton did a great job of moderating a topic that spread like an octopus as it was discussed that was a most incredible chat discussion that was going on. I think it's a session that, if you're interested at all in the DNS abuse issue, is well worth revisiting and watching that session and also going through the chat because there

was a lot of conversations. There's a lot of complexity in trying to sort out who's responsible for what with respect to different forms of DNS abuse mitigation, and that session was pretty good.

We have, as an organization, done a lot of cage-rattling on this issue that I think has led to a lot of independent initiatives that are taking place both by Org and also by the Contracted Party House and others. And I think that both the Contracted Party House and the GNSO generally have come back to us and the Board as well for greater specificity to talk more succinctly about what we want to see happen. And I think we're going to do that, perhaps in conjunction with the GAC. So we've had good conversations throughout the meeting on those issues related to DNS abuse.

Another great session that was trying to hold on to the tail of a crazily broad issue was Hadia's session on protecting the rights of registrants and end users for secure and stable DNS.

I don't know you'll possibly do it, Hadia, but you have a couple of minutes now if you want to give us a little bit of a review of what took place during your session.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Sure. Thank you, Jonathan. So the session was composed of three roundtables. The first roundtable discussed the interest of end users. The second roundtable discussed the rights of registrants. And the third roundtable looked into ICANN policies and how those policies uphold the rights of users and registrants. All in all, we had 11 speakers. The

session was very well-attended and we had a great discussion in the chat.

Takeaways included that ICANN bylaws explicitly mention inclusion of end users and Civil Society in the multi-stakeholder model. It is not only about the interest of end users, but it is also about their rights in security and privacy. And there was a little bit of discussion about rights versus interest. Users provide a quick reaction loop. Users' innovation is important for success of the Internet.

We also discussed the rights of registrants in terms of privacy, intellectual property rights, and free expression. We also mentioned that it is important to understand the rights of those who did not participate in order to end up with policies that satisfy the public interest. We had also a little bit of discussion about public interests, and rights and interests of different stakeholders.

So, going forward, I think it would be useful to pick one of the items that was briefly discussed and highlight it a little bit. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thanks, Hadia. I think just coming up with the takeaways and to-dos from that session is going to--it was so extensive and covered a lot of ground—is going to take some time.

I know we're running a little tight on time, Maureen. I wanted to also mention that Justine, our newly minted GNSO liaison, brought back something that had fallen by the wayside before, which is an ALAC and GNSO Council meeting. And I think it was a great launch back into that

practice. I don't know if Justine is on this ... I don't see her and so I won't call on her. So Justine, I think, managed a tight meeting and a tight agenda and kept people on track very well. She's a terrific moderator. Again, I think we had a good conversation with the GNSO and shared priorities. And there was a lot of positive feedback from the GNSO in terms of the participation of At-Large volunteers in the GNSO policy development processes. So that was, I think, really good, positive feedback from that session.

And then this morning we had a good session that was moderated by Joanna with the GAC.

Joanna, if you can do it in two minutes, do you want to say a little something about takeaways and next steps with the GAC?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Joanna had to be an apology. Sorry.

JONATHAN ZUCK: All right. She's an apology as well.

So, Maureen, we had a good meeting with the GAC and, again, underscored some of the things that we'll be doing to work on together with cooperation going forward. So I think it's been a really good meeting for the At-Large.

And with that, I'll return it back to you to introduce our guests. Thanks, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Jonathan. That was a great overview of what’s been happening for us and the highlights. I’m always proud when At-Large does a presentation at the ICANN meetings and [of] the fact that we’re coming up with what’s of value to us as a community and also what we are looking at moving ahead.

And I guess that this is a bit of a segue for our guests. I’m really interested, too, in hearing—and I’m sure everyone else is—about what were the highlights for the Board members and our CEO. And I would like to invite Maarten to start us off on what was on top for you as Board Chair with regards to ICANN73.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Okay. Thank you very much, Maureen. And thank you very much, all, for having us. It’s really a pleasure. And I was glad I was timely enough to also catch up on the findings of the earlier sessions because I was listening to some but not to all, admittedly. I’m sorry. But, for sure, I enjoyed it and also the discussion we had together.

I heard you very well also on the ongoing dilemma. So how do we ensure that volunteers find their way and continue to contribute to this system in a good way? Because ALAC volunteers and other volunteers are as important as anybody who participates in this model. So how do we ensure the balance also when we move back to hybrid and eventually maybe even meetings that will never be the same as they were before but predominantly in-person again. So the [inaudible], so

how do we deal with that best? How can we help best? We continue to be open to that.

And as you know, over time, we've taken steps to help and assist and make things possible. A very small example in this space was the support program for people to get online where that was a challenge. It's not always easy to know what to do best, but we listen. And together we try to find a way forward in that.

So, for me, an overall highlight was that I think that our message that, as a Board, we seek how we can even better support with respect for the bottom-up multi-stakeholder model and how to get forward together. So, in a way, it's how to be more proactive at times and maybe make suggestions, not with the urge of, "This is what we decide," but "Do you think this is a good idea? Please let us know what you think."

And important part of that also is the continuous look to the improvement of how we can benefit from advice as we've done with the GAC and also now with the ALAC, SSAC, and RSSAC. So how can we ensure systematic follow-up? It's always been of clear interest, and now it's also a [matter of ...] So let's capture it as well as possible. There's always an opportunity for improvement, even for things that go well.

Now, obviously, this meeting is a lot of attention for the first ODA, operational design report resulting from the operational design phase with SSAD. And also there you can see how we explore new ways of engaging. And that is basically that, without going immediately to decisions, it's like, "Okay, the GNSO Council, what do you think about this? Does this give some context that leads to a slightly adapted

approach or a different way of approaching?” And, ultimately, together we believe that this will be saving us time to get to a right kind of implementation together without wasting time on doing things that turn out not be necessary or even not serving the purpose or not possible. And we look forward to steps on that and SubPro and well and the preparation for SubPro. We really see that only the structuring in itself already helps point out those problems we need to tackle.

DNS abuse is clearly important. And prioritization. And, Cheryl, I’m not surprised that you’ve been leading that session because you’re not only currently engaged but, from my time as also a ATRT3 participant on behalf of the Board, I remember the discussions we had and how this would help to make sure we need to do the things that need to be done well.

So, with that, it was a really good everything, and with all the challenges that you face, just knowing that you’ve already submitted three policy statements this year and responded to the verifying questions on the ALAC’s advice and [on] the SubPro already. So whereas as I see your challenge, you still managed to deliver and contribute at the top of your ability to this system that we call ICANN together. So I really appreciate it.

And with you all, I think I can say I look forward to hopefully meeting you in my hometown, the city where I was born— actually a stone’s throw distance from where I’m born—in The Hague in the net meeting.

And I’ll stay around to answer questions, if any.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you so much, Maarten. Hopefully, ICANN74 will give an opportunity for some of us to meet up again.

Just moving on to the CEO, who I know is just champing at the bit to have his say, we'd like to hear from Göran about what on top for him at ICANN73 and perhaps looking a little bit more at ICANN74. Göran?

GÖRAN MARBY: First of all, thank you for inviting me. When I was preparing the answer to your question, I was thinking there was no way I could avoid the fact that the war in Ukraine had had an effect on myself and my view on this meeting. It also changed our priorities. It's been a very intense period the last two weeks for many of us. You've seen that we received a request from the Ukrainian government, which we had to work through a process to answer.

We then, in engagement with the Board ... We are also human beings. The fact that we want to do help is important as well. So it was working with the Board to do the thing that ICANN has never been before: to set aside a million-dollars-plus for help when it comes to connectivity, etc.; to stay within the ICANN mission and still be able to do that. And for your information, we're working through the last part of that process now so we can start doing good with the money. And I think that'll take time.

As a side note here, we've been helping with technical capabilities. And also, you might have seen the announcement we did about waivers for

registrants in Ukraine as well. Plus, in our DNS abuse tracking system, the DNS ticker, where we actually were actively fighting DNS abuse, added new what we call search strings. And those search strings also contained words in Ukrainian and Russian and other languages and also scripts just to make sure that the domain name system is [used] as a part of this as well.

Plus there was running a meaning, plus answering all your questions. It's been a very intense week. But instead of answering the questions about the particular things, I would say one thing: this meeting has been a testament to the multi-stakeholder model itself. And of course, over the last two weeks, we've had a lot of governments who've been reaching out to us and talking to us and asking us. And we have a geopolitical session coming up after this one.

One thing that was so important was that they claimed that the mandate ICANN gets is partly two-sided. One of them is the fact that we actually to run the identifier system through IANA. And the other one is the multi-stakeholder model itself. I would like everybody to step aside for a second and look at this model. We might argue about the facts about DNS abuse, or we might argue about if it's going to be red or green, but the model itself has proven to be so important and so sustainable also in this time that you should be proud of the model. And I think, during this last day, we should take 30 seconds and reflect on the fact that we created something very unique. And it has now been tested during these really hard circumstances and it doesn't fail the test. That's a testament to you guys.

And that is what I take with me from this ICANN meeting: this fantastic thing we created before and you've been part of and all the debate and all the sometimes harsh discussions we have. You've been there. You've seen them. But the fact of the matter is, regardless of your agendas, your input, or your vision to be in ICANN, the multi-stakeholder model is standing up against a test that is a really important test to have. And I think we're surviving that with flying colors. That I'm really proud of. And I get this from governments, I get this from interest groups, and I get this from people who usually criticize us for good reasons, often.

So my big takeaway from this big meeting is: thank you very much.

That was my speech. Yes, I'm looking forward to meeting you guys in The Hague. And just to remind you, we don't take decision to go. We did that a long time ago. We take decisions not to go. So if you ask me about The Hague meeting, yes, we're going. If you ask me about the Kuala Lumpur meeting, yes, we're going. And that's the way we've been doing it all along until we couldn't go anymore. We are preparing as much as we can when it comes to this hybrid technique, but it's also very much up to the community. Make sure that you don't make a schedule that spends ten hours a day and doesn't take account people that live in Asia or in other time zones. That's very much up to the community.

It's going to be a little bit of an experimentation together with you guys. We're going to bring in technical capabilities. We are doing scenario planning. We're doing all those things, but in the end, it's going to be a good cooperation, I think, between the community and our technical

staff for how to do this. It's going to be a learning thing. And I'm trying to get a cocktail party in every night.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

All right. Okay, we're coming. That's good. Thank you so much for raising the issues that you've highlighted with regards to what's going on around ICANN73, as well as within it. And we really appreciate what ICANN is doing. We're on the same wavelength there.

Just to give León and Edmon a chance to have a little intervention before we ask for questions from the floor, León, please?

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Maureen. Thank you, everyone, for having me again here. As I always say, it's good to be back home.

Well, I want to congratulate the At-Large community because it continues to build upon what you have been doing in these past years—in a way, being cutting edge in the topics, the issues, and the way that you are addressing those topics and issues. So I am very glad to see this evolution. I am proud to belong to this community, as I always say.

And I would like to highlight, of course, the DNS-abuse-related discussions that are going on and, I think, are on top of pretty much everyone's minds. We saw very interesting sessions on the topic. I loved the session on users' rights. Hadia, congratulations on that. I think it was a great session.

And I would like to make a pause here to emphasize maybe a little bit of what we discussed in that session to highlight the difference between interests and rights. As I was saying, we need to be very careful when we want to translate interests into right because maybe, not necessary, that could be aligned with, of course, ICANN's mission from one side but also with the best interests of users' rights, so to speak, because we've seen terribly examples of how interests turning into rights may do more harm than good in many ways.

So I guess it's, of course, a topic that keeps us space to talk for hours and days and months on it, but I definitely celebrate that the At-Large community has taken a look at this in the way that it is doing so and how we can combine these advocacies that many of us have been performing during the years into the ICANN ecosystem and the ICANN multi-stakeholder model.

I also liked—and I want to congratulate NARALO—the session on blockchain, NFT, and decentralized domains. I think, like I was saying, this is a cutting-edge discussion. And no doubt NARALO and At-Large through NARALO are at the very center of this discussion.

I saw that you had many bilateral sessions, including, of course, that with the Board. And I think that the Board-ALAC session was a very good one. I think we are growing better time in our discussions, in our exchanges. I think we are transitioning into a more candid, more fluid, and more sincere conversation between the ALAC and the Board. In some way, I feel like we are getting closer every time we speak and

every time we see each other, and that, of course, is something that I would like to applaud and celebrate as well.

And finally, last but not least, of course, the session from AFRALO-AfrICANN (the joint session) and their statement on capacity-building in regard to DNS abuse I think is just another thing that merits being highlighted because one cannot protect from something that one doesn't know will harm us. So building this capacity in end users to identify potential threats, to identify what DNS abuse might look like, and the harm it could potentially have on them I think is a mission that is absolutely worth supporting and pushing for. So I congratulate again the AFRALO community for this initiative.

And, well, let me just thank you, everyone, for having me again here and end by saying Slava Ukraini, Oksana. We are with you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much, León. And I do appreciate that it's recognized that, within the At-Large community, we start our planning as soon as the last one finishes. And it's really great to see how everyone contributes to not only the diversity of the topics that they bring but also just that they're trying new approaches, being very flexible about how they approach these topics so that we're actually getting more interest. We're trying to be more engaging. And I really appreciated the effort that people have actually gone to to just make the topics as interesting as possible.

But I think one of the things that I've found to be really interesting is the interest of other members of the community to participate in the sessions, too. I think that has also been great. And it really does bring the communities together, not only just in the ICANN plenaries but also within our sessions. And it makes it really interesting for our community to be able to hear how people from other constituencies feel about various topics. And I really appreciate that we've been allowed to do that and that we've got people within our community who are willing to take on the challenge of making it as interesting as possible.

But I would now like to move on to the new kid on the block to find out how Edmon is actually feeling about this whole new experience of being on the Board and if the big boys are treating him nicely. Edmon, [we'll give you a few minutes].

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Maureen. Always good to be a newbie. And I always feel like a newbie because there's so much things to learn. I guess, as a newbie on the Board, I would say I actually feel quite energized with some of the work that is being done on the Board, especially looking, I guess, back in a way at the work coming from ALAC.

And I'm quite excited, as Maarten already mentioned, at the three policy statements/advice/input that has come away through ALAC, I think. And that ties in a little bit into the conversation that we started from at the Board-ALAC meeting/session about perhaps even furthering support to the ALAC and At-Large in its policy input and work. So maybe that's something that we could pick up further.

Also, I'm very excited to see [Satish] and the work that is being done on IDN and UA, and especially the whole ALAC starting to get engaged in that discussion because I think it is so important to get IDN and UA on the ground through the ALAC and the ALSes. So I think that's how we can actually get it onto the ground and not just talking up in the air.

And on that, actually, I'm quite excited that, I guess, part of my working helping now chair the IDN-UA Board Working Group is to help push for the expansion of the ICANN team supporting that effort. So you will see that ICANN is actually hiring new staff to support the UA and IDN efforts. And I'm certainly supporting that expansion because I think it's very important for our work.

Like León said, that was actually a really great session, Hadia, on the rights and interests of end users and registrants. Definitely it was one of the highlights of the week for me.

And also, as León mentioned, I think the discussion on interests and rights is very interesting. In fact, I would ... I wouldn't say "challenge," but I would suggest maybe that there is some follow-on work that could be done at the ALAC, especially following from ... We ran out of time to discuss, but at the very end, Charles threw in this idea of those who are not participating and, should there be a bill of rights for those people? Maybe if that's something that's worth pursuing, that might be something that the ALAC can really take and run with.

Related but not necessarily tied in, I also think the ALAC's work on the GPI (Global Public Interests)—I need to learn to read the whole thing—framework is also very interesting and useful.

And last but not least, the war in Ukraine, as Göran mentioned, is heavy on the heart and high on the mind. Sitting here in Hong Kong and in Asia, I also think about those in Myanmar and Afghanistan. So I think this is a disheartening start in some ways, but I think was stand in solidarity with Ukraine. And it's good to see this happening as in the solidarity. And I hope this could amount to even more into the future in terms of the solidarity in the ICANN community and the wider Internet community.

So the last word is I hope to see you in The Hague. I haven't seen you guys for a long time. I hope to really see you face-to-face.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much, Edmon. Really great to hear from you anyway.

But this is an opportunity for the community here today to ask the Board and Göran if there are any questions that anyone would like to raise. I can't believe there wouldn't be. I can't see any hands shooting up at the moment.

Sebastien to start. Thank you.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

I'm going to speak French. Thank you very much. I wanted to take advantage of this moment to tell the new members of the Board—not new with ICANN—there is a difference between ALAC and At-Large. ALAC is 15 people, and At-Large is a million users. So for the work that we are doing, we need to find a way to refer to these millions of users—

not only these 15 people who are of course very important and very useful, but we need to refer to all the others. And I wanted to tell you that I was very, very happy to be a member of the NomCom. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. Should I ...

MAUREEN HILYARD: Well, do you want to respond?

EDMON CHUNG: Just briefly. Thank you, Sebastien. I guess the newbie is me. But, yes, I did take note about ... I think I mentioned ALAC and At-Large at different parts of it, especially the IDN-UA part. And that's the At-Large and the ALSes. And I totally agree. I think it's important to make the difference. And that's well in my head. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Edmon, for that clarification.

Jonathan?

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, Maureen. And thanks to all our guests for their discussions. I wanted to follow up on the UA-IDN issue just so that it's not lost in the sheer volume of discussions that we've had. One of then things that came up during Hadia's session was the notion of how the At-Large can

go about determining the interests of end users and the priorities, particularly, of end users.

And there's different kinds of surveys, etc., but one of the things that we're doing currently is a professionally-run survey pilot that came to us in the form of an ABR from Org to allow us to give this a try. And it's specifically on the issue of IDNs because there has always been questions about IDN pickup and adoption by various communities. And so we're looking in particular at the Hindi community in India as an interesting place to start, in large measure because there's a high use of specialized keyboards there. And that might be a good indicator of a desire to make use of non-native characters in their domain names, etc., because they'll have to do special things to get to Roman characters. So I just wanted to highlight that we're working on that.

Many of you are probably already aware of it, but there has already been an RFP out to vendors. And so the request for bids is closed, and the selection of vendors is taking place. But hopefully we'll be able to provide some interesting intelligence for the next round of new gTLDs in terms of how the IDN program and the availability of IDNs is evangelized around the world. So fingers crossed that it's a useful exercise to really get a more in-depth understanding of how everyday users respond to the availability of IDNs.

Göran, you said something about "limited." Was that a response to something I just said?

GÖRAN MARBY: Just to react to Cheryl's comment [says it's limited funding. For me, nothing is.] When it comes to money, when I'm using ICANN's money, nothing is ever limited. It's money.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Definitely.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Hang on, Göran. It's an ABR. There is a very, very specific budget. And a lot of the chat is "Why don't we do this? Why don't we do something else?" The group that put out the survey designed together had to select very carefully to get optimal outcomes for very limited available funds. Okay?

GÖRAN MARBY: It was an expression on the first day in a Board meeting in correlation with my bad sense of humor.

JONATHAN ZUCK: I think it's an excellent pilot. It's one of the biggest ABRs that the At-Large has received. And so I think it's an appropriate challenge for us: figure out how best to use that money. One of the interesting issues is a breadth vs. depth type of question. With limited resources, we could kind of piggyback on an existing global survey and ask two questions or something like that and maybe get very limited information back that would be useful to our work in making IDNs more successful going forward.

So we chose instead to be more focused and pick a particular community, a particular language, etc., so that we could really ask in-depth questions that we hope will be a good example and, in some cases, extrapolatable to other communities but at the very least, if not extrapolatable, will represent a good example of the kind of information that's possible when you do an in-depth set of questions to a targeted audience so we can make the most of it.

GÖRAN MARBY: We gave you the money because we thought it was a very good thing to do.

Can I ask one thing every time: that we stop using so many acronyms? Because I see the chat, like ABRs. How much time do you save by saying “additional budget requested” compared to ABR? That's like milliseconds.

JONATHAN ZUCK: You're absolutely right, Göran.

GÖRAN MARBY: No, it's not your fault.

JONATHAN ZUCK: In my own case, though, I have to confess that sometimes I forget what the words are because we're so used to using them and there's so many of them. The number of times I've had to look up what “SSAD” stands

for to literally get the words right is embarrassing. But I think it's a very good recommendation.

GÖRAN MARBY:

I was speaking to a newcomer this week who contacted me and asked me—dared me—to, instead of saying acronyms, say the full name every time. And I said, “That’s going to be a very long meeting.” And he said, “You don’t save any time. You just think so.” And it does actually create this wall between us and the newcomers. So help me and help ourselves and help the newcomers. And if the wording is too complicated, like “Standardized System for Access Disclosure,” maybe we should have another name in the first place. It doesn’t have to be fruit names.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

SFICR is the best one.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

I just have one question. The results, of course, of the survey are supposed to be due by December, I think. That was the proposal. And so therefore, once this report is done and it goes to ICANN, it's still within the 73 budget year. How is it being budgeted for? I don't remember seeing the results [of] implementation incorporated into the budget. Was it?

GÖRAN MARBY: Because Xavier never lets me off the hook on that one, one of the things we did in the budget process is we actually set aside money for unplanned events, which has the beautiful name of SFICR, which—don't tell this to anyone ... The reason why Xavier is making fun of me because I produced that name as a sort of internal joke, with no intention to thinking that that was going to spread beyond my internal joke. But if you take that fantastic name aside, which again was proves my extremely bad sense of humor, for things the community thinks are important to be done, it is money for community actions that are not directly placed in the budget that we know are going to be coming.

With that said, probably now Xavier will contradict me.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes. Jonthan, is that a new hand? Or can I go straight to Xavier?

JONATHAN ZUCK: Straight to Xavier. Sorry.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Okay. All yours, Xavier. Explain.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Just in addition to what Göran said, the SFICR is a source of funding. It's not separate from the operating plan and budget. It is simply an additional source of funding for planned activities. What I mean by that is, when an activity, of implementation that has not necessarily been

budgeted or planned for before will be needed to be carried out and may require a large amount of funding and may span over several years, what we will then use the SFICR for is to say, “This activity is important. It’s going to cost a certain amount of money. It’s going to last a number of years.

And we have this fund available to support the funding of that project all the way to completion,” because you know that, otherwise, our funding and our planning process is annual. So for things that last several years, then we have this fund that allows us to dedicate the resources to that project that will last over time. But it will be incorporated in our plan. It will not be a separate process of approval, of funding, etc. It will be part of our plan. It’s activities that are within our mission, within our plans, and simply that will receive that source of funding to support their duration, their size, etc.

So it will be in our plans. And if it was not in our plans and need to be incorporated on an ad hoc basis, the Board will make that decision as well. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much. I think it’s particularly important. I’m assuming that the report will provide an ongoing plan of implementation and therefore there will be quite a significant cost. But I’m sure that the value of that investment will be most valuable to ICANN in the long term, especially in relation to the new round.

So we've got probably a few more minutes. Are there any other questions? This certainly isn't turning out to be the grilling sessions that we used to give the Board in the past. And I think that this quite, quite, moderate, really. Marita did say in the chat that it's been a long week for us as well. And some people are just talked out. So you're very lucky that the questions aren't flying as much as they probably would have.

But we have really appreciated your being able to come along and spend some time with us. We really do appreciate that. And if anyone has got any final words before they go ... Surely, Göran, you've got a final word that you would like.

No? You look very tired, actually.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Final word for now? Well, for sure, I appreciate it. It's good to see things in motion, including the debate. The advantages and disadvantages of acronyms—we have a new subject for a cross-community working group.

But I just wanted to point out as well that SFICR is also one of those signs of change because we used to be in long cycles of budgeting and getting things done, and we're getting more agile, step by step. At the same time, we still obviously are very conscious of the mission we have and the fact that basically we work with public money. So our fiduciary obligations stand and we'll live up to it. But within that, it's great to see agility and new flexibility and doing it together because I think that's widely recognized as well: Board, Org, and community.

So thank you very much for having us. I really appreciate it.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Maarten. And it's always a pleasure to have you.

Okay, Göran. Last word?

GÖRAN MARBY:

My last word is that I actually did want to highlight that one thing I think was important this week is that there seems to be—I see that in the accuracy discussion and I see that in the abuse discussion [inaudible]—that we're starting to actually zero down on how, in order to come up with a solution, we have to agree on the facts. And over the last couple of years, there's been a lot of what I would call opinionated fact. I'm very proud of the DAAR system. And I'm getting a lot of requests for neutral facts about some of those things.

And we are producing a blog which I'm just going to tease here a little bit before I leave because I was asked to. So we more or less use the same science as the DNS report commissioned by the European Commission. They've been telling me, "Don't say it's a European Commission report." It's commissioned by them but they take no responsibility for it. They're using the same science and looking back about five or six years to see the trends. I've shown one of the slides in some other setting but there is a blog coming out. And there are problems that have to be addressed.

But I think that this week has shown that there is an increased—what do you call it?—thirst for more neutral facts. And my role is to try to provide that. So I'm looking forward to that. But we should have done that before this meeting but we just didn't have the time. We concentrated on doing the other acronym update—the DNS ticker—which is a fantastic name as well, by the way. And I have no clue what it stands for, to be honest.

Anyway, thank you very much. You know how important your part of the community is for ICANN overall. We sometimes argue. Sometimes we disagree. But as I think someone wrote in the chat, I think it's all about coming together rather than focusing on the differences. So thank you very much for your volunteer work. And I'm here to serve you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Göran. And, yes, you've taken us right up until the time when you are obviously having to move to somewhere else. But you're welcome to stay as long as you would like.

And we would need to move on to our next item on the agenda, which is ... I just need to see there. I think I see announcements. And actually we do have a couple of announcements. And the first one is a nice one.

First of all, you noted that we recently appointed two new liaisons to the GNSO, who are Justine Chew and, to the GAC, Joanna Kulesza. And at the time, we were going to change the ccNSO liaison, but Lianna was busy with a war in her country or something—I didn't mean that to be

derogatory, but Lianna was busy—and so we gave her some extra time to adjust to this new role.

But what I wanted to do was, first of all, to thank Barrack Otieno, who has actually been the liaison for the past four years. I didn't realize that that's how long it has been, considering that he actually took the role from me.

But anyway, Barrack ... I don't know if he's actually on because he sent me a message to say that he was held up in the field, in the countryside, building a community network to help the local community leverage the Internet in light of the challenges brought about by the pandemic. So he's very active in his community, still doing the work of making sure that people are connected to the Internet. And he also has a job in relation to ccTLDs in Africa.

Anyway, we would like to welcome Liana to this role. And I just thought, if Lianna is here, she would like to have a few minutes to introduce herself and the work she's already doing with the ccNSO. Lianna?

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thank you very much, Maureen. Thank you for giving me the floor and also for this [inaudible]. And as you mentioned the four years of Barrack, I'd like to thank him for his work. The time flies, actually, with ICANN. I just realized that yesterday, talking with some of the groups: that I myself have been in the At-Large for already ten years, and it seems like a couple of years only.

So just two words about myself and my relation with the ccNSO. I work for the ccTLD registry for dot-am (Armenia), and I'm the Vice-Chair of the Board and have been a member of the Board for many years already. And my commitment to the ccTLD community and involvement in various roles in this way have been quite active.

The TLD, dot-am ccTLD, is a member of CENTR, which is the European top-level domain registry, and we are also an associate member of APTLD. That is the Asia-Pacific top-level domain association. And I personally have contributed to many meetings of APTLD and have good relations with the ccNSO community.

I've been, for the last two or three years, a member of the Internet Governance Liaison Committee within the ccNSO (the IGLC), and I hope I will continue my linkage with this in this role as a liaison with the ALAC and the ccNSO and take the good role of Barrack and his recommendation that he did for the ALAC community.

So thank for this honor that you give to me and with also the responsibility. Thank you very much.

Back to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much, Lianna. Also, there's the fact that Lianna has been the Vice-Chair of APRALO for a number of years already. She's been very much involved in the APRALO system. So it's really great to see one of our Asia-Pacific members—well, another one, seeing as we've got Justine there as well—being engaged at this level within another

community. And we're so thrilled to be able to take advantage of the level of knowledge and skills that Lianna will bring to the At-Large community and her work already within the ccNSO.

But, again, thank you. And I was able to thank Barrack at the AFRALO meeting yesterday. I felt really privileged to be able to that because has been a great—a GOAT—working for us, liaising between those two communities. So thank you very much. And I'm very looking forward to working with you, Lianna, in another role. And I'm sure you're keep in touch with APRALO as well. Okay, so thank you so much for that announcement.

And now we've got Vanda. Is Vanda here? I know she had a ...

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yeah, Vanda is here.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Yeah, I'm here.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Vanda.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Thank you for the opportunity. We are running to the end of this application period for the leadership positions. We got an extension because it was supposed to end tomorrow, but certainly, coincidental with the end of the ICANN meeting, it's almost impossible for people to

pay attention on that, organizing all those meetings. So we have an extension to March 15th. So it's still time to apply. Those are important positions for North American and Europe. And we'd like to have much more personnel.

And I'd like to raise the point that it was raised inside the United States that we are always talking about diversity and women and so on, but it's not forbidden for males who are white and older to apply. So it's open for them, too. So please don't believe you have no chance, because you have. And we need people with a huge profile and large experience because the public and technical identifiers needs, for instance, people who are more experienced.

But anyway, At-Large has two positions—one for North America and another for Europe. So please apply. It's a great opportunity to join ALAC once more.

Okay, thank you very much. I don't want to use the time for our wonderful session. So thank you. And please apply. There's time. So I'm at your disposal if you need some help. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Vanda. And Vanda has done a wonderful job on behalf of the NomCom, making sure that we're all keeping up with what's available and leadership positions within ICANN. So thank you so much, Vanda.

Okay, so now we move on—

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: [inaudible]

MAUREEN HILYARD: Sorry?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Maureen, can I say one thing?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yeah. Sure.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: It's Judith Hellerstein, almost on NomCom. Also, for new people, these NomCom positions are separate positions than what's going to be in the ALAC elections that we're going to have. There's also opportunities in the At-Large elections for these positions as well. So they're two separate things. They're not the same thing. And some newcomers were confused on that. But we are looking for all ... And newcomers are also invited to also apply. For some of them, like Board Chair and the others, you need a lot of other stuff, but in ALAC, we can also have a chance for some people who have been involved but not really [inaudible] if they want to apply. Thanks.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Judith. Yes, the opportunity is open to everyone. And, yeah, we do have to foot the bill at the same time. People should not hold

back if they've got the skills and they've got the knowledge in a particular area.

Okay, so moving on from that then and going into—and on time, too, I notice—steps towards ICANN74, we'll be looking at what's on top for us for moving forward.

Now, there are probably two things that I wanted to raise. And anyone else can pitch in if there's things that they want to discuss about ICANN74. Maarten and Göran have already made some mention of the actual meeting itself. But with regards to ICANN74, I just wanted to raise, first of all, that, by that stage, with regards to Jonthan's survey, the vendors should actually have progressed enough to provide some sort of progress report for us by ICANN74. So I'm looking forward to that.

And the second thing that I wanted to make mention of, of course, is that, by ICANN74, we should be looking at a selection for the new ALAC chair. So I just thought I'd raise that and give you a heads up on that one because I just note that it was in the second meeting that I went through my grilling for this particular role. And I wanted to give a sense of why I did that. But at the same time, that will be something that, [if] there's another position, if anybody is interested [inaudible] ALAC chair.

So those are just the two things that I got highlighted—thank you, Cheryl—that I wanted to highlight for ICANN74 just to start off discussions. But I notice that Sebastien has his hand up, too.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you very much, Maureen. First, I just wanted to add my thanks for what you have done as Chair. But it's not yet finished. But you need to be an ALAC member. That refers to the discussion we had previously about the election and selection. Then if you want to be chair, you need to be an ALAC.

I wanted to say a few words (sorry) first before going to ICANN74. First, EURALO is organizing a readout of ICANN73 on the 22nd of March.

The second thing I wanted to say is that I am very happy to see that Oksana was able to participate in some of those sessions during this ICANN meeting. And I wanted to tell her, of course, that we are here if she needs any support. But I wanted to add that, if her ALS, the European Media Platform, needs something specific, she needs to tell us, and we will see how we can organize that.

The third point is that, at the end of this month, the EURALO anniversary will be because the 29th of March, 2007, will mean it will be 15 years of EURALOs. And we will be celebrating our anniversary. It's one of the reasons we are working on ICANN74 since already a few weeks: because we have to organize a general assembly. Hopefully, it will be face-to-face. We have to organize a training for our members.

And we tried to set up a EURALO Day—hopefully the Tuesday—and it will be organized with—how do you say it?—what is considered the last [book] year of the fireworks (I don't know if it's an English expression, but it's a translation from French) about ABR and DNS abuse, run by Joanna with a seminar she will be organizing. We hope to have a policy session about where we are regarding law in Europe in link with the

digital. We will have the general assembly itself and hopefully dinner. And we try also to organize a social event, wandering around The Hague with a guide.

So that's some information I wanted to share with you about ICANN74. And I hope we will be able to join all together in Europe face-to-face for the first time in a few years.

Thank you very much, Maureen, for the time.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Sebastien. And it's good to get a heads up about what EURALO is planning already, as you have to do in preparation for an ICANN meeting. And it's one of the things I actually was going to ask to because, with the third meeting of the year in Kuala Lumpur, I'm assuming that there'd be a general assembly for APRALO. But I haven't heard anything yet. So that is definitely something that we need to clarify. And I know how difficult it is to organize all the events, as you're doing already, Sebastien. So we need to get some clarification there so that we know that we're actually doing what we have to do for our region.

And I do want to also give special mention, too, of Denise and her social media team for the work that they've done too in promoting the ICANN meetings. It's been really, really important For EURALO, for the next ICANN, 74, I'm assuming that Natalia will be heading that. She has done a wonderful job in the previous meeting. And there have been several at that ungodly hour of the morning for me in the past couple of years.

So I'm just getting used to it now. And I just wish the new ALAC Chair ... I just hope that, by the time they come in, we'll be back to face-to-face meeting and they won't have to spend three years in virtual meetings. Luck of the draw.

Okay, so is there anyone else who's got anything else? We've still got seven minutes—not that I want people to have to say anything. But what we can do is actually close the meeting early if there is nothing else to discuss. And I must admit, if we do close it, it'll be the first time. We usually are pressed for time to get everything in. But I do—oh, here we go. Cheryl, the floor is yours.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you, Maureen. I'm not trying to stretch the time out. I just noted that a number of people joined after our meeting started. And I think it was at the beginning or earlier on in the meeting that Heidi, I believe—it was staff, anyway—had put into chat the link for the notes from all the meetings that we held. And I thought it might be wise just to bookend that and get staff to pop that link back in again because it's all very good to have these meetings with all the enthusiasm that we've got here and now, but stuff now has to be done as a result of these meetings. And those notes are a really important pivot point. So that's all I was doing.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

That is fine. And I think it's really important, too, to note that there are always action items. And I'm not quite sure whether we have listed

action items we can even raise. This is something that we normally do as well.

Heidi?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Hi, Maureen. Actually, see on the meeting notes a [inaudible] that we don't have any action items reported at the moment.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Oh. That's another first. There's usually something that we end up doing, although I must admit that, out of the meetings that Justine and Joanna had, there may be ... I know that Joanna has got a couple of intercessional meetings that are going to be arranged. Plus they're looking at a paper that they're developing between the ALAC and the GAC. So we'll have to make sure that we take note of those and don't drop them between now and the next meetings that we have with those groups. And thanks.

Nothing else?

Okay. Therefore, I would like to wish you all a wonderful morning, afternoon, or evening, wherever you are. And thank you so much for a great meeting. Thank you so much for the Board members who came—Göran and everybody who participated today. It's been a great, great meeting. And it feels so relaxed. I can't believe it.

So don't forget you've got the forum, which is coming up, and of course the Board meeting just a little bit later on. It's always nice to hear what they're up to.

So enjoy the rest of your, as I said, morning, afternoon, or evening. And take care. Thank you. Bye.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Bye. And [gyms] will be back when we're in person.

MAUREEN HILYARD: When we're in person, [gyms] will be back. Yes! Okay. Alrighty. Thanks, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]