LISA SAULINO

Hello, my name is Lisa Saulino. I am the participation manager for this session. Welcome to the joint session between the ICANN Board and the address supporting organization. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN expected standards of behavior, the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy, and the ICANN Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest.

Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. For our panelists today, we ask that you please state your name for the record and the language you will speak. If speaking a language other than English. Please also speak at a reasonable pace.

This discussion today is between the ICANN Board and the ASO only. Therefore, we will not be taking questions from the audience. With that, I'll hand over to ICANN Board chair, Tripti Sinha.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Lisa. Hello, everyone. Welcome to this joint meeting. We always look forward to these bilateral meetings because it's always a candid exchange of ideas and topics. So, without any further delay, I'm going to turn this over to my colleague, Christian Kaufmann, who's going to facilitate the meeting. Christian?

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you, Tripti. Hi, I'm Christian Kaufmann. I'm one of the two ASO appointed ICANN Board members. Thank you. The second one, Alan Barrett is online and joins remote. We have an interesting agenda today, starting with update of the RIR governance document and then a couple of questions which were submitted back and forth. So, please stay with us.

But I think before we start, we should introduce ourselves because the composition here on stage changes every time a little bit and because the NRO EC chair changes every year and therefore let's have a short introduction go around like this. Do you want to start? Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW

Thank you. Hi, everybody. My name is Jia-Rong Low. I'm the APNIC CEO and the NRO EC Chair for this year. Thank you.

AMY POTTER

Hi, I'm Amy Potter and I'm the ASO AC Vice Chair.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Good morning. Good morning. I am Hervé Clément. I am the Chair of the ASO AC.

ESTEBAN LESCANO	Esteban Lescano, ASO AC Vice Chair.
CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN	Christian Kaufmann, ICANN Board member appointed by the ASO.
TRIPTI SINHA	Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Chair.
KURTIS LINDQVIST	Kurtis Lindqvist, ICANN President, CEO.
SAJID RAHMAN	Sajid Rahman, ICANN Board.
AMITABH SINGHAL	Good morning. Amitabh Singhal, ICANN Board and also this year chairing the Board Strategic Planning Committee. Thank you. Hello, everyone.
LEÓN SÁNCHEZ	León Sánchez, ICANN Board.
CHRIS BUCKRIDGE	Good morning. Chris Buckridge, ICANN Board.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. And with that, I hand over to you, Jia-Rong. I think you have some slides.

JIA-RONG LOW

Thank you. So, really appreciate ICANN Board taking the time and I mentioned yesterday in the opening ceremony, the work that we have is further strengthening our coordination and partnership. And right ahead of us, the biggest issue is the IRR governance document.

So that's going to be the focus for our agenda for today. And if we have more time, if we want to discuss anything else, we can. Like Chris mentioned, CK mentioned, we have a couple of other questions earlier, we were having an exchange on email and we can talk about them towards the end. But our focus will really be on the IRR governance document and where we are. And what we will do is hand over to Hervé.

And we will talk at the high level about the progress and at the Board level, what we like the ICANN Board to take away with. Then as part of that discussion, then after that, we'll hand over to Estaban and Amy to talk about as part of the document, what are the outstanding issues that we're working on throughout this week and as we head towards Sabir. So, that's the overarching introduction and I hand over to Hervé, please. Thank you.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you, Jia-Rong. I will start with this collegial presentation of this presentation. Collegial because the work we have performed since two years and a half, because our primary request of the NRO EC to work on this document and update of this document, ICP-2, Internet Coordination Policy, which was adopted in 2001, was requested by the NRO EC in October 2023.

At the very beginning, we called this document ICP-2 update. It changed. It's not the final name. The current name is Regional Internet Registry Governance Document Version 2. And the idea of the two next slides that we present is to, in a nutshell, present the work we perform till today, including the different consultations and then roughly the timeline for this year.

You can go to the next slide, please. Thank you so much. Currently, we are within the blue square. Before that, first taking into account the first document, ICP-2, and first idea we could have, the group, the Council, drafted a list of core principle.

And with that, so the core principle to draft the future document. And with this core document, we went to a first consultation, and within the regions and within the ICANN as well, to collect the first outputs of the communities. We analyzed these first inputs, outputs, sorry, and with that, we were able to draft a version one of which is called the Regional Internet Registry Governance Document. And we went back to the consultation and regional and ICANN as well to recollect feedback.

With that, we drafted a version two of this document and went back to consultation and regional and ICANN as well. So, we are now, we analyze all the comments. And so far, I think we were able to capture many of the remarks and the wish of the communities. And the current version, the version we will start drafting, I hope this week, and the drafting will continue, till Seville, will capture, I would say that all the elements reported by the communities. There are different types of elements of outputs and Amy and Esteban will go through them.

So, we decided and we review really each of them to be sure to capture everything. And we added in the document a preamble underlining what is the scope of the document because some comments we received were out of scope also, but it was important for us to explain. So, we didn't take into account that because it's out of scope.

Currently, we are in the Blue Square, is a final review. We are in Q1 and Q2. And the decision, I will say we agreed, so with the NRO EC as well, to complete this document before the end of 2026. That's the reason why the step after that is called Approval and Adoption. And it's something so we have to talk together.

You can go to the next slide. That's the review timeline. The work we will perform this year. Q1 2026, we started report the work we are currently performing. It was done during the first regional meeting which was the APINIC in Jakarta. It was in February. And we are presenting and discussing with the organization of the ICANN currently here in Mumbai, the document and the work.

And we will do the same in Q2 2026 within the ARIN meeting, the LACNIC and the RIPE one, knowing that there's no currently AFRINIC meeting plan, but if not, and it's something so we do, we organize a webinar also to present the document as well. The drafting will continue in Seville. After that, we will be able to send that to NRO EC and then the process for potential adoption will be discussed further. And with that, I'll give the floor back to Jia-Rong.

JIA-RONG LOW

Thank you. Let's go to the next slide, please. So, at the high level, I mentioned speaking to ICANN Board, what we would like the ICANN Board to take note of and I will ask in, of course, a very nice way.

The first thing is that we are targeting for the document to be finalized by the end of 2026. So, we'd like the Board to be aligned with us in terms of this target. We are not adding more resources to extend this timeline anymore because I think all of us are aligned in terms of how we got to where we are and there is an urgency to try to strengthen this and get the document adopted. So if we were to drag this further, it's not going to be helpful for all of us overall. So, we'd like to seek ICANN Board's support that we are together committed to finalize the document by end of the year.

Now to do that, we have to make sure we do a couple of things. So, per the timeline in the earlier slide, that's at the working level, the ASO EC, just at this ICANN meeting, we have 10 closed sessions to make sure we continue to work on the drafting. But the target is really half an extra by Seville.

Now that means for us, we do need feedback from ICANN, especially from ICANN organization because there will be elements of implementation that we have to look at, even though the document is supposed to be high level, but we have to look at it from a broad implementation perspective.

So, that will provide some guidance in terms of at the high level with this language work for us when it comes to implementation. So, we do have to ask Kurtis for your support, free up some resources from your team that will be able to look at it and provide feedback to the ASO EC. And in doing that, when we get to the next draft, we will not have any other problems that may surface and we will be in a much better place to move forward.

So, that's a big ask. And we know that your teams have various priorities, but we need your support to be able to move forward on this one. And that's the first sub-bullet point under ICANN's role in the process.

So, share your feedback with us and understanding of key issues. We would need feedback both in participating with us and also feedback in writing would support the drafting work for the ASO AC. Now, the next sub-bullet type to sharing feedback is agreeing to the process and form of adoption. So, we have to work backwards because once we have a final draft, ICANN, you have to run through your own approval process, which could include the public comments. Those are the things that you have to do.

So, we have to agree on how that looks like timeline-wise. And also, we have to build into the ICANN Board's agenda before the end of the year, that you have in your agenda a process to adopt it as well. So, that's the ASO again, just put on the table for ICANN Board to consider. But this again is crucial for us to try to get to the end.

Now, the last bullet point on this slide is more of a high-level ask or high-level alignment in terms of what to expect. So, like I mentioned yesterday during the opening ceremony, we in the numbering community have made a choice and the logical choice to further strengthen our relationship with ICANN through the RIR governance documents.

The implementation of it does come with extra costs. For example, in a high-level document right now, ICANN would have to do audits with the RIRs, then it will be a cost whether you were to do it in-house or you are to do it with a third-party vendor, those are all extra costs. If an audit were to not go well, then there will be some effort to try to rehabilitate an RIR to improve the work. All of these are extra overheads that we will have to put in.

Now, those I know in separate conversations with ICANN Board members, that largely everyone, we are aligned on this. But the important thing for us, I think, is also to have that very clear position in the Strategic Plan for ICANN that you have this as part of the commitment, that we are in this in the long haul.

So once we agree to this, we are strengthening that coordination work together, but also means from a strategic perspective from a Board level, that we are committing to investing in this area as well. So, the ask really is in your Strategic Plan that you've allocated some resources to ensure that we will be able to do this together as we go. And it won't be a part of the five-year plan, but as we go in the longer term, it will be something that's going to be part of us in the long haul. So, that's the other ask here.

Now I'll go to the next slide, slide four, please. So, like I mentioned earlier, what needs to happen, the adoption at the end of the year is just the beginning. Then we have three years to work on implementation. And a lot of that detail will be, we have to work between the RIRs and ICANN organization and work up various implementation procedures.

Besides the procedures themselves, it comes with how we resource them. We have to have an audit framework, working on the emergency operator and how we resource altogether. So, these pieces all come with costs and overheads. And that's the part that we have to commit together.

For the RIRs ourselves as well, we don't have a backup system that is synchronized across the RIRs. Then working on the emergency operator, how we accredit one, all those processes will also come with overheads and we will have to work on planning for those resources ourselves.

So, again, we're working hand in hand together as we go. And then the ask again is at the high level, we have the board's support and commitment that we will together invest in the resources in this area. So, with that, I will hand over back to Hervé. But I'm seeing we might have questions already. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Amitabh, please.

AMITABH SINGHAL Thank you, Jia-Rong. Thank you very much for your overall picture that you've given us. And thank you also for mentioning the Strategic Plan. I can see your fingers raised, okay. And you did mention something very important for us from the Strategic Plan perspective. And you know that the Board has started the annual review process and we are consulting with our stakeholders and the community during different sessions to see if we need to relook at the Strategic Plan as it is and whether we need to modify or calibrate or update the plans, because five years is a long time for a Strategic Plan. One year has gone past.

And trying to take a relook at it, since you mentioned that there could be an impact from what your ask would be in terms of budgetary plans and stuff, I think I would encourage the RIR to formulate or provide us some feedback in terms of how do you see any impact on the plan as it is, especially in relation to, if you look at 3.2 of our document, the Strategic Plan document, if there are any motivations that we would need to do to accommodate or will it have a bearing on the operating plan, which is the annual operating plan, or the budgets thereof.

So, I think a dialogue on that would be a good way to go with that. So, that's a solution that I have. And if you have anything, I don't need an answer right away, but then think through and consult among yourselves and please come back to us. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Thank you, Amitabh. Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQVIST Thank you. So, on the resourcing for finalizing the work, I mean, we will obviously work with the team on providing the org feedback on the current draft. I just want to state the obvious that org feedback is not the same as Public Comment or Board feedback, right? So, just be clear that there are different elements here. We're not going to, but we will work, of course, with this and with the implementation processes.

When it comes to the actual implementation, I think we need to have a discussion about the costing. And I mean, this is not in ICANN's funding at the moment. This is not in the long-term funding. And the challenge is to cost something out that we haven't defined yet. So, we will need to work with the RIR, so that's going to work and find a plan of that, of course, but we will commit to work with that and do that resourcing before the end of the year and find that discussion.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Thank you.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT Thank you. Your first answer or comments are very useful and I think that's the feelings of Jia-Rong as well. Oh, sorry. Chris has something to add, please.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE Thanks; C.K. And thank you, Jia-Rong, and to the SO for this presentation. It's really very useful. And certainly, well, I know that for the Board, this is a very high priority, and I think making sure that this lands in timely and effective ways are really important. You noted the increased costs, and as Kurtis said, that's to be determined a little and there'll need to be very close cooperation to define that.

I guess one question I had is, have the RIR membership communities been discussing this in terms of the RIR contributions to ICANN and whether this will be seen as making a difference to the level of those contributions? Not to push it to brass tacks here, but just curious if that's been part of the conversation.

JIA-RONG LOW

There hasn't been a formal discussion about this. So, I will share what are some of the informal conversations, but all the elements are similar. So, the RIRs collectively do contribute to ICANN annually. I think it's 600,000 something US dollars. And we have gotten questions before from community members, like, why are we contributing to ICANN? But similar to what I mentioned yesterday, we are part of ICANN's governance structure. It is in some ways our responsibility as part of the same family.

So, that has always been the position, and in some ways that further justifies as we go forward with some of this implementation. Some of that is a contribution to, again, ICANN all coming back in to provide resources for implementation of the RIR governance documents.

Like what Kurtis said, we don't know what the number is, though. So, we have to scope that out. But that number could come, and we can find out what it is, and we can decide where that's going to go. Now, at the individual RIR level, it is very clear that we are right now not resourced to do some of these things in RIR governance documents.

We've never had a conversation, or we have had conversations, but we never worked towards, oh, we must have an emergency backend operator. We have to have backup systems with one another. We are resourced to be able to do audits. We are not resourced to do these right now. What this means then for an individual RIR, like coming for APNIC, when I joined, we are at a budget deficit, and how am I going to find extra resources to work on this implementation?

That is going to be a challenge for all the RIRs. At least for APNIC, we have a clear plan. So, right now, we have already forecasted, based on cost savings, we had to go through a painful restructuring last year, but we are on track to deliver a balanced budget, and we also have good contingency funding to be able to work on some of this implementation. But those are all challenges that each of us will face, and collectively, we will have to look on them together.

So those are conversations, but the elements are all the same. And again, we have our RIR Board members who are on site here as well. It is the same ask that we ask of ICANN Board, but we have the same ask of our own Board members, that we have to think about how we resource them, and for us, our resource funding all comes from our membership.

So if the implementation gets too costly, it will have some ripple effect on how our membership looks at the RIRs as well. So, I'm just putting that on the table as a collective challenge that all of us will have to face. But at the high level, we have a collective commitment, and let's work towards how we can get out the other side in a way that we can work on this together. Thank you.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you for that. And as you say, I think having these practical discussions is essential to making this actually a concrete and realistic outcome. So, yeah, thank you for that background.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. Back to you, Hervé.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you very much. We have other slides to present the remaining issues, I would say, we have on the work we have to do so far to complete the document. I propose to go quickly to them, but not to hide the impressive work our drafting team is doing at the same time also. If you go to the next slide, where we are now in terms of the drafting of the document. You can go to the next one.

After the further consultation I talk about, we met in Montevideo, because it's a headquarter of the LACNIC, to review the feedback. As I said, we review each of the remarks raised by the community. And the idea is to write a report and to publish a report to provide transparency about what we did on that.

And I will let them give the floor to Amy and to Esteban to highlight that we need more discussion about in-progress issues, but issues so we are not able to decide the output only within the group, but with the NRO EC as well with the Boards. Also, we have drafting elements, and so that's something we are currently on here working on. And with that, I give the floor to Amy.

AMY POTTER

All right, next slide, please. So, I'll be going quickly over some of the open issues that we are working on this week. Here's a QR code for a more elaborate description of those issues if you're interested in getting into those.

Next slide. All right, so the first of the topics that are still open issues we are discussing this week has to do with the recognition review process. Currently, if the existing RIRs do not unanimously recommend recognition of a new candidate RIR, the candidate can submit a request to ICANN for a recognition review.

Currently, we are still going back and forth about whether or not that review should be performed by ICANN or if ICANN wants to appoint an independent third party to do that for them. And the status of that is we're just seeking input from ICANN throughout this week about their preference there.

So, also in the recognition process, the process allows for a candidate RIR to move forward with approval of currently all but one of the existing RIRs. We're currently discussing whether or not that should be changed to a super majority or there should be another mechanism in there to deal with conflict of interest.

Both of our derecognition and Ad Hoc audit processes can be initiated by either the RIRs, ICANNs, or a group of members of the impacted RIR. This week, we're currently discussing for both the derecognition and Ad Hoc audit initiation processes what the threshold should be for members initiating that process and whether or not it should be the same under both derecognition and Ad Hoc audits.

And with our emergency continuity initiation and renewal procedures, we're working out some details there. Currently, the procedures require unanimous agreement among all of the RIRs to initiate the emergency continuity process. And currently, it can be renewed for 90-day periods. We're discussing whether or not that threshold makes sense and whether or not there should be more detailed language about the number of times the process can be renewed and what the details of those steps look like.

I'll turn it over to Esteban to go over the issues regarding drafting.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

Amy, well, finally, I'm very quick. We have some issues, some items that are under drafting for example, one of these is the document structure. We receive feedback requesting or saying that the document is too complex and will benefit from restructuring. Then we are thinking and working on how to improve the readiness and the flow of the document. Next, please.

Other issue is related, for example, with how will be the transition and continuity process. And in that case, the feedback we received from communities that article should address transition in more detail to ensure communities remain engaged during the transition. And in that case, well, we are working on the drafting to include those comments.

Regarding the audit obligations, we received feedback saying that the document does not explicitly oblige a RIR to act following the publication of an audit report. As in the other cases, we are including draft in that sense.

In that case, it's an item that is related with the recognition process. And in this particular, the issue was to consider if it's needed to have an audit or the audit be mandatory part of the process of the recognition process. We discussed it a lot in Montevideo when we analyze each by each, all the comments received at the RIR's level and also at the ICANN global level. And we conclude that it's not needed because once the recognition process is initiated, we need to finish it as soon as possible. Then we understand that the audit in that case is not needed as a specific part of the process.

Finally, one of the points that also under drafting is regarding the recognition, but in that particular case, the rehabilitation as part of the recognition. We understand that the recognition process is the last resource that implies a lot of changes for the resource holders and the service provided in a particular region. And we need to include the rehabilitation as a step in the recognition process. We are working on that.

Okay, yes, just finally, an overview of the work we are doing during this week. Well, we plan a lot of sessions, but we are using this particular meeting to socialize the document, the process. And we have different joint sessions with different constituencies at ICANN. We also have 10 closed sessions to finally discuss the different items and progress in the drafting. And we will also, we have a public session the first day, and we will have another public session the last day to socialize, to share with the community the progress during the week. Time for questions.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you, Amy, Esteban, and I think so we can go back to the ICANN. C. K.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. Do we have any questions, comments? Sajid, please.

SAJID RAHMAN

This is probably a question to Jia-Rong, or I don't know. So, I mean, except the funding issue, let's set that aside. Do you see any other challenges in terms of implementation?

JIA-RONG LOW

Thank you. Largely, in some ways, as usual, the devil's in the details. So, it's the scoping part that is important. Because if we scope it in such a way that, in some ways, our technical community, we tend to over-engineer something. So if we over-scope it, then the processes become too tenuous. For example, the audit. If we were to do audits over a three-year period, then we have to try to contain the audits within a size that's manageable. The audit itself should not be a year-long process. So, those are things that we have to scope out.

And if we add on an Ad Hoc audit, which is on the issues list as well, now imagine if an audit were a year-long process, then we have an ad hoc audit in between. We'll be doing audits every year or every other year.

Essentially, that will make, it becomes a full-time job. Then we actually detract from delivering our own work as regional internet registries. And I think that also adds a burden on ICANN as well. So, we have to find a way to scope it in such a way that we can move forward nimbly.

So those are potential challenges that the resources behind those implementation details. But those are details that we have to work out together. So, those are some areas that, even before we get to say how much resource we want to put, putting in resource and time just to work on the scoping could be a relatively challenging task.

So again, I think at the high level, if we are aligned that we need to get this out and we have a very clear timeline on when we want to deliver, then we have very clear objectives behind those, then I think we will be in a good place. So, I'm also optimistic about it from a high-level coordination partnership perspective. I think we largely are aligned. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. Before we move on, a comment from my side because we talked about the timeline of end of ‘26 and commitments from our side, right? So, the RIR governance document is a regular topic on the Board agenda, right? We just talked about it, forgot Saturday, Friday. It's all a blur.

So, we follow the changes you do very much. And we also, I guess, very much looking forward what comes out of all of your sessions you have this week. And I just noticed you're actually more-busy than me, so I don't envy you after I saw your schedule. So we work with you towards a commitment to get it done by end of ‘26, right? To get the document ready. So, this is also our plan.

Good. Should we go to the next one? We have a second slide deck. One more, please. I think we have done number one. Just have a quick look. Yeah, I guess we have done all of that. Then what we also had besides the update of the RIR governance document was two questions which circulated between the ICANN Board and the ASO, which are around the Strategic Plan. I'm not reading all of that. But we also brought Amitabh from our side, actually. But the question was to the ASO. But we brought our specialist as well so that we can have a dialogue and a conversation instead of you just answering. Jia-Rong should I take over to you?

JIA-RONG LOW

Thank you. So, we came prepared because we already responded in writing what are the things we think should be incorporated. But as a session, I'll talk through those points so that everyone is on the same page and then we can have a discussion.

So, regarding the first question, so five-year Strategic Plan and the Board is asking what are the top emerging trends that may impact ICANN that we think the Board should consider. So, first and foremost for us, again, is the RIR governance document. And I think the early agenda item; we've already put our ask for the Board to consider.

And Amitabh had thrown the ball back into my court for us to submit in writing whether there's any other areas that should be updated. We did look at the Strategic Plan. The current language in a Strategic Plan is on strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders in support of the shared responsibility for ensuring the security and stability of the internet's Unique Identifying System.

It is broad enough language that would incorporate the RIR governance document. In some ways, it's okay. And we can take it back again and see whether we could bolster that language further. But otherwise, at the high level, it could be subsumed as under that, then as long as the Board in looking at the operating plan, you have resources dedicated for the RIR governance document in the implementation, then I think we will be in a good place.

Now, two other items that we looked at included on the topic of security. So for the RIRs, we -- I think it's a good time, sorry. Can I take a step back just to share with you? Because fresh out of, in

Jakarta, we had a NRO face-to-face meeting. And during that time, the NRO EC discussed what's our strategy going forward.

So, we agreed we will review a strategy every three years. It's not a Strategic Plan, but it's just a strategy. What are the things that AS NRO, a coordinating body should focus on vis-a-vis the five RIRs?

And lastly, we have three items. So the first one is, again, RIR governance documents, naturally. The second one is on security. And under security, the vision of where we want to be is that we can provide a more consistent experience for our operators' vis-a-vis the services we provide, specifically RPKI. Because right now, we run five different trust anchors, and when you have an operator that's global, they have very different experience across the different regions. So, that's the focus.

Second part of it is also in terms of security threat intelligence coordination. So, we're looking at that as well. So, this is the second pillar. The third pillar is on IPv6. So, IPv6 is a 25-year-old long conversation, but we are progressing globally.

For example, in the APNIC region, last year we crossed 50% capability in IPv6 deployment. Some countries from a policy perspective, like Vietnam, has announced they will move to IPv6 only by 2032. So, very ambitious target. When Vietnam announced it, even the operators were very unsure, but it sends a very clear signal.

From the NRO's perspective, this means for us, we do want to look at, besides saying IPv6 is important, we want to look at how do we get to a world without V4? So, that's something we are looking at. So, I'm sharing this hot off the press because we are still working on the language and we will publish the strategy. But I think it's useful to share that strategy with the ICANN Board, because we're looking at a Strategic Plan together.

Now, taking that context against that backdrop, I'll come back to answering the second point that we conveyed in writing earlier. So, a second key area for us really would be security. So, I think we are still aligned in terms of what ICANN is looking at. And yesterday I'm hearing a lot of comments about DNS Abuse and ICANN needs to focus on that. I think we can really look at how we can further strengthen the collaboration and coordination in the theme of security. So, for the RIRs, we're really looking at RPKI adoption, continue to drive that, and I think it's part of the whole package of things that we hope our communities would work on. So, we think this is a good focus area.

Now, the last one, just a quick mention, is also yesterday there was a plenary session on WSIS+20. We are very happy about the outcomes and we'd like to continue to work together with ICANN to reinforce the multi-stakeholder model on this area. So, three key pillars which we are all very supportive of, and that's the first response to the first question.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Thank you. Very detailed. Certainly, please.

AMITABH SINGHAL Thank you, Jia. I think that those are great inputs. One thing that I would also suggest is there's been a lot of discussion about the impact of AI, whether it'll do good, it'll do bad, in terms of whether it can actually provide us opportunities in our area of work, or in terms of increasing security and resiliency of our systems. But it can also be a double-edged sword. It could also be used for bad.

Okay, so whether it can break or fragment the trust in our systems. So, that's something that needs to be also considered and it'll be great to have some kind of brainstorming there because AI is all over. I mean, you pick up a topic across any function, people talk about AI's impact on it. So, that's just a suggestion from my side. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW Thank you, Amitabh. AI is one of those conversations that's revolving around all the work that we are doing. So, it's, frankly, we haven't gotten our heads around how to talk about it. I think likewise, you have the same challenge. I think it's useful just to share some observations. So, for us, it's about the network operator’s community. And the interesting conversations I'm hearing has been in the last year, a lot of network operators for data centers, for example, were very unsure about AI, what it looks like.

There's also talks in terms of routing protocol, whether what we have right now would be able to support AI infrastructure. There's some discussion about this. I think some of that is being discussed in IETF as well.

Now, coming to 2026, this year, the outlook, interestingly, is very optimistic. We are hearing data centers, infrastructure providers are talking about, they're seeing a huge amount of investment into infrastructure to support AI. And the outlook is that's just the beginning. So, we're likely going to see an expansion of networks to support AI development going forward.

So, that's going to be fringe or side-by-side conversation in our space. So, it does deserve watching. But like you said, how it would impact us right now is unclear, but I think it's useful sharing of what I just discussed in terms of the broader landscape. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Well, Hervé?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT Yeah, just a very few words, but with hearing my heart of part of Orange as an ISP, about AI, and just to confirm that Jia-Rong say, of course, as an ISP, Jia-Rong is working on AI and looking forward and figure out what to do with AI. It's a priority, of course. And internally, we try to be very balanced about that. Of course, there is an investment about that. But the group doesn't want to do everything about that.

I think, nobody would be surprised about this conversation and about this point of view. And the other thing that as an ISP is a member of the regional international history, so it's something we collaborate together in the ongoing way to see that where it will go.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Thank you. Amitabh?

AMITABH SINGHAL Just thank you, Hervé.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Good. Last but not least, the cross-community working group is something which is very close to our heart, and I brought Leon with us as well to have a conversation about that. So, we did send a question to you. What do you think about? Please, Jia-Rong.

JIA-RONG LOW Maybe it's the Asian in me, so we come prepared. That's why we already put the talking points together. So, again, just sharing for everyone in the room, for us across the ASO, we share ICANN's recognition of the importance of organizational reviews and the implementation of the ATRT3 recommendations. We confirm our interest in ICANN's continuous improvement program for the benefit of the ASO.

Now, the challenge right now is we do think that completing the RIR governance document takes priority over the Review of Reviews, because the RIR governance document would update how we work with each other and interface with each other.

So we, as a group, think that by completing the RIR governance document first, that then would have the spillover elements, which then, when we look at the Review of Reviews itself, would be more productive. And based on that, we would like to focus on the RIR governance document work first, before we engage formally in the Review of Reviews work.

Now, that said, the NRO EC has appointed two ASO AC representatives, Hervé and Akinori. And they are part of the Review of Reviews cross-community group. So, they will be actively participating still, so that they know where the conversations are going, how that ties back into the RIR governance document or vice versa, so that these conversations do not happen in isolation. But we remain committed to finishing the RIR governance document first, then we will formally engage on the Review of Reviews part. So, that's the position we have. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. And the German in me appreciates your Asian preparedness very much. Good. Do we have any comment? Oh, León, please.

LEÓN SÁNCHEZ: The Mexican in me didn't come prepared, but yeah, that's true; of course, we're well prepared. No, thank you very much for your views, Jia-Rong, and I mean, I'm talking here personally, I understand the priority that the ASO may have in finalizing the document that you're working on. However, I would definitely encourage you to continue contributing to the CCG.

I mean, both Hervé and Akinori have done an amazing job so far, and we really appreciate their contributions. And I mean, I think that the aim from the community and of course the Board is to try to produce a refreshed set of reviews that is, in a way, as lightweight as possible, as predictable as possible, as clear as possible.

And we have been representing the Board and working as group members with full membership participation as well, Jim and myself, and with the aim of, again, trying to build into these refreshed set of reviews the concept of simplicity, right? We want that whatever comes out of this effort is something that is really easy to understand for whoever comes into ICANN as a fresh new set of eyes and understands that these reviews are about this or that.

We are also mindful that what has, in a way, put us where we are is the overlap between different efforts of reviews. So, we want to avoid that. We want to avoid that whatever the outcome is brings us back to square one, and we need to go through this effort again.

So, I think that the best possible outcome would be, again, to have this fresh new set of reviews that are lightweight, that are very well focused, that are easy to understand, that are easy to undertake, that are easy to implement once they produce the results, and that they don't overlap and they don't consume the resources as the current set of reviews have proven to consume.

So, I think that would be the best possible outcome that we can have. And again, I would like to first congratulate both Hervé and Akinori for their work so far and encourage them to continue the good work with us.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Hervé?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT Yeah, thank you very much for your kind words. Akinori and I take note, really, about your message. And in my personal view, I totally agree that simplicity is a key on that, because for me, simplicity drive to efficiency as well. And if we have and we have to publicize and share information within the community, explaining something simple is easier than explaining something difficult. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN Thank you. And I guess if we have no other hand or comment, then I'm giving it back to you, Tripti. Four minutes.

TRIPTI SINHA Thank you, Christian. This was a good discussion. Actually, I do have one question. So, you said the NROs don't have a Strategic Plan, but they have a strategy, right? And you've got the three pillars of the strategy. Do you attach deadline-driven outcomes to those, or are they just simply goals that you'd like to achieve, not achieve?

JIA-RONG LOW

Thanks, Tripti. So, this comes back to some management school terminology, unfortunately. It's easier to describe it that way first, if you don't mind. Actually, in actual definition, a strategy is not a plan. So, a Strategic Plan in many ways is actually an oxymoron, because a strategy just in easy management school speak, it just means what space do you want to be in. And a plan has timelines and outcomes and targets.

Now, a Strategic Plan is trying to combine both, so you articulate both at the same time. Now, we've realized that if we want to do a full-fledged Strategic Plan, that the overhead work behind that takes much longer. So, the easier way is to agree as NRO, what are the key themes that we will coordinate as a strategy?

So, those are the three pillars. And in each pillar, then we articulate what projects are we driving. So, it's a separate document that we will then talk through and we will say, these are the deliverables. So, for example, in the security theme under RPKI, so one item is on providing the vision at the EC level, executive council level, is to provide a more consistent experience for operators.

The outcome of it is we have to agree on TA, trust anchor, constraints consensus document, which we actually put as an RFC in the IETF. And that target for that is the end of the year. So, out of the strategy, we will have specific initiatives that we will have timelines and deliverables. But because it takes much longer to combine both in a short time, we agreed that we would deliver first a strategy document that highlights where we will focus on. And then as the initiatives come up with the deadlines, then we will put them up and say, these are the ones that we will deliver. So, it's more of a process and timing issue. Yeah, thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA Thank you. All right, sorry, Kaufmann?

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN No, no, all good. It's still yours.

TRIPTI SINHA Back to me again, yeah. All right, well, thank you very much for the conversation. This meeting is now adjourned. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]