ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – ICANN Board Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 16:30 to 17:30 IST

AARON JIMENEZ

Hello, my name is Aaron Jimenez. I am the participation manager for this session. Welcome to the regular meeting of the ICANN board. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior, the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy, and the Community Participant Code of Conduct Concerning Statements of Interest. Interpretation for the session will include English, French, and Spanish.

For our speakers 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. With that, I will hand the floor over to ICANN Board Chair, Tripti Sinha.

TRIPTI SINHA

Good afternoon, everyone. Before we begin the regular meeting of the ICANN Board, I would like to welcome on stage Russ Weinstein, ICANN Senior Vice President of Policy Development Support to introduce our next ICANN public meeting location. Please join me in welcoming Russ.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thank you, Tripti. It is my honor to say thank you for your participation in ICANN85, whether it was here on site in Mumbai or remotely. We want to thank all of our sponsors for this amazing meeting at ICANN85 and it would be remiss not to thank our gracious hosts for providing such amazing facilities and hospitality here in Mumbai. Thank you to NIXI in association with the ISPAI, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the State Government of Maharashtra.

As we close out ICANN85, we can all take stock of the work that was done over this week and be proud of that progress. It's really important to recognize, while there's always more work to be done to take a moment and take stock of what was accomplished so we can move forward together. We say bon voyage and see you soon to our colleagues from across the ecosystem at these meetings, and recognize that the work will continue online until the next time we see each other.

Our next ICANN public meeting will be ICANN86, the Policy Forum in Sevilla, Spain. And I'm pleased to share that the meeting registration system and website are now live and available for all of the community to go in and begin registration. And I welcome our local host for ICANN86, Vanesa Sánchez-Rojo, Head of the Unit for Digital Society from the Ministry of Digitalization and Civil Service. Vanessa, the floor is yours.

VANESA SÁNCHEZ-ROJO Good morning. I cannot share, sorry, the video image.

RUSS WEINSTEIN We can hear you. Go ahead, please.

VANESA SÁNCHEZ-ROJO Yes, good morning. I cannot share my video image. Sorry, it's not there. I don't have the permission to do it. I don't know if you can help me.

RUSS WEINSTEIN Okay, you should be good now.

VANESA SÁNCHEZ-ROJO Okay, thank you. Thank you. That's it. Thank you. Perfect. [foreign language - 00:04:10]. Good afternoon, good morning. Many thanks, ICANN and the Indian government for this great ICANN Community Forum meeting. These days have been very productive and inspiring, strengthening ICANN's collaborative network thanks to India's and ICANN's excellent organization and to all the participants.

I'm Vanessa Sánchez and I'm along with my colleague Iñaki Gil. We are officers from the Spanish government from the Ministry of Digitalization. We would really like to have attended in Mumbai, but due to the Middle East situation, we could not attend physically. We really appreciate how ICANN community, warmly and officially hosted by our Indian colleagues, has devoted the last days to work on important topics such as Universal Acceptance, new gTLDs, DNS abuse mitigation, quiz registration data issues, or WSIS+20.

From Spain, we are excited to take over for the next ICANN86 Policy Forum meeting in the city of Seville from 8th to 11th of June. We feel fortunate to be able to continue advancing Internet governance with ICANN and its active community. So, we encourage you all to come to Spain in June to continue participating in ICANN and building a more secure, resilient, and inclusive internet for all. Let us show you a short video of Seville, the city that will host the next ICANN meeting. Thank you and looking forward to welcoming you in ICANN86 Seville.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Vanessa. That was a lovely video and we can't wait to be there, so we look forward to ICANN86 in Sevilla this June. We are now going to start a board meeting. I would like to invite my board colleagues to join me on stage.

All right, welcome everyone. I'd like to call this meeting to order. This is the formal meeting of the board on the 12th of March, 2026, in Mumbai, India at ICANN85. Let's start with taking roll call. Wes, if you could start by stating your name and saying present, and then we'll go online.

WES HARDAKER

Wes Hardaker, present.

NICOLAS CABALLERO	Nico Caballero, present.
CHRIS BUCKRIDGE	Chris Buckridge, present.
PATRICIO POBLETE	Patricio Poblete, present.
LEON SANCHEZ	Leon Sanchez, present.
BYRON HOLLAND	Byron Holland, present.
KURTIS LINDQUIST	Kurtis Lindquist, present.
TRIPTI SINHA	Tripti Sinha, present.
SAJID RAHMAN	Sajid Rahman, present.
CATHERINE ADEYA	Catherine Adeya, present.

AMITABH SINGHAL	Amitabh Singhal, present.
RAÚL ECHEBERRÍA	Raúl Echeberría, present.
DAVID LAWRENCE	David Lawrence, present.
JAMES GALVIN	James Galvin, present.
CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN	Christian Kaufmann, present.
GREG DIBIASE	Greg DiBiase, present.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you. Can we go online? Those of you who are online, board members, please identify yourselves.
CONSTANCE BOMMELAER DE LEUSSE	Constance de Leusse, present.

SARAH DEUTSCH	Sarah Deutsch, present.
MIRIAM SAPIRO	Miriam Sapiro, present.
ALAN BARRETT	Alan Barrett, present.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you. John, General Counsel and Secretary, can you confirm that we have a quorum?
JOHN JEFFREY	Yes, we have a quorum.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you, John. Let's go to the consent agenda. Thank you. So, there are a few items of the consent agenda. The first one is the updated process for GNSO stakeholder group and constituency charter amendments. Chris Buckridge is the shepherd. Chris, could you introduce the topic? Sorry, there you are.
CHRIS BUCKRIDGE	Sure, Tripti, thank you. This is simply a resolution for the board to approve an update to the process for amending GNSO stakeholder group and constituency charters. And so resolved, the ICANN

Board approves the updates to the process and directs the GNSO and ICANN org to adopt them with immediate effect.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. The next item on the consent agenda is new contract for interpretation, equipment and technical support. Sajid?

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. As part of our regular process, we, the ICANN org, did RFP amongst different vendors and this resolution is to authorize President, CEO to go into a contract for interpretation equipment and technical support for different meetings.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. And item C, you are the shepherd for that as well, the Consolidated New Contract for IT Security Products and Services.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. So, ICANN has been using different vendors for different IT-related security products. This resolution is to provide or authorize President, CEO to go into a contract in a consolidated vendor. This will help the quality of the products and services that ICANN uses.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. And item 1D is Asset Management Custodian Selections.

SAJID RAHMAN

As part of the investment policy, ICANN ran an RFP process and this resolution is selecting the asset managers and custodians for our investments and to authorize president and CEO to get into a contract with those.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. And the last item on the consent agenda is ICANN90 venue contracting.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. So, we are going a bit generic here, but this is about ICANN90. This is again about giving the necessary authority to President, CEO to go into contract for a venue within Asia Pacific region.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. Since these items are on the consent agenda, they have been approved. Thank you all. Let's move on to the main agenda. Item 2A is the System For Standardized Access Disclosure Policy Recommendations. Our shepherd is Wes Hardaker. Wes?

WES HARDAKER

Thank you very much. So, I'm going to give an extremely abbreviated summary of the history of the Registration Data

Request Service, aka the RDRS, and the related proposal before us today. But even extremely short, it's going to be a few sentences.

So, the System for Standardized Access and Disclosure, aka SSAD, recommendations were approved by the GNSO Council in September of 2020. Before formally accepting these recommendations, the ICANN Board requested that ICANN org create and launch a trial system. The implementation of the RDRS system began in February 2023 and was later launched in November of 2023.

Since that time, the board and the community have gained valuable experience relating to the release of information relating to domain registrants. The GNSO Standing Committee has also since concluded that the ICANN Board should reject the SSAD recommendations and return them to the GNSO Council for further action and to develop supplemental recommendations.

So, the proposal before the board today will follow this advice and proposes to not adopt the SSAD recommendations as a package. I'll note that the board greatly appreciates the community discussions held in the past and especially this week regarding this important topic. I know I have participated in many of those discussions and it seems like the community is coming to a good path forward on this. I encourage anybody that wishes to gain additional understanding of this resolution to read it and its background and in its entirety, there's a lot of valuable information and with that, back to you.

TRIPTI SINHA

Would you like to read the results?

WES HARDAKER

Yes, I'll read the results. Okay. So, resolved, the Board finds, based on discussions with the GNSO Council and the broader ICANN community, that the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure, as said, recommendations in the EPDP Phase 2 Final Report are not in the best interest of the ICANN community or ICANN, and therefore does not adopt these recommendations at this time. Having determined that its rationale for not adopting the original recommendations as detailed in the Board Statement remains valid.

Resolved, the ICANN Board urges the GNSO Council to ensure that future policy work on the SSAD recommendations is aligned with other relevant policy work and is completed within the Board's two-year operational extension for RDRS, which ends in November 2027.

Resolved, the Board extends its great appreciation to the community, the RDRS Standing Committee, and GNSO Council, all of whom who have invested considerable time and resources in participating in the RDRS pilot, providing feedback and aligning on next steps for the SSAD policy recommendations.

TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you, Wes. Is there any discussion or questions or comments for Wes? Yes, Greg.
GREG DIBIASE	I'm disclosing a potential conflict in that my company operates a registrar and will be refraining from this vote.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you. Is there any discussion or comments on this? Anyone online? Seeing none, before I take a vote, I'd like to call for conflicts. Thank you, Greg, for being proactive. Anyone else declaring a conflict? All right, I'm not seeing any hands. Do I have a motion? Will someone pass this motion? Leon, thank you. A second, please? Chris Buckridge, thank you. All those in favor, please say. Any nays? Any abstentions? The motion passes. Thank you. Wes, let's move on to item 2B. This is the Nominating Committee Standing Committee Charter Updates and the shepherd is Christian Kaufmann. Christian?
CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN	Thank you, Tripti. Two calls for expression of interests were done, one in December 24 and one in February 25. Both of them did not result in enough candidates to fulfill the requirements needed to start the committee. The BGC therefore updated the Charter to

allow for expanded eligibility to attract more interest. Looking at the resolution.

Resolved, the ICANN Board directs the ICANN President and CEO, or his designees, to post for public comment the proposed update to the NomCom Standing Committee Charter. The Board will consider next steps with the Charter after receiving community feedback.

TRIPTI SINHA Thank you, Christian. Any discussion, comments on this topic? Anyone online? All right, I don't see any. Do I have a motion? Thank you, Christian. A second, please? Sajid. All those in favor, please say aye. Any nays? Any abstentions? The motion passes. Thank you.

Let's move on to item 2C, D, and E. And for these items, I would like to call out conflicts before we discuss them. Any conflicts? David?

DAVID LAWRENCE Out of an abundance of caution, I have recused myself from all non-public meetings of the gTLD program.

TRIPTI SINHA Thank you. Jim?

JAMES GALVIN	James Galvin for the record, and out of an abundance of caution, I have recused myself from all discussions and decisions related to this item. Thank you.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you. Greg?
GREG DIBIASE	Thanks. Greg DiBiase. I'm disclosing a potential conflict in that my company operates a registry, so I'll abstain from voting.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you. Any others? Wes?
WES HARDAKER	Thank you. Both past and present employers have potentially put me in conflict, and therefore out of an abundance of caution, I have not participated in these discussions or deliberations.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you. Byron?
BYRON HOLLAND	Byron Holland. My employer is a registry service provider, and out of an abundance of caution I too will recuse myself.

TRIPTI SINHA

Anyone online? All right, I believe I counted five who have recused themselves. Thank you. So, the first item, item 2C, who's the shepherd for this? The shepherd, Alan, you're the shepherd for this. Take it away.

ALAN BARRETT

That's right. Thank you, Tripti. Yes, this is Alan. So, we are about to launch the 2026 round of the new gTLD program and all successful applicants for new gTLDs will assign contracts which includes a Base Registry Agreement.

The new version of the Base Registry Agreement has been developed over the past few years with support from the community and the SubPro IRT, that's the implementation review team. The SubPro IRT has recommended that the new version be approved. The board caucus on the next round has also recommended that it be approved. So, let me read the resolve clause. There's just one short resolve clause.

Resolve that the ICANN Board approves the New gTLD Program 2026 Base Registry Agreement and directs the President and CEO or his designees to take all necessary steps to incorporate the 2026 Base RA into the new gTLD program for the 2026 round. Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Alan. Any discussion, comments or questions on this? Anyone online? I don't see any hands. All right, do I have a motion? Thank you, Curtis. A second, please? Catherine seconds it. All those in favor, please say aye. Any nays? Any abstentions? The motion passes. Thank you, all.

Let's move on to 2D. This is the 2026 round contract extensions. Sajid?

SAJID RAHMAN

ICANN continues to need qualified vendors for the successful execution of New gTLD Program 2026 Round. So, the Board Finance Committee recommends that the board pass the following resolution.

Resolved, the ICANN Board authorizes the President and CEO or his designee to approve the commitment of funds for contracting and disbursements in furtherance of the contract with vendors for contractor services for a total amount not to exceed. This is deducted.

Resolved specific items within this resolution shall remain confidential for negotiation purposes pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.5 of the ICANN Bylaws until the President and CEO or his designee determines that the confidential information may be released.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Sajid. Do I have any questions, comments, or discussion on this topic? Anyone online? Okay, do I have a motion, please? Raúl. A second? Amitabh. All those in favor please say aye.

Any nays? Any abstentions? Byron, you did abstain, right? Yeah, all right the motion passes. Thank you, all.

Let's move on to item 2E. This is the advanced contracting and disbursement approval request for the new gTLD program, the 2026 round batch number three. Sajid, you are the shepherd again.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. ICANN org has delivered the batch three, the group of vendors for the new gTLD program and the Board Finance Committee therefore recommends the board pass the following resolution.

TRIPTI SINHA

Any discussion, questions, or comments?

SAJID RAHMAN

Resolution.

TRIPTI SINHA

Oh, sorry.

SAJID RAHMAN

Resolved, the ICANN Board authorizes the President, CEO or his designee to enter into and make all disbursement pursuant to all contracts set out in batch 3 of service providers contracts expected to be needed in the next six to 12 months and that are expected not to exceed $750,000 for the New gTLD Program 2026 Round estimated to not exceed the total amount is redacted here. So long as those contract amounts are within previously board approved budget amounts for the program.

Resolved, specific items within this resolution shall remain confidential for negotiation purposes pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.5 of the ICANN Bylaws until the President, CEO or his designee determines that the confidential information may be released.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Sajid. Now I open the floor for discussion. Any questions, comments? All right. I don't see any online either. So, do I have a motion on the floor, please? Leon. Do I have a second? Okay, Raúl. All those in favor, please say aye. Any nays? Any abstentions? Yeah, and Byron abstains. Thank you. All the motion passes.

Let's move on to item 2F. And this is, we'd like to thank the local government and supporting organizations of the ICANN85 meeting. So the Board wishes to extend its thanks to our host, National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI, In association with Internet Service Provider Association of India, ISPAI, as well as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, and .IN Registry for their great support.

Moving on to item 2G, thank you to our sponsors. The Board wishes to thank the following sponsors: Verisign, Inc., Tata

Communications Limited, Core Association, Afnic, Public Interest Registry, PIR, Net Beacon Institute, DigiCert, Intis Telecom Inc., Identity Digital Inc., Tucows Registry Services, and Nominet UK.

And thanking our support team. The Board expresses its deepest appreciations to the scribes, interpreters, audiovisual team, technical teams, and the entire ICANN staff for their efforts in facilitating the smooth operation of the meeting.

The Board would also like to thank the management and staff of the Jio World Convention Center, ICE India, Sound and Light Professionals, and Spectrum AV for providing a wonderful facility and support for this event. The Board extends its thanks to the Trident Bandra Kurla, Sofitel Mumbai BKC, and the Grand Hyatt Mumbai. Could we show or express our appreciation with a round of applause, please. Thank you.

Now we come to AOB. Would anyone like to bring anything to the table for discussion? I don't see anything online either. So that concludes our agenda for today. Do I have a motion to adjourn, please? Sajid? There's always a big fight to who's -- second, Byron. So, with acclamation, let's conclude this meeting.

This concludes ICANN85, a very successful meeting, and I invite everyone to join us for cocktails in the room next door. The formal board meeting is adjourned now. Thank you, all.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]