
ICANN85 | Prep Week – Policy and Advice Update
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ANDREA GLANDON

Hello and welcome to the ICANN85 Prep Week Policy and Advice Update webinar. My name is Andrea Glandon 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 and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. During this session, questions or comments should be submitted to the Q&A pod. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the moderator of this session.

Interpretation for this session will include Spanish and French. 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 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. And please remember to speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Russ Weinstein, you may begin.

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RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thank you, Andrea. Welcome, everyone, to the ICANN85 Prep Week and ICANN's Policy Development and Support Teams webinar, the Policy and Advice Update. This webinar is designed to be a brief tour around the ICANN community to help you prepare for the discussions ahead at ICANN85 in Mumbai.

The policy team will provide information to reflect the various activities in each of the supporting organizations and advisory committees, as well as spotlight some key sessions related to that work. We'll try to do so in a fun, entertaining, engaging way and have our master of ceremonies, Dan Gluck, to help keep us moving throughout.

To support your preparation for ICANN85, we've just published the ICANN85 Policy Outlook Report and a complimentary report from our colleagues in the Global Domains Division, the PRSP pre-meeting briefing. Together, these briefings give you a good understanding of what's going on across the community and with the community's work from ideation through implementation.

One of the action items coming out of ICANN85 was to provide better visibility and tracking of this key community work in progress and through its life cycle. Together with the Global Domains Division, we'll publish a couple reports in the coming days that provide that better visibility to help the community understand what's going on, where it's going on, and what the current status is.

I welcome your feedback on those reports. This was a first-time effort to help spotlight this important work, and we look to evolve this work as we move forward to help the community participate more effectively. If you didn't tune into yesterday's webinar from the Global Domains Division, please do so as it will help provide the complementary information to this report.

Before we dive into updates about the community's work, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the progress this community has made in just the last year. All of these achievements have been based on collective efforts of the community, the staff, and the board working together in much of it to help deliver a better internet for everyone.

On the broader internet governance stage, we ended 2025 with a positive outcome from the 20-year review of the World Summit on Information Society, the WSIS+20. There was a webinar earlier today that talked a bit about that, and there's a session spotlighting that work and the next steps in Mumbai.

Coming off the Prague meeting, the ICANN community and the board came together to scope, launch, and advance an effort to quickly assess and reform ICANN reviews, affectionately known as the Review of Reviews work. There was a webinar yesterday about the progress of that and I welcome you to check that out. And there's a session during the Mumbai meeting on that as well. We'll talk a bit about on that.

Just last week, the working group working on governance of the root server system delivered a report to the board and you'll hear more about that. And again, a session coming up in Mumbai where you'll learn more about it. The numbers community has made significant progress in developing updated governance for the regional internet registries and target delivering their final report later this calendar year.

And the GNSO has responded to community feedback and initiated two policy development processes to address DNS abuse, with the first kicking off in Mumbai. And of course, an update wouldn't be complete without mentioning the next round.

The Org, Board, and community have collectively worked together over the last several years to complete the applicant guidebook in late 2025 for the opening of the 2026 round in late April this year. This is the community policy and advice coming to life and it's really beautiful to see. With that momentum in your minds, I'll pass it to Dan to get us started.

DAN GLUCK

Thanks, Russ, but I can't let you go that quickly because you actually promised us something on some key spotlights. We saw some key sessions. Can you maybe tell us about a key session that you have some input on?

RUSS WEINSTEIN

You bet. I think you're talking about the Review of Reviews I mentioned. So, I'm part of the team that's working on that. We have representatives from across the ICANN community putting our heads together to reevaluate why we do reviews at ICANN and how we should do them going forward to make them fit for purpose. The team is working on a three-phase approach that's expected to last for about a year from start to finish, which is pretty accelerated pace for ICANN work.

In the first phase, we thought about the purpose of reviews and consulted the community in Dublin about early progress on that work and completed that in late 2025. We're now in the second phase of the work and we're beginning to bring proposals to the community in Mumbai for input about which reviews we should do and the general cadence for each of them so the purpose of each of those.

With that community input, which we hope we'll get in Mumbai and following through a public comment process, we'll iterate into a third phase, which will prepare a more detailed set of proposals, specifying each of the reviews or assessments recommended and how they should operate. We hope to deliver this final report by the end of August. There was a prep week session on that just yesterday, as I mentioned, and there will be a session on Thursday of the ICANN meeting where you can come and participate.

In addition, many of the SOs, ACs, SGs, and Cs will be talking about this throughout the week in Mumbai, and there'll be often guest

speakers from the Review of Reviews teams helping them with those conversations and gathering their input. So important work going on at ICANN and really appreciate the progress the whole community is making on that work. Thanks.

DAN GLUCK

Thank you so much, Russ, for that wonderful introduction, and then thanks for hopping in on the Review of Reviews stuff. I'm Dan from the ICANN Policy Development Support Team, and I'm coming to you live today from outside of Washington, D.C. in the state of Maryland. Welcome again to the Policy and Advice Update, your TLDR to get ready for the ICANN85 Community Forum.

This prep week session will feature updates from all the supporting organizations and advisory committees that participate in the multi-stakeholder model of policy development here at ICANN. This is a decentralized governance model that allows for community-based, consensus-driven policymaking. Supporting those organizations and committees, the ICANN Policy Development Support Team will be there for 163 of 233 sessions in Mumbai, India.

Also, in Mumbai around this time, international sport. Now, I know that the folks that live by me and at latitudes further north still have winter Olympic fever or maybe a bad taste in their mouth from what happened after the winter Olympics, but there is a different

competition that has the eye of the home of Bollywood, the International Cricket Council's Men's T20 World Cup.

Now, what's that? 20 national or cooperative teams, mostly from across the Commonwealth, but with a few outliers, gather to compete in a bridged version of cricket. We're talking about a couple of hours instead of a couple of days.

And now, I'm a fairly new cricket fan, and over the past few years I've mostly watched test matches, but I won't let that stop me from trying to tie what we do here today to the gentleman's game. We have a really fun and interesting batting order for you here, and I almost want to say that we're structured like a T20 match.

Our openers are policy and advice heavy with generic name supporting organization as you can see on the screen there and then the governmental advisory committee leading us off. Then we'll get to some middle of the order power hitters, the country code name supporting organization and the At-Large. And then to finish with the technical communities, we'll keep our run rates high, the Address Supporting Organization and the Security Stability Advisory Committee, finally, the Root Service System Advisory Committee.

We'll have a few tea breaks to make sure that we hear from some of the other important groups and initiatives, as Russ mentioned earlier, the key spotlights as we already had with Review of Reviews. And with our captain's coin toss complete, our first batter to go on strike today will be coming up to pitch. Some say a Travis

Head-like figure. By the way, they're about to aim for sixes, but trust me, folks, I'm a Jasper Boomer type bowler, and I'm ready to throw some Yorkers right here at Feodora of the GNSO support team. Welcome, Feodora.

FEODORA HAMZA

Thank you, Dan. It's great to be here. There's been significant activity across multiple policy tracks, so I'm looking forward to unpacking where things stand, what to expect, and especially as we head into ICANN85.

DAN GLUCK

Great. Walk the folks here through some key developments across the Generic Name Supporting Organization, GNSO, including DNS abuse mitigation, Latin script diacritics, discussion on registration data policy work, and broader continuous improvement initiative.

There's some other things on the slide there and we'll get to it, but let's begin with DNS abuse mitigation, which remains one of the most visible priorities across the community. What's the latest?

FEODORA HAMZA

You're right. DNS abuse mitigation continues to be a central focus because of its direct impact on security, stability, and resilience of the DNS. In recent years, we've seen meaningful progress, including strengthened baseline obligations through contractual amendments to registrar and registry agreements.

The community collectively understood when the amendments were being worked on that they were a first step in a longer-term effort to further mitigate DNS abuse. Based on the data and updates provided from those contractual amendments, amongst others, the council and the community identified areas where policy work could enhance DNS abuse mitigation efforts.

DAN GLUCK

And I'm muted. All right. I love to hear that. We love meaningful progress and it's led to the most recent developments?

FEODORA HAMZA

That's correct. In August last year, the council requested an issue report to identify remaining gaps and assess whether and where further policy development would be needed. The final issue report was published in December last year and identified two areas that should be prioritized for policy development.

The first area is associated domain checks, a framework requiring registrars to proactively pivot to investigate domains linked to malicious actors. And the second one is safeguards to unrestricted API access for new customers, a proactive approach that seeks to introduce friction for new customer accounts prior to gaining access.

Based on those findings, the council launched, as earlier mentioned, the two-policy development processes. The first PDP-1 focusing on associated domain checks is moving forward

immediately and has its kickoff at ICANN85. And the second PDP-2 on API safeguards will begin later, depending on resources and progress of PDP-1 and, of course, pending council discussion.

DAN GLUCK

So, we're not going to hear about PDP-2 during ICANN85. What will we actually see happening?

FEODORA HAMZA

So, ICANN85 marks the operational start of PDP-1, also called the kickoff. Since ICANN84, the charter has been confirmed and the working group has been established. There will be four working sessions focused on establishing the foundations for the working group. Things like confirming the work plan, reviewing charter questions, hearing from technical and subject matter experts, as well as start deliberations on the charter questions. This is essentially the point where the policy work formally shifts from issue scoping to structured working group deliberations.

DAN GLUCK

So, we have some foundational work, but critically important for shaping everything that follows we see there on the screen our policy development process model there. So, yeah.

FEODORA HAMZA

Exactly.

DAN GLUCK

Not really a great question, but right.

FEODORA HAMZA

Exactly. Now the work everybody has been waiting for can begin in this area for sure.

DAN GLUCK

All right. So, let's turn over now to the other policy development process, one that perhaps if you've been paying attention to some public comment proceedings you may have seen before. Can you explain the issue in practical terms for the Latin script diacritics PDP?

FEODORA HAMZA

Yes, at its core, the working group is examining how to handle situations where a base American standard code for information interchange, short SC, gTLD and the Latin script diacritic version of the gTLD are not variants of each other. And thus, seeking for an appropriate mechanism to be in place that will allow a single gTLD registry operator to simultaneously operate both gTLDs.

DAN GLUCK

Okay, and where does this work stand now?

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, I'm happy to report the working group has made substantial progress. It has answered its charter questions, conducted both a human rights impact assessment and a global public interest review, and produced 54 preliminary recommendations along with implementation guidance. Those recommendations were published in January this year for public comment, and the public comment closed yesterday, on the 23rd of February.

DAN GLUCK

Very nice. Very nice. And what's going on in Mumbai for this?

FEODORA HAMZA

So, at ICANN85 for this working group, the focus shifts to reviewing public comment submissions. After that review, the group plans to stabilize its recommendations and move towards a final report for the GNSO Council.

DAN GLUCK

A mighty big milestone and it's impressive that the group managed to beat their own timeline.

FEODORA HAMZA

Yes, thank you. That's right, the working group worked very efficiently, had great leadership, and a dedicated support team from the policy function assisting them to achieve their goals. So, thank you.

DAN GLUCK

We love that. We love to hear that. Great job, everybody. And another major topic, registration data, particularly the Registration Data Request Service, RDRS. Why is this significant?

FEODORA HAMZA

So, the RDRS was launched as a pilot, which finished last year and the goal was to generate operational data that can inform decision about the next steps for the SSAD, also known as the System for Standardized Access and Disclosure, or also the EPDP Phase 2 recommendations.

DAN GLUCK

Well, first, I want to thank Terry and Andrea for popping in our terms and acronyms in the chat pod. If any of these, you get lost in any of them, check the chat pod. Great place to hear from our experts and I guess, get the long form of what we're talking about. But yeah, what's new with that, the RDRS, the SSAD? What's new with that and what will the next steps be?

FEODORA HAMZA

So, the RDRS Standing Committee reviewed the RDRS and provided a findings report to council in November 2025. There it recommends to the GNSR council to propose or consider recommending to the ICANN board to not adopt the existing asset recommendations yet. Instead, the board should enable the path

for supplemental recommendations informed by the Standing Committee's report.

What is important to note here is that, all asset recommendations will be reviewed and modified with this path where necessary and are not simply discarded. This path would ensure that all asset recommendations are treated as a package as envisioned by the original working group.

DAN GLUCK

Very fun. It seems like there's a clear path. What will happen at ICANN85?

FEODORA HAMZA

There is one session scheduled where the GNSO Council will discuss how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations after receiving further input from the ICANN board. Specifically, the GNSO Council will discuss the composition of the group who will produce supplemental recommendations if the recommendations are not adopted by the board. The GNSO Council notes that it aims to finish the work on SSAD or on the supplemental regs in a timely manner with the RDRS Standing Committee report as a discussion basis.

DAN GLUCK

Sounds great and now let's briefly touch on something structural, not really as much policy, the Standing Committee on Continuous

Improvement, or SCCI, SCCI, any one of those you want to say, however you want to say it, tell me about that.

FEODORA HAMZA

I think it's called SCCI. So yes, this committee oversees improvements to how the GNSO policy development process, or also short PDP itself operates and is conducted. So, focusing on structure, procedures, and process effectiveness of the PDP and wider GNSO community work. It evolved from a pilot initiative and is now a permanent committee with responsibility for advancing continuous improvement.

DAN GLUCK

Have they made any progress recently?

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, the committee submitted a final recommendation on the policy and implementation, policy status report, sorry, difficult word, which was an evaluation of additional GNSO mechanisms like the EPDP, and I count on my colleagues to add those acronyms in the chat, the GGP, and GIP to the GNSO Council. And is now in the process of developing the assessment framework, including the principles, criteria, and indicators for the GNSO Continuous Improvement Program. One key outcome is in essence that the policies reviewed are working as intended, but there is room to improve clarity and awareness around those mechanisms.

DAN GLUCK Thank you, Terry, the fastest hands in the West in the chat there. What's going on at ICANN85 regarding all these acronyms?

FEODORA HAMZA Well, work continues on developing the CIP framework with the expectation that after ICANN85, the committee will be moving on to planning and executing the CIP assessments.

DAN GLUCK Well, it seems like the GNSO has a lot of ground to cover during ICANN85. And what about the GNSO Council in particular?

FEODORA HAMZA So, the GNSO Council has a few meetings at ICANN85. On Sunday, the Council will hold three public working group sessions and a bilateral meeting with the Governmental Advisory Committee. On Wednesday of ICANN85, the council will meet with the ICANN board and hold its public meeting. And on Thursday, the council will hold its wrap-up session.

DAN GLUCK Okay, sorry, I was taking some notes here because I'm going to try to summarize some of what we have here. I got my color-coded pens. We got my poorly handwritten notes here that I bet I can't even read if I tried. But DNS Abuse mitigation PDP-1 is having its kickoff meeting during ICANN85. Sounds right. So Latin script

diacritics PDP, they published a final report. They'll be working on their final report starting in ICANN85.

The next steps on SSAD should be confirmed during ICANN85. And of course, SCCI continues to develop their continuous improvement framework. The expectation that after ICANN85, you know, maybe they could finalize it and implement what they have there. Is that correct?

FEODORA HAMZA

That's correct. So, the LG PDP has finished their initial report and is working on their final report, but the rest was a very great summary indeed. ICANN85 will be a full meeting with ample opportunities to participate and also to learn about GNSO policy development. So, thank you, Dan.

DAN GLUCK

Powerful stuff. Thanks for walking us through these updates and thanks to everyone for joining us for this part of the session, especially everyone in the chat that's popping things in there. And I do have the opportunity now to ask anyone in the audience if they have a question, we have the Q&A pod, which it seems like there's been some questions in there that are being answered in the chat. And the other ones aren't necessarily GNSO specific, it seems.

So, I'm going to go and say, if you have any questions, you can definitely raise your hand, type something in the meeting chat or the Q&A pod. And since they're not coming in now, Feodora, we're

going to let you go and we can get back to any GNSO questions towards the end.

FEODORA HAMZA

Thank you.

DAN GLUCK

All right, thank you. And now we move on to the governmental advisory committee, our second group of the day and, you know, we're still in our openers. The next presenter in advisory committee, they have like Rohit Sharma energy, lots of runs, lots of sixes, but also extremely important captain-like material. And with that said, whether or not the reference will hit, I don't know, I'm not really sure, but Benedetta from the GAC support team, hello?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Hi, Dan. Thank you. I'll aim for some steady captain energy even if I leave the sixes to the others.

MARGARET BENAVIDES

[inaudible - 00:23:51].

DAN GLUCK

Oh, mute that one really quick, and yeah, lots of things going on for the GAC. Looking back to Dublin, there were a lot of things on the advisory committee's mind, and I think they could all tie back to the GAC strategic plan. Some recent progress made there. How is

the GAC strategic planning framework shaping its policy priorities going into ICANN85?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Thanks, Dan. Since 2024, the GAC has been operating under a four-year strategic plan, which is supported by annual operational planning. That framework is designed to strengthen preparedness, improve prioritization across policy areas, and bring greater flexibility to how the GAC engages in ICANN processes.

It also supports clearer communication of GAC priorities, both within ICANN and at higher governmental levels. The issues that were prominent in Dublin, so the next round, DNS abuse mitigation, and registration data are all identified priority areas under the strategic plan. So, heading into ICANN85, this reflects continued structured engagement in those areas rather than expansion into new topics.

DAN GLUCK

Next up, next round, next question, how's the GAC feeling? What's moved forward since ICANN84?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Well, the next round remains one of the GAC's central priorities. Since ICANN84, the shift has been from general discussion towards a more operational preparation. That shift is important because

the next round is no longer conceptual. It's moving towards implementation.

So, one of the more concrete developments that has been progressed on the GAC side has been the internal early warning progress. That includes clarifying procedural steps and aligning with the anticipated application timeline so that there is greater predictability around how the GAC may engage once applications are submitted.

Early warnings are one of the established mechanisms through which the GAC can flag public policy concerns related to specific application. Ensuring that process is structured and aligned with the timeline supports timely and coherent engagement when the window opens. At ICANN85, this will be the fourth iteration of next round capacity development sessions for the GAC and that iterative approach is deliberate.

Each session builds on the previous one, allowing members to deepen their understanding of application types and the public policy considerations that governance may examine during evaluation. The aim is to align those discussions with plenary discussions and intersessional work, so that preparation is continuous rather than meeting-bound. So, in Mumbai, the emphasis is readiness, ensuring that engagement is structured, informed, and aligned with the GAC's public policy mandate.

DAN GLUCK

Let's move over to registration data. It's something that has many arms. Some of them reach into the GAC, and maybe some are a bit more external. Urgent requests and registration data request service, I believe those are probably two of GAC's interests here. So, can you walk us through the GAC's level of engagement for this meeting with registration data?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Of course. Thank you for asking. The registration data remains a significant focus under strategic objective number 5 for the GAC, particularly at the intersection of accessibility, accuracy, and public interest considerations.

On urgent requests for disclosure in situations involving imminent threats to life, the GAC has expressed support for policy language requiring registries and registrars to respond within 24 hours to authenticated law enforcement requests. The emphasis here is on authentication. Those requests would be validated through mechanisms currently being developed between the GAC Public Safety Working Group, ICANN org, and community representatives in a dedicated practitioner's group.

ICANN85 should provide greater clarity on how that authentication framework is progressing and how it can operate in practice. Beyond urgent requests, the registration data request service and the SSAD recommendations remain part of the broader discussion on access mechanisms. The GAC anticipates engagement with the GNSO Council, including during the Thursday session that Feodora

mentioned earlier, to consider how these mechanisms are functioning and how they may evolve within the existing legal framework.

Alongside accessibility, accuracy continues to be a standing consideration for the GAC. In the ICANN84 Dublin Communique, the GAC recommended that registration data be validated and verified before newly registered domains become active in the DNS. And that ICANN org undertake a broader assessment of how evolving technologies may affect data reliability. So, in Mumbai, the registration data discussion reflects continued engagement across access, implementation, and data integrity considerations.

DAN GLUCK

Thanks, and I thank Julia for posting the strategic objective in the chat there, because I think we could actually make a bridge now between strategic objective five and strategic objective four, that's DNS piece mitigation. Because I think associated domain checks can sort of fit in both fields there and that's a major consideration for the GAC. And as we've heard, other communities, Feodora briefed us on the GNSO's effort to tackle through a PDP. And, you know, is the GAC going to participate with that and is there anything else that they're working on regarding DNS abuse?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Yes, the GAC is participating in that work. DNS abuse mitigation has been a sustained priority and in the ICANN83 Prague Communique,

the GAC advised the board to encourage narrowly scoped PDPs focusing on bulk malicious registrations and associated domain checks. Since ICANN84, that has moved from concept into formal PDP activity. At ICANN85, four GAC and public safety working group participants will take part in the initial meetings of the associated domain checks PDP working group. The GAC, in its public comments, has emphasized the importance of enforceable obligation, particularly ahead of the next round.

There's also a related track, a second PDP concerning safeguards for unrestricted API access to new customer registration data, which is expected to begin later. More broadly, the GAC continues to look at how remaining gaps identified in the issue report, including transparency of mitigation actions and intersections with registration data accuracy may be addressed within the community process. So, ICANN85 reflects continued participation in shaping how DNS abuse issues are addressed through these PDP mechanisms.

DAN GLUCK

All righty. Before we move on, anything else participants should keep in mind about the GAC at ICANN85? You know, we're hearing some murmurs of something special, maybe at ICANN87, is that true?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

It is indeed. The high-level government meeting has been confirmed to take place in conjunction with ICANN87 in Oman. And the HLGM provides an opportunity for senior-level discussion of DNS-related public policy issues and reinforces the advisory role of governments within ICANN processes.

Additionally, at the conclusion of ICANN85, the GAC will begin implementing its revised leadership election cycle. And this includes the election of a new GAC chair, which will begin service in October, and aligns now the chair and vice-chair tenures with the ICANN general meeting cycle. So, ICANN85 will reflect continued GAC engagement across these key areas and thank you very much for this opportunity.

DAN GLUCK

All right.

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Back to you, Dan.

DAN GLUCK

Well, don't [CROSSTALK] yet because we need to check in to see if anyone has any questions for you. We've been sharing the Q&A pod. I'm looking at the meeting chat. Yes, I recognize we're probably putting in a lot of documents, but this is all going to be available to you as the resource documents. So, it's all right there. If anyone has any questions, pop them in the chat, pop them in the Q&A pod, raise a hand. But since I'm not going to see anything, let's

stick with the GAC for a quick second here, and let me bring Russ back on to talk about something really quick.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

All right. Thank you, Dan. I wanted to take a few minutes to recognize one of our longtime colleagues who's decided that ICANN85 will be his last ICANN meeting. Rob Hoggarth, our Vice President of Policy Development and Support and GAC Relations, will be retiring from ICANN at the end of March. Rob, if you're available and able to turn on your camera, maybe you could, so that the community can see you and give you a wave.

Rob has been with ICANN for just over 18 years now starting back in 2008 to help the policy department devise new and improved ways to support the ICANN community to do their important work. While many of you know Rob, even if you've never met Rob, you've participated in the ICANN community, you have benefited from Rob's contributions because they span so many aspects of how ICANN supports the community's governance, administration, policy, and advice processes.

Rob's helped the ICANN's non-commercial stakeholder group, the commercial stakeholder group, the GNSO council, various PDPs. He helped launch the community recognition program that we'll once again celebrate at the community forum. And most notably, he led the team that partnered with the GAC to transition secretariat support from a third party to fully supported by ICANN.

This required Rob to represent ICANN and establish new and unprecedented levels of trust between the organization and the GAC. And we couldn't have done so without his skill at building relationships, navigating global diplomacy, and establishing trust.

Along the way, he helped the GAC and ICANN host two high-level government meetings, helped the GAC deliver over two dozen communiques, and was a source of continuity as the role of the chair changed hands three times under his watch. He had to help the GAC adapt to new ways of working when COVID forced us all to go virtual for nearly two years. But his most important and impactful contribution was his selfless commitment to ICANN and the multi-stakeholder model for internet governance.

He listens intently, provides wisdom and counsel to many, expertly mediates conflict, and steers the discussion back to productivity. And when needed, he uses his quick wit to break the tension. Rob's made an impact on so many of us in the ICANN community and the organization, and I wanted to take this opportunity to give him a round of applause, a sincere thank you, and a heartfelt congratulations on this chapter of your life. Rob, thank you so much.

ROB HOGGARTH

Thanks very much. I really appreciate that and have nothing else to say. Appreciate it. Thanks so much, Russ.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

All right, Dan, back to the regular programming.

DAN GLUCK

How nice was that? Of course, congratulations, Rob. It was my pleasure to be a temporary member of the Fabulous Five or Six or Seven or however many there were for my time there. Yeah, we now get to make our smooth transition out of this fantastic event over to another fantastic supporting organization, the Country Code Name Supporting Organization. And Claudia is here now to make her webinar debut and we welcome her to give us an update on the ccNSO. What's up, Claudia?

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Hi, Dan. Thank you. So, over the weekend, the ccNSO will have several focus committees and study group sessions. Together, these sessions will set the groundwork for advancing the work on various topics which are ccNSO priorities. These topics include internet governance, DNS abuse mitigation, universal acceptance, and the accuracy and role of the IANA public records. The respective groups are updating their work plans and will brief the community later during the week on Tuesday and Wednesday on what to expect from the group in the upcoming year.

DAN GLUCK

Wow, you know, everyone is working for the weekend and the ccNSO, they're kicking things off in style. Now, the respective groups that are updating their work plans, I'm assuming that

includes the DASC, the Domain Abuse Standing Committee, if that's correct, and the ccNSO in general, something that's going to be really important for both of them, DNS abuse. Will the ccNSO be participating in the upcoming GNSO PDP and what else is going on with those groups, or I guess with the DASC in Mumbai?

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Correct, yes. So, the ccNSO will participate. So, although the gTLD consensus policies do not apply to ccTLDs, and the ccNSO has traditionally not formally participated in GNSO PDPs, however, participation in PDP-1 would enable the ccNSO to share ccTLD expertise in DNS abuse mitigation, support the multi-stakeholder model, and potentially contribute to reducing DNS abuse across the broader ecosystem.

Participation is also considered to be an opportunity to inform the wider community about the differences between ccTLDs and gTLDs. Given the variety of ccTLDs experience in the DNS abuse space, they can offer valuable insight into a variety of practices and approaches that have contributed to the mitigation of DNS abuse.

DAN GLUCK

And then Tech Day succeeds the weekend?

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Yes. So, as you may know, Monday is Tech Day. We have blocks two through five that are dedicated to the ccNSO technical working group. Like always, these sessions are open to the entire ICANN

community. During these sessions, technical, operational, and security topics relevant for TLD operators will be explored.

Now, Block 3 will be a joint session with the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee. In the first part of the session, we will be highlighting the ongoing efforts to increase UA readiness and promote broader adoption across the ecosystem. The second part of the session will be dedicated to a panel discussion on how AI can influence the universal acceptance.

DAN GLUCK

All right. So, I got to take a look a little bit at ccNSO's schedule. Something that was interesting to me was looking a bit at the member session and the regulatory impact that is going to be discussed there. Can you go a bit into that?

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Yeah. So, one of the members sessions that we have will -- actually on Tuesday we will conclude with a two-part ccTLD market session. The first part of this session which is Block 4 is a ccTLD registration trends, which will be across the globe, the registration trends will be examined across the globe. This will provide data-driven insights into growth patterns and emerging challenges across the regions.

The second part, which is Block 5, will have three case studies on strategies dealing with emerging challenges and this session it will

be concluded with the strategies and trends, and later we will have a discussion with the audience.

DAN GLUCK

Thank you so much, Claudia. I see that Terry just actually put in a link there to the new ccNSO website so I guess people should check that out?

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Yeah. So, in mid-December, the ccNSO launched its brand-new website. This was years' worth of work put in. So, if you would like to learn more, you could click the link. We have all the latest announcements, anything relevant to ccNSO you can find there. Check it out.

DAN GLUCK

All right. Any questions? I'm not seeing any so I will just thank you so much, Claudia, a fantastic pinch hitter for the ccNSO. A great debut to the webinar.

CLAUDIA RUIZ

All right. Thank you. Bye, everyone.

DAN GLUCK

And now we go to a quick tea or drinks break and we'll be back for the middle of our batting order after a word from Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN

Thank you, Dan, and hello, everyone. This is Ozan coming to you from Izmir, Turkey today with a highlight about the ICANN Community Excellence Award program, which will be held at ICANN85.

We will have the 13th program this year. The award was first given in 2014, and I'm sure Rob Hoggarth will remember that. ICANN Community Excellence Award recognizes ICANN community members who have deeply invested in consensus-based solutions and contributed substantively to the ICANN multi-stakeholder model.

In November 2025, we started a nomination period, which closed early January 2026. And what makes this award unique is that the nominees are evaluated by a panel of ICANN community members who are appointed by the ICANN supporting organization and advisory committee chairs.

And this year, a selection panel of 11 community members had six meetings in January and February to read the nominations and they have recently made a decision. Unfortunately, I cannot share the name of the recipient today as it will be kept confidential until the award presentation that will be held during the welcome ceremony on Monday. So, please, come join us during the welcome ceremony at ICANN85 to find out who the recipient of the award is. Thank you and back to you, Dan.

DAN GLUCK

Thank you so much, Ozan. Welcome back, everyone. You know, I got to have a few sips of some Seltzer over here, tea, whatever you got. I was able to rest my legs a bit and, you know, a great performance from the Sachin Tendulkar of the policy team and that's Ozan. We'll see him in a few moments, but back out there now to the field for a few more overs, next up on the pitch, we have Gisella from the At-Large.

A lot on our plate with the At-Large, and it kind of seems like our fielders are in the slips closing in on us a bit, but she's got the tools to beat the defensive alignment. Gisella, how are you, first of all? How's everything going? Welcome.

GISELLA GRUBER

Hi, Dan. Thank you for having me.

DAN GLUCK

Starting with DNS abuse and the PDP, as discussed earlier by a few groups, a nasty spin on that ball, but Gisella, can you tell me about a bit, what's going on in the At-Large on the response to this topic?

GISELLA GRUBER

So yes, Dan, let us explain what we're going to be highlighting at the At-Large core activities during ICANN85. And yes, one of them being the DNS abuse and the PDP and we'll be doing so during four of our sessions.

The first one is the At-Large plenary on progressing the DNS abuse mitigation agenda at ICANN85 in Mumbai. The ALAC will host a collaborative conversation involving the ICANN community, focusing on proactive tasks to prevent harm from malicious registrations. In particular, we're aiming to three points there.

We're going to examine the progress of the ongoing GNSO policy development process on DNS abuse mitigation. Secondly, discuss how the community might establish better coordination to tackle domain generation algorithms-based abuse. And then thirdly to identify which other priority gaps should be subject to policy development next.

The second session we'll be addressing, this is our session with the OCTO and this session will facilitate wider understanding of OCTO SSR's work in DNS abuse mitigation, building on ICANN83 ALAC OCTO session we held in Prague and the At-Large Capacity Building webinar, which we're holding this Thursday, the 26th of February.

Third session will be during the Consolidated Policy Working Group meeting, which will include a focus on the DNS abuse mitigation PDP-1, including a review of the charter and discussion regarding the At-Large priorities for the PDP. And last, but not least, we will be discussing this with our joined session with the ALAC and GAC. One of the topics to be discussed is on the DNS abuse, government expectations, and end user harm.

So, the topics to be discussed are data reporting and enforcement expectations, end user impact and trust considerations and

coordinated advisory signals to ICANN org and relevant PDPs. So, again, very busy times on that.

DAN GLUCK

2026 round of gTLDs, hot button issue for everyone, especially with the 30 April timeline right around the corner. Tell us a bit about what type of progress has been made there from the At-Large maybe, and a little bit about the two bullets that we have there.

GISELLA GRUBER

Totally, that date is looming on us and to that effect, At-Large will hold a plenary to build capacity within the regional At-Large organizations on how to participate in the ALAC's next round procedure for filing objections.

So, the At-Large community prepares to review 2026 next round new gTLD string applications. For the 2026 next round of new gTLDs the ALAC has the ability to file comments in support of or in opposition to applications for new gTLD strings and to file objections against applications for new gTLD strings on limited public interest or community grounds.

The session includes details of the next round ALAC objection procedure, including the overview of the new gTLD applications review group and Rayleigh coordination, the procedure flow work, the discussion on guidelines for reviewing applications and also how to participate. So again, another very, very busy plenary on our side.

DAN GLUCK

Love to hear that and in addition to some policy work, the At-Large also addresses operational issues, that includes strategic priorities and Review of Reviews. What's being planned for ICANN85 there?

GISELLA GRUBER

So, the Review of Reviews, the At-Large will have a focused internal discussion over the weekend on topics within the Review of Reviews to identify At-Large position and feedback to their representatives.

So, they will address several topics, including accountability and transparency, CIP assessment, structural reviews, and ad hoc reviews. So, the input is expected to contribute to the main Review of Reviews session, which will be held on the last day of the meeting on Thursday in Mumbai.

As for the strategic priorities, on Sunday, At-Large leaders will participate in the annual strategy review program environmental scan, yes, a very long one, with the ICANN planning team, and this will be held during the At-Large operations, finance, and budget session. There will also be an update on the At-Large implementation of its FY26 strategic priorities.

DAN GLUCK

And finally, here quickly, can we go into that -- let me get that third work stream. Tell me a bit what's going on there.

GISELLA GRUBER

So, yes, if I have the time, I'd like to just run through what we will be doing. We will hold several sessions with ICANN fellows and NextGen at ICANN85 participants. We'll have a high-level introduction as well as AFRALO and APRALO-specific regional sessions, those being the African region and the Asia-Pacific region.

So firstly, we'll have the introduction to At-Large. At-Large regularly meets with the fellows to describe how and also why to join the At-Large in its work to serve in the best interest of end users. Always very interesting sessions for everyone there.

The African Regional At Large Organization better known as AFRALO is transitioning in its traditional AFRALO African session for those who have joined us previously, to move to more interactive activity with the AFRALO members and with the African fellows. We actually happen to have a high number of African fellows attending Mumbai. The session will review the progress on policy topics highlighted in previous AFRALO African statements.

And now coming back to the Asia-Pacific region where this meeting will be held, as you can see, proudly wearing the APRALO colors, the APRALO region is planning on an informal session with NextGen participants, bearing in mind that they're all from the region, and AP fellows to discuss how to engage in APRALO as well as At-Large. And this is done in an informal interactive session with breakout groups. APRALO is also holding a hybrid annual general meeting

that will review their achievements in the past year, as well as map out the plans as we head into FY27, again, just around the corner.

And last, but not least, finally, the RALO leaders are holding a cross-RALO coordination meeting, hosting the global stakeholder engagement team to learn more about the new stakeholder engagement and communications approach. And if you're interested, please, do join us at that session.

DAN GLUCK

All right. Thank you for the invitation there and thank you for everything today, Gisella. And if there's any questions, we will get to them in a moment, but I do want to get to our next supporting organization here. And we're bringing in Andrew, a very technical guy, sort of like a Wassim Akram-esque figure on the policy team. And I hope this update is less of a swing delivery and more of a straight fastball for multiple reasons. Andrew, go ahead.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE

Hi Dan, thanks. I don't get the cricket references, but I like them nonetheless. So, my name is Andrew McConachie and I'll be speaking about the Address Supporting Organization, otherwise known as the ASO.

So, in late 2023, the ASO's Executive Council asked the ASO's Address Council to begin work on updating the Internet Coordination Policy 2, otherwise known as ICP-2. Since then, the ASO has produced a principles document and two draft versions of

the RIR governance document, which is the successor document to ICP-2.

Since ICANN84, the ICANN public comment and RIR consultations on the second version of the RIR governance document have completed, and the ASO has begun work on version 3 of the RIR governance document. They held a workshop in Montevideo in November of 2025, and just recently, in the beginning of this month, they published a status report on the outstanding topics that came out of the consultation on version 2.

At ICANN85, the ASO will continue to work on drafting version 3 of the RIR governance document. They will hold 10 close work sessions to continue this drafting, as well as two public sessions where they will be presenting and explaining their work. They will also be meeting with the ALAC, the ISPCP, the GAC, the RSSAC, and the ICANN board to discuss this work. The expectation is that the ASO's work on the RIR governance document should finish in 2026.

If you're interested in RIR governance, I would encourage you to attend one of the two public sessions the ASO will be holding at ICANN85. The first will be held on Sunday, March 8th at 10:30 local time, and the second will be held on Thursday, March 12th at 15:00 local time. And if you're interested in learning more about regional intraday registries and how they work, there will be a how it works session on RIRs on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:30 local time. That's all from me, Dan.

DAN GLUCK

And that sounds great. Thank you so much, Andrew. That was a fantastic update on a very interesting governance model that's going on in the ICANN community. And quickly, I'm going to actually highlight a different governance model for something totally out of scope of this, but for a different tactical community.

Tuesday, the 10th of March, 16:30 local time at 11:00 AM UTC there's going to be a presentation of the functional model for the root server system governance. That's going to be something that was just delivered to the board, and it's going to be presented to the public for the first time, Tuesday, March 10th at 16:30 local Mumbai time.

All right. We're actually going to move straight now to Kathy and the SSAC and, yeah, a couple of new work parties, some quick updates for us, Kathy.

KATHY SCHNITT

Hi, Dan. Thank you. As you mentioned, my name is Kathy, and I'm going to give you a few brief highlights as to what to expect from the SSAC or the Security and Stability Advisory Committee for ICANN85.

As per usual, we will continue with our SSAC-hosted Domain Name System Security Extensions, also known as the DNSSEC and Security Workshop. A couple great highlights for the workshop are that we are going to have a presentation from an actual ICANN

fellow, Godsway Kubi and Isaac Saki, on DNSSEC validation, Ghana success story, and DNS operational best practices. And another from our very own SSAC member, Peter Thomason, on DNS security at ITF.

And of course, we can't forget that again this time around, SSAC is continuing its partnership with the RSSAC, the Root Server System Advisory Committee, to offer an open mic session. I also want to highlight that the SSAC will be conducting several work sessions, including meetings for the DNSSEC Operational Considerations Work Party. They are actively working on their report, and they hope to be able to make recommendations that will be directed to registries and registrars and ICANN with the best practices for DNSSEC adoption.

And a newly spun-up work party, DNS abuse and AI, they are in the earliest stages of this exciting work party, exploring a rapidly important issue to the ICANN community and beyond the impacts of generative AI on DNS abuse. This work party will inform and potentially share recommendations on enhanced mitigations and while we're months away from that happening, great progress has been made so far.

And finally, I want to highlight that the SSAC actually proposed a plenary for ICANN85, and they will be having a plenary on from stability to survivability, ICANN's role in the future of internet resilience. The plenary shifts the conversation from technical stability to strategic survivability, exploring how the ICANN

community must navigate systematic shocks that cross traditional silos. So that sounds like a good one. And Dan, that was pretty quick, but that's the update for me on a sneak peek of what's happening with the SSAC at ICANN85.

DAN GLUCK

Love to hear it. Thank you so much, Kathy. And finally, here we are in our last batter of the innings, this is the final over. There are six bullet points, six sub-bullet points. I'll count them. Six sub-bullet points on this slide for each of the final deliveries of the innings. Ozan, a brief 60 seconds maybe on the RSSAC.

OZAN SAHIN

Thank you, Dan, and hello, everyone, again. RSSAC currently has one work party, which is the RSSAC-001 version 3 work party and RSSAC-001 describes the service expectations of root server operators and recommends the root server operators to publish certain information. 001 was published in 2015 and a second version was published in 2023.

So, RSSAC approved a statement of work in April 2025 to consider creating a new version and a work party was set up and began its work. During ICANN84, during the work party discussions, RSSAC members wanted to revisit the statement of work and review its scope.

So, RSSAC had a number of meetings on this topic since then and worked on revising this statement of work for this work party and

now the revision came to a close and there's a formal vote underway. So, if adopted by the RSSAC, the revised statement of work will be introduced to RSSAC caucus at ICANN85 and the work party will be relaunched.

There are also discussions to potentially set up a new work party on interpreting the root server system metrics, which could be availability or correctness or another popular metrics is latency and so there are also discussions on that.

And then RSSAC will have some joint sessions, as my colleagues mentioned, with the ASO, GAC, SSAC, and ICANN board. As Andrew said, ASO discussions will focus on the ASO's ICP-2 review work. GAC and RSSAC will always appreciate the joint meetings between the groups. And given the high turnover in the GAC, it is helpful to share information about the root server system with this group.

And then SSAC and RSSAC started offering an open mic in Prague at ICANN83 to give an overview of the current work of the groups and then take questions during the session. And so, this joint meetings will also happen. Thank you, Dan. Back to you.

DAN GLUCK

Well, thank you so much, Ozan. We're at the bottom of the hour, which means it's time to rip the stumps out of the ground. It's the end of our game today. I want to thank the excellent ICANN Policy Development Support Team for helping us win our cricket match. How about that? And I want to ask everyone here in the chat to help

us continue our, I don't know -- just can you please fill out the survey? That's all we're asking. Can you please fill out the survey? Let us know how we're doing.

We really do aim for this to be helpful and we'd love to, you know, be able to tailor this to whoever you need it. So yeah, we hope this was great. We're always going to be here for you. So, you have our contact information if you need it. I want to thank everyone for joining us today and wrap it up. That's all, folks. I'll see you all in Mumbai.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]