
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – ICANN Public Forum
Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 10:30 to 12:00 IST

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you for joining us today for the ICANN85 Public Forum. As we wrap up this week, I'd like to express my pride and gratitude in being a part of this community dedicated to advancing the public interest. This commitment extends, not only to the billions of users online, but also to those who will join us in the future.

The ICANN Board is committed to facilitating the bottom-up, multi-stakeholder process to progress the work, and of course, we are committed to making continuous improvement and getting the job done together. This is why the Public Forum is such a valuable and significant opportunity for the ICANN Board and the community to come together. It is the Board's responsibility to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders and to hear directly from you about your hopes, your concerns, your ideas, and the challenges you may face as we work together to achieve our mission.

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I encourage you to take advantage of this session to ask questions, make comments, and share your thoughts in your respective languages. Please remember that this is not a replacement for public comments. ICANN is seeking on various issues and policies.

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If you want to provide input on a specific issue that is open for public comment, please use the online system available on ICANN.org. It is the only way your comments will receive proper consideration from the appropriate committee, supporting organization, or staff member.

Before we begin, I would like to remind you that this session is a space to address your questions and concerns regarding ICANN's work and remit. Statements that are political, ideological, or religious in nature and intent will not be tolerated. Please ensure you review the expected standards of behavior, and let's maintain a polite and respectful dialogue, acknowledging our differences.

Thank you for being a part of this session and for the robust discussions through the week, and we look forward to the dialogue. Now, I'd like to welcome the ICANN ombuds, Elizabeth Field, to make a few remarks. After Elizabeth, our remote participation manager, Andrea Glandon, we'll briefly explain today's format and how you can participate. Elizabeth, the floor is yours.

ELIZABETH FIELD

Thank you, Tripti. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, all. I'm Liz Field. I'm the ICANN Ombuds. For those of you who don't know me or my role, my role is to ensure that community members are treated fairly and appropriately by ICANN when doing their work for ICANN.

I do this by supporting community members to resolve complaints and concerns of unfairness or complaints and concerns of harassment, but I also provide support and guidance and advice around conflict management and resolution.

One thing that I have noticed at this ICANN85 is I found myself having many spontaneous conversations about complexity and these complex, volatile, and uncertain times. And one thing I want to say very directly is that I know that many here are impacted directly or indirectly by geopolitical events. And that those who are impacted and worried about friends and family, I want to offer my support, both as a statement of support, but also practically. I am available. Please you are welcome to contact me if you would like to talk in a safe space.

As Tripti has said, the public forum is a unique moment. ICANN's strength is its complexity. It is a composition of different stakeholders participating and working towards the single mission. I know that when we all value something as much as we all value ICANN, that this can be a challenge to recognize and hold these complex tensions.

So, this is, again, a simple reminder that despite these tensions, we should remember to keep the questions and comments respectful, appropriate, and on topic. There is, of course, the two policies that govern behavior, the Expected Standards of Behavior, the Community Anti-Harassment Policy, and these apply, of course, in this space.

I am also, of course, here to help, and I invite you to contact me with any questions or concerns. I'm here for today, but also you can reach me throughout the year online, and I am always happy -- I really love to meet and speak with community members.

Finally, I really look forward to another vibrant discussion in the public forum, and as you all know, this opportunity for open dialogue is the bedrock of participatory multi-stakeholder processes, and it relies on respectful exchange to thrive. Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON

Welcome, everyone. My name is Andrea Glandon and I am the remote participation manager for today's session. As we begin the ICANN85 public forum, we remind all participants to please follow ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior, its Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure, and the Community Code of Conduct. Now I will explain the public forum format and how you can participate.

This session is divided into three blocks, all open to any subject of community interest. Each block will be moderated by a board member. Sajid Rahman will shepherd Block 1, Catherine Adeya will shepherd Block 2, and Amitabh Singhall will shepherd Block 3. We encourage everyone to use the headsets provided as we have skilled interpreters available for translation in case questions are posed in languages other than English.

There are three ways to participate. In person, go to the microphone when it's your turn and keep your comments brief and respectful. You can virtually queue up by clicking the raise hand icon on Zoom if you are remote. Once it's your turn, a message will prompt you to unmute your mic. When you speak, please state your name, affiliation, and location. If you cannot speak, submit your question via Zoom's Q&A pod and I'll read it aloud. Please do not use the chat for questions as they won't be tracked.

Each speaker will have two minutes to ask a question or make a comment. A timer will be displayed. Afterward, the board facilitator will answer or another board member will respond. For follow-up questions, please re-enter the queue to ensure everyone has a chance to participate.

We do have real-time interpretation available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, and Hindi. We recommend selecting your preferred language through the interpretation icon on Zoom for the best experience. And now we will hand it over to our first board facilitator, Sajid Rahman. Sajid, the floor is yours.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you, Andrea. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, wherever you are. And as they say in Bollywood, let the camera roll. And you know, given the nature of the time we are living, we are going to start with an online question first.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. One moment, please.

SAJID RAHMAN

Or should we go? Yeah.

ANDREA GLANDON

No, I'm ready. I'm sorry. Okay, we have Wong Tai Chiew, "In light of 16,400 plus witnesses and documented evidence of censorship, how will ICANN handle case number 01448650?"

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you. Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you. I'm not sure I fully understand the first part of the question, but let me explain what the case is about and give the answer we have on this. This is about a complaint case. So, as a background, specification 5 of the RA requires that certain country and territory names remain reserved unless there is governmental approval for that country or territory to be registered.

And in 2023, ICANN Compliance, as part of the registry audit, or I should say ICANN as part of the registry audit, found that the domain name malaysia.build had incorrectly been released. And we asked the registrar operator to correct this, as this was in breach of the registrar agreement. They acknowledged the error and

deleted the domain name and implemented the required safeguards under the registry agreement.

Two years later, so July 2025, we received a complaint about this. We have had extensive communications around this case with the complainant and on and off ever since then, and I believe it's still ongoing. And the ICANN has no right to issue waivers or exemptions to the registry agreements they are our policy. And we explained this and explained that by deleting the domain name, the registry operator became compliant with the registry agreement and it's on them to become compliant.

In December 2025, we also received a letter from the Malaysian government highlighting that they had never granted the approval for registry or use of the name Malaysia. And that they believed that the action that was taken by the registry was correct, and that they had no intention to agree to this. So that is the case.

The registry has acted as within the registry agreement, and they have moved to become compliant. We fully understand that the domain owner has had this domain for a long time, and that it's not their fault or their loss, but we as ICANN has no right to waive exemptions to the register agreements. We have no powers to do so, and we have acted within the register agreements. So, we fully understand that's frustrating, but that's where the case sits and will remain to sit as the Malaysian government do not intend to give the approval to register this domain name.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you, Kurtis. So, we go to the podium. From the gentleman on the right, please mention your name and your affiliation. Thank you.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE

Thank you. My name is Nigel Cassimire, representing the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, which is an intergovernmental organization in the Caribbean with now 21 member states and territories.

I am just here to say thank you to ICANN for responding positively to our call that, in fact, I made maybe a couple years ago now at a public forum like this, for a high-level contact from ICANN with our ministers in the Caribbean. I'm pleased to say that the CEO participated in our ministerial meetings last year in Jamaica, and I think he learned something about the dynamics in the Caribbean. And I think his intervention also would help in increasing the participation in ICANN from the small states in the Caribbean.

I'd also like to say thanks to ICANN for maintaining in the public meetings a space for a community that is not clearly represented in ICANN which is the small island developing states. And we do have periodic meetings of us, the small island developing states, and we call it the SIDS space and that allows us, small territories, globally to come together to share experiences and help each other to what developed digitally. So, I look forward to continued cooperation

with ICANN and positive responses to our peers in future. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Yeah, thank you. It was great being there. As I said, thank you for hosting me, and you're right, it was a really great learning experience as well, and I look forward to continued engagement.

SAJID RAHMAN

So, we go to another question from the online.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. Edna Haiyan, “Hello, it's Haiyan, and my question is to the ICANN CEO and President, Kurtis. Transparency in NomCom processes has always been important for maintaining community trust. One of the mechanisms supporting this transparency has been the publication of NomCom delegates peer review summaries, which allows supporting organizations and advisory committees to assess how their nominated delegates participated in the process.”

“However, the peer review report for the 2025 NomCom cycle has not yet been published. Since the review process itself was conducted and feedback was collected from delegates, the absence of the published summary raises some questions within

the community. Could you clarify whether there has been a deliberate change in policy or practice regarding publication of these peer review summaries by ICANN or NomCom team? And if the 2025 report will not be published, could you share the rationale behind this decision and how ICANN intends to ensure the same level of transparency and accountability going forward?”

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. It's good that we have Kurtis with us today. Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Yeah, thank you. I don't know if this question is really for me, but I'm not aware of any change in policy, and I wasn't actually aware that a report wasn't published. So, I think we'll have to look into that unless CK, as BGC Chair has anything to add to that, but I think we'll have to come back to that.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

No, I don't, so we actually have to look who usually sends it out and why it wasn't. Thanks.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you. I'll go to the gentleman on my left, please.

PETER JIA WEI CUI

Good morning. My name is Peter Jia Wei Cui from Taiwan. I am a TWNIC fellow. We are a local registry of the .tw domain. And I

would like to thank Siranush for giving us the opportunity to engage with, both the ICANN fellows and NextGen community during the meeting.

Well, I want to brought up questions about summary cables, because summary cables carries the vast majority of the global internet traffic and actually form a physical backbone supporting the domain name system. Recent incidents have reminded us that how vulnerable these infrastructures can be and how ignorant they have become during the discussions.

In Taiwan, the cable disruptions have already affected the connectivity of outlying islands in northern Europe, recent damages to the cable in Baltic Sea, raise the concerns about infrastructure resilience and the geopolitical risk.

When I participate ICANN in the session of discussing internet resilience, there are a lot of discussions about infrastructure, like electricity, data centers, all these kinds of things. However, I think that the submarine cables, it is very important infrastructure, however, it is actually marginalized. Given this context, how does ICANN Board see the role in facilitating dialogue between local Internet communities, governments, and technology companies to strengthen the coordination and resilience around submarine cable infrastructure? Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Tripti?

TRIPTI SINHA

Okay. Yeah, sure. One, coordinating submarine cables is certainly outside the remit of ICANN. However, I just happen to know something about this space because I'm in it. There is no lack of attention on this space. There is quite a large body in the world that's looking at ensuring that we have enough redundancy in these cables. And there's an active work underway to see how you can connect all the different continents and even going through the North Pole to get to other locations.

So, I don't want you to walk away thinking that this is being overlooked. Not at all, but the topic itself is outside of ICANN's remit, but more redundancy works for us as well. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks, Trippi. And Jim.

JAMES GALVIN

I just want to acknowledge and thank you for the question to take it up a level. Generally, the question of resilience, you asked specifically about undersea cables, but as you saw in this plenary session on Tuesday, certainly the issue of general Internet resilience, the Board is very attentive to that topic and is interested more strategically in examining it. And, of course, SSAC, of course, which was the sponsor of the plenary session, is certainly very interested in that topic too.

So, there is space and room to talk about the specific example, but as long as you bring it in the context of the larger Internet resilience question, there's lots of room here within ICANN to pay attention to what you're asking about. Thank you.

PETER JIA WEI CUI

Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks, Jim, and Kurtis, [inaudible - 00:18:27].

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I just want to add, just so maybe people are aware, that there are actually forums completely dedicated to talk about the resilience of submarine cables. They are a little bit less open than the ICANN meetings, but there are and they're very active, and they are pretty hot topics, so.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks, Kurtis. We go online.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. We are going to go to a question from the Zoom room. Olabimpe Adeloro, please open your mic and ask your question or make your statement.

OLABIMPE ADELORO

Thank you very much. Good morning from my part of the world. Olabimpe Adoloro is my name. I'm a cybersecurity trainer and a SOC analyst from Nigeria. My question is, what opportunities exist for cybersecurity educators and training institutions to contribute to ICANN initiatives such as universal acceptance, awareness, and DNA security capacity building in underserved regions? Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Kurtis, our fallback option.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I haven't got to answer all the questions. So, for Universal Acceptance, we do have a program where we partner with universities, and you can reach out to ICANN org separately on that. And we do really work with universities and other forests around the world on UA curriculums. Actually, we have worked with some universities in Africa on this and I think they're happy to partner with others if there's interest. So please do reach out separately on that.

And cybersecurity, from ICANN, the OCTO team do a lot of outreach around this and there's also a lot of work inside ICANN at the moment, both within SSAC, who does a lot of the publications and the lightning talks and [inaudible - 00:20:34] Jim. And we have Jim who is the SSAC liaison to the ICANN board, who brings some of this information back to the ICANN board. But there is all this work going on at the ICANN meetings, where you can join both the SSAC

sessions, but also a lot of the other tracks that are becoming increasingly related to this field, like DNS abuse. But from ICANN, be our stakeholder engagement team and the CTO team, they do a lot of engagement around cybersecurity throughout the year.

And as part of that is capacity building in various different forums from NOGs, but I should say, when it comes to the DNS system, because we do have a limited mandate, so we don't do generic cybersecurity. I should just point that out that we work on the DNS, but we do capacity building. We do it to many countries around the world. We tend to partner with ccTLDs, with local NOGs, Network Operator Groups, where we do a lot of this work and we also provide material for others or train-the-trainer models as well. So again, if there's interest in finding out more of these universities who wants to partner with us, then please do reach out and we can talk about how best to do that.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks, Kurtis. And Jim?

JAMES GALVIN

Just a quick point to add. Kurtis has certainly spoken quite a lot about all the things that ICANN does do, and you should seek out those opportunities, see if there's a space for you. I wanted to thank you in particular for your presentation at the security workshop this week and acknowledge that you're already contributing in your own way to this effort and to ICANN and

awareness to the community. And would encourage you to continue to do that as we move forward at other ICANN meetings. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks, Jim.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Hi.

ANDREA GLANDON

I'm sorry. Let me just remind everyone to please state your interest or affiliation when you speak. Thank you.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Hi, I'm Judith Hellerstein, and I'm representing this statement along with Maureen Hilliard in our individual capacities. The ICANN board adopted the current strategic plan in March 2025 of four strategic objectives, 14 strategic goals, and a number of other strategic initiatives and strategies.

As such, why does it seem that different parts of the ICANN org Plan events, meetings, or take other actions that are often in conflict with the strategic objectives and goals and strategic initiatives mentioned in the plan? And if we look at strategic objective one of the plan, evolve and promote ICANN's multi-stakeholder model to sustain internet inclusive approach to internet governance, and goal 1.1, which is inclusive Stakeholder representation and

enhanced collaboration. Some of the risks that are brought out in the plan speak directly to the risks of avoiding perception of exclusivity and insufficient inclusivity in stakeholder representation.

As such, there are numerous other risks mentioned in the plan that clearly look at these ideas. If the plan is binding on all parts of the organization, then it sort of baffles us why the meetings team does not take into account these direct risks cited in the strategic plan when scheduling public meetings. If the strategic plans are approved by the board, then all parts of the community and the org should be abiding by them and most importantly, should not give the perception to the community that they can take actions that are in opposition or seem to be in opposition to the strategic plan.

By not taking into account religious and national holidays when scheduling the public meetings, this results in excluding community members who would otherwise participate, but now are unable to do so due to religious commitments. Overlaps of such observations have a direct impact on attendance and meaningful participation and weakens the diversity and inclusiveness that undermine the multi-stakeholder model. And these risks and issues are at the heart of Strategic Objective 1 and Strategic Goal 1.1. So, thank you so much.

SAJID RAHMAN

You just finished, but I was just planning to stop you. Amitabh, do you want to take this one?

AMITABH SINGHAL

Yeah, thank you, Judith, for the question and thank you for bringing to the surface a lot of these thoughts that you have about how the strategic plan is working. As you are aware, very recently we started the process of the annual review of the strategic plan, and the whole purpose of that strategic plan review is that after one year of adoption, we need to understand where we need to focus, we need to refocus.

There are strategic risks that are mentioned in the plan, and we have been seeking inputs from the community. The process is ongoing. Any issues that you think we need to re-look at, we need to focus more than before, please, we will take in all those inputs. We will summarize those inputs from the community, from all the stakeholders, and we will move forward on refocusing on where we need to refocus. So that's my short answer.

There's a lot of questions. Lots of points that you have raised within one question. I think given the time, I would try to be short, but there is an opportunity for everyone. And we will take every point that you're raising, every input that you're providing us, very helpful for us in refocusing. If we are straying away from the strategic plan, if it is something that you think we need to bring

back on track, we will do that as well. So, we'll look at it holistically, and thank you for those inputs, Judith.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. We actually are going to close the queue. Apparently, there is quite a bit of online and offline, so thank you. Please.

KUSHAGRA SINGH

Hi, this is Kushagra Singh from India. I'm a NIXI mentor fellow and currently speaking at my personal capacity. Over the years, the community has done a lot of work developing solutions and policies, whether it is for UA and IDNs or frameworks and policies for DNS abuse, per se. However, the challenge seems to be implementation and awareness beyond ICANN and the IG ecosystem as a whole.

So, many people who could benefit from this solution, especially in tier 2 and tier 3 cities or small towns, they may never have access to this kind of exposure and awareness. So, for these users, the ability to access the internet in their own script could be very transformative. This is even more relevant in regions like South Asia and India where the language and scripts can change after every few hundred kilometers.

So, how can ICANN better bridge the gap between developing solutions through multi-stakeholder process and ensuring their real-world adoption, implementation, and awareness through developers, organizations, and end users globally?

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks. Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I mean, when it comes to Universal Acceptance, I just want to put a first arm. Again, we have a limited mandate. Universal Acceptance covers a lot of what you alluded to. It's all about the content. There's a wider context of how do we bring content in different languages and scripts online together with the technical aspects of the Internet.

And we, as ICANN, have done the work on the technical side and we're promoting the use of Universal Acceptance when it comes to domain names and email addresses which are closely related to this and to get engagement with this and that's been ongoing. What we are focusing on at the moment is to ensure that the technical standards that we are building on or using on is following and being adopted. And that's a reach we're doing through the expert working group and through some of the other work.

There's a lot of other forums who work on content issues and the standards which are coming out of the IETF. So, there are many other forums who also work on this in a multistakeholder fashion.

So, it's not just ICANN, by the way. I mean, our remit is quite limited to the technical aspects of getting this adopted and finding an outreach for that. There isn't a technical part of it left yet.

There is also a lot of work being done in UNESCO, who is pushing for this with governments, and they have the kind of decade of indigenous scripts, which is another way to push and make all these languages alive. And also encourage governments to not see indigenous scripts as just an archival if you want, but actually a living aspect of this, that organizes. And there's a lot of local groups in different countries who work on these topics as well and who write this.

So, when it comes to that ICANN, it's a long-winded answer, but most of the current challenges around this when it comes to the content side, unfortunately falls out of our scope. There are things like CODI and other initiatives who work on that side. That's not what we do. And, you know, I suggest you engage with those other topics. And, you know, the IGF, both the national and regional ones, this has also been a very hot topic over the years, and that's another great way to get engaged in a multistakeholder model. So, there are other forums in complementing what we do.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you, Kurtis. Please.

MICHAEL GRAHAM

Thank you. Good morning. My name is Michael Graham. I'm with the IPC, but I'm speaking from my personal behalf. I was pleased to be able to attend and participate in the leadership program before this meeting. It was rewarding both to meet members of the other parts of the ICANN community and to develop strategies and techniques to deal with working group disruptions and to empower the development of consensus within PDPs and other working groups.

Two points that we were asked to bring before the board and the community as part of our participation. One is simply to note that in the very important discussion of the role and the review of human rights in our processes, that all of the human rights be considered and balanced together, acknowledging that sometimes those human rights may be in dispute and it's essential to find a consensus between them.

The other was a strategy that was developed in one of the working teams that I was a participant in, which I believe would be most useful for the GNSO and other SOs and ACs, PDP and working group efforts, is the use of clear written commitments governing the individual participation, behavior, and efforts to promote compromise and to find consensus that members of these groups be asked to sign and conduct themselves according to.

This is very similar to the commitment that members of the NomCom are asked to sign before participating in that. This would require the adoption as part of the rules of participation, and I

would hope that the board and the constituencies would support adoption of this practice by the GNSO. And to note, I do plan on proposing this through our GNSO counselors if it's agreed within our constituency. But I think it's an important way to avoid some of the conflicts and to encourage the fair participation of all parties in these working groups and maybe to make them more expeditious. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you. Jim? Was it Greg or...? Who's going to take this one? It's just a comment? Okay, thank you, I guess. The gentleman on the left.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Maciek Piasecki, Double Icon Fellow, this time self-funded, so thank you, Mom. As I was here enjoying the delicious Indian chai, I heard numerous discussions on facilitating law enforcement agencies' access to registrant or user data. ICANN has obligations in Section 1.2A of the bylaws, and I'm sure we all want to prevent crime. But what when it turns out it's the police that breaks local laws?

Around 2020, Poland witnessed the largest protest since we shook off colonial rule. Hundreds were arrested, and months later, in more than half of the cases, courts ruled it was ungrounded, and in dozens of the cases, outright illegal. I was violently and repressively arrested, according to the court, when I still worked as a journalist, as were many of my current clients. The GAC has kindly

allowed me to raise the issue, but referred me to the board for answers.

So, what will ICANN do when Polish police yet again starts raiding innocent people's homes? This time streamlined by ICANN's policy, we'll we have procedures for that? This is not a fringe abstract case. I'm happy to provide you with 300 court verdicts from one year, one country alone. And if you think this won't affect your stakeholders, because it all refers to some crazy activists, I would be honored to invite Elżbieta Podleśna to address this forum. This calm and kind woman in her 50s, a clinical psychologist stood up for others. And she will tell you in detail how it is to have your home raided at 6:00 AM, hands cuffed behind your back like a violent criminal, just because you executed your constitutional right to express your views.

After months or years of legal battles, she finally found justice, but we would give away her data, including address, in less than two days. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you. Wes?

WES HARDAKER

Thanks very much and we greatly understand that there is a difficulty in the world with respect to different jurisdictions, different law enforcement agencies, different levels of governmental powers. I think you hopefully are happy that in the

last decade a lot of the data that you were referring to actually has been turned into a protected resource so that it's actually more difficult to get access to that personal identifying information.

And unfortunately, you know, within the remit of ICANN, we have a global set of policies that we hold ourselves to as to whether or not we can enforce, you know, local legal jurisdictions. We don't really have the power to do more than that, unfortunately. So, to a large extent, we have to return back to the court cases that are in local regions for handling whether or not access is allowed to personal identifying information. If a local region has the ability to do that, they likely have the ability to get similar information through other means as well. Greg?

SAJID RAHMAN

Thanks, Greg.

GREG DIBIASE

Yeah, thanks, Wes. And I think you mentioned, like authentication mechanisms for requesting data.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Authorization.

GREG DIBIASE

Yeah, so the authentication mechanisms contemplated in ICANN policy are to help the registrar identify the requester, to help them understand who is asking for the information. The registrar still has

a role in evaluating whether that is legally permissible within their legal framework. So, I want to be clear that what we're working on is to help inform registrars make the correct decision as opposed to mandating disclosure in all circumstances.

SAJID RAHMAN

Thank you, Greg. And with that, I hand over to Catherine.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Sajid, for setting the camera rolling. I think we'll go on to the people online.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. And before I read the next question, question, I just want to remind all participants to please state your name and affiliation, and to please speak slowly and clearly for our interpreters. Thank you.

For the next question, "My name is Mike Wilson, for the record, speaking in my individual capacity. My question is to the ICANN Board of Directors regarding the timelines of the DNS abuse policy development process."

"From an operational perspective, the proposed timelines appear too long compared with the pace at which DNS abuse evolves. Those working on the front lines know that identifying abuse patterns is only part of the task. The real priority is the timely cleanup of malicious domains."

“If the PDP takes several years to deliver outcomes, we risk addressing future abuse without dated policy tools. Therefore, would the board consider intervening to ensure a shorter, more operationally relevant timeline for this PDP? And more broadly, should ICANN establish a standard requirement that every PDP approved includes a clearly defined and reasonably short completion timeline so that policy development keeps pace with real-world security challenges?”

CATHERINE ADEYA

Jim?

JAMES GALVIN

Thank you, Catherine, and thank you for the question. First, I want to acknowledge your concern about the timing of the PDP. The board certainly joins the community at large in concern about how long it does take to get work done. And, you know, many of us are looking for ways in which we can improve those processes, but it's, you know, not for the board to establish or prescribe any particular solution there. The community has to take the time to consider how it wants to handle that.

With specific acknowledgement of your DNS abuse PDP, I do want to point out that that timeline was a draft submitted to the working group to consider itself. That's the way that process works. So, it was just a starting point, talking point. The working group itself will have to establish for itself how it really wants to operate and the

schedule under which it wants to work. So, at this point, it really is too early for the board to even think about intervening because the community has not itself established how it wants to proceed. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Greg?

GREG DIBIASE

And just to note, the board is working with and encouraging the GNSO to always be adapting their processes to make things more efficient. And I know from this abuse PDP, there was a focus on making the scope of the charter narrow to hopefully move through an issue more efficiently. So, there is constant work being done based on lessons learned within our policy development processes to improve things generally and specifically to this PDP.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Greg. So, the next person in the queue.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

Good morning, everyone. My name is [inaudible - 00:40:05] and I'm a second-year law student and I'm speaking in my individual capacity. Thank you, ICANN, for coming to India this year. This is the first time I'm attending a meeting and I'm really grateful we are getting to interact with such a distinguished board.

As we know, today, internet has become central to economic growth and democracy. So, how can ICANN strengthen the multi-stakeholder governance while ensuring that the voices of the developing countries and youth are not just included, but also influential in shaping the global internet policy?

CATHERINE ADEYA

Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I mean, again, we're going to talk more for ICANN, right? I mean, the divide and build a stakeholder model, there's the regional IGFs, there's local IGFs. We fund some of them, and that's a way to bring any voices in any countries who don't have the means to travel or the financial time, resources.

And they are very valuable as well to give local voices and engagement with this and there are some of the other countries also. Even the government runs consultations regarding the internet governance positions and engage the local community and local stakeholders, and bring that back both to here and to other forums. So, that's one of the things we do.

We as ICANN, of course, we do our own outreach. We fund both the NextGen and the fellows to ensure that we do have participation from a wide, diverse community at the ICANN meetings and in our processes. And that's one mechanism by which we do that. And, of course, also the other thing is a lot of the ICANN processes and

actually most of the internet governance processes, are also actually done online.

I mean, I know we've put a lot of focus on the work here in the ICANN meetings, and actually I think sometimes we maybe put a bit too much focus on what's happening at the meetings and less focus on what happens between the meetings. And I think, you know, there is a lot of work happening there as well and that work, of course, is much more accessible for everyone. So, we do, do that.

I think it's very important, though, that we bring this, bring all communities together, and we do have representation from around the world because that's, at the end of the day, what gives legitimacy to the model. So, I think that these regional IGFs, the local IGFs, the ICANN meetings. And I should say, the stakeholder engagement team also have local engagement events where we go and do ICANN locals around the world. That is also our way to create a mini-ICANN, if you want, around the world and engage with communities. So, that's some of the things that we do.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you very much. Just asking for your patience, two questions from the online team who are really getting restless. Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you so much. Michael Palage, you may ask your question. Please unmute your line and state your affiliation. Michael?

MICHAEL PALAGE

There we go. Thank you. Hello, my name is Michael Palage and I'm speaking in an individual capacity today. This is my 84th ICANN meeting that I participated in and I would really like to thank ICANN org for the hybrid format for this meeting that has allowed for meaningful participation for both in-person and remote attendees.

Unfortunately, over the last 26 years, in my opinion, ICANN has evolved from that shining city on a hill represented by the multi-stakeholder model, into a glorified trade association with a veneer of multi-stakeholder-ism. While some in the room will strenuously disagree with that opinion, I have some questions that I would like to pose to the board.

Question one to Nico. How many GAC sessions this week were closed? Question two to Kurtis. How many total ICANN sessions this week were closed? Question three to Kurtis. How many of those closed sessions involved parties providing domain name or numbering services? Question four to Alan or Christian. On Monday, Kurtis talked about building trust. Can you explain why the numbering community needed 10 closed sessions this week?

Kurtis, in honor of your one-year anniversary, I thought I'd give you some gifts. The answer to question number two is 27. The answer to question number three is 19. However, the greatest gift I'd like

to give you is the ability to prove me wrong. I believe that DNS abuse is a critical issue that ICANN cannot afford to get wrong. Unfortunately, I believe that a non-optimal outcome has already been preordained by the contracted parties over the past several years.

In order to prove me wrong, I would respectfully request that you make public all Zoom recordings from closed sessions that registries and registrars have held over the past four years, including closed sessions from the 2022 through 2025 Contracting Party Summit. And I would also ask you to direct General Counsel to turn over those documents withheld in my August 2023 document disclosure request.

Finally, I would like you to commit to making sure that there are no more closed sessions at ICANN meetings. If the GAC can ensure openness and transparency, I'm sure the private sector can as well. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you. Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

So, I don't know, it's more of a statement than a question perhaps, but Michael, you're using ICANN in an interesting term because ICANN is the entire community, it's not just ICANN org that I have authority over. The structure and the functioning of each of the SO,

ACs, as you know, sits with those SO, ACs and not with even my powers.

I obviously think that I think we should be as transparent as we can, and I hope that most of the SO and ACs are as open and transparent as they can be. I don't know the request you're referring to about documents. I would have to go back and find out what exactly the question was. But I think for the working sessions and for the debates that the various SO and ACs have, I think we should be open and transparent. But each SO, AC has made that call, they made that decision.

As you know, the GAC did change the mind or their operating format some years ago, and had more open sessions, and I think that's definitely something we should all strive to. If there's a particular reason why these SO, AC sessions were closed, I would have to ask you, you probably no more than I do, but I haven't looked into that in detail

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Kurtis. Andrea, next on Zoom.

ANDREA GLANDON

Yes, thank you so much. Gopal Tadepalli, you may ask your question and remember to please state who you represent.

GOPAL TADEPALLI

Yes, good morning. This is Gopal. I'm an adjunct professor in Mahindra University, Hyderabad, India. ICANN's multi-stakeholder model accentuates inclusivity and maybe less formalism. Maximum formalism in our context is in the form of government level, bilateral and multilateral agreements, and protocols. Any illustration on how a bilateral or multilateral protocol or commitment has been handled in the ICANN multi-stakeholder model so far?

CATHERINE ADEYA

Kurtis, back to you.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I'm not quite sure I fully understand the question. An illustration of how a bilateral multi-protocol or commitment has been handled in ICANN. I mean, the outcome of the process -- I think I might understand the question. So, in ICANN, the outcome of the negotiations, for example, when it comes to the, well, take the next round, the deliberation and the policy that came out of that, although this predates my term, was the SubPro recommendations, that was the outcome of the multi-stakeholder negotiations that has been turned into the basis for the applicant guidebook, the registry agreement, and everything that comes out of it.

That's the bilateral relations, if you want, that comes out of these policy processes. And that goes for all other policy that ICANN

forms, is that it becomes the rulebook, if you so want, for how the system works and that's the binding commitment between the participants and ICANN. That's the outcome. I wouldn't necessarily call it multilateral, perhaps, but there are some discussions in this room through the GNSO process and through the policy-making process, the PDPs that we form, and that becomes the binding agreement. I hope that answers your question.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you very much, Kurtis, and thank you for your patience here in the room. So, we'll go back to the next. And remember to state your name and who you represent.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

Hi, this is [inaudible - 00:49:43], a NIXI fellow for the record, and currently speaking in my personal capacity. While ICANN traditionally does not regulate website content, many DNS abuse cases clearly involve domains used for phishing or malware distribution or fraud. If ICANN itself cannot monitor domain content, could trusted third-party security organizations or multi-stakeholder initiatives play a more formal role in identifying and flagging malicious domains within the DNS ecosystem?

Finally, DNSSEC remains a critical security mechanism for DNS integrity, yet adoption across many TLDs and registrars are still limited. What technical measures could ICANN pursue through

policy incentives, technical support, or collaboration with government and operators to accelerate DNSSEC deployment and strengthen resilience of the global DNS? Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you. Jim?

JAMES GALVIN

Thank you very much for the question. I think it's important to recognize that ICANN does not have remit to actually regulate in any way issues related to DNS abuse. Our role is really just to get our ecosystem, registries and registrars most notably, to take action and then if they don't do that, that becomes a compliance issue. And that's the extent of our remit in terms of regulation. So, the community itself has to come together and decide exactly what we're going to do and then ICANN will ensure that that activity takes place.

With respect to ccTLDs and DNSSEC, you have the same kind of issue, ICANN doesn't have any remit or authority to tell ccTLDs what they should or shouldn't do. I think that the number of ccTLDs may be broader, since I understand from your question, have adopted DNSSEC. So, it might be interesting to have a conversation offline about exactly what's going on there. But even at the DNSSEC workshop, they always present the current status of the deployment of DNSSEC at the TLD level. And I think it's much better than your question would seem to suggest that it is, but

that's for the community to decide how it wants to expand that work. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Jim. To the next.

RICHA SINHA

Hello, my name is Richa Sinha. I am a NIXI fellow over here and I am speaking on my personal capacity. It is a recommendation kind of suggestion as well, based on my observation throughout this event.

So basically, I come from a region of India where a flood-like situation is like an annual event there, where the internet shutdown or disruption in the accessibility becomes a regular issue. And this not just lead to difficulty in managing the daily livelihood, but also for the children accessing the education, as they could not go outside to attend the schools. Internet disruption caused another cause and this raises a big concern.

If the climatic condition worsens, it will cause increase in the number of disaster-like situations where we face frequent Internet shutdown and disruption. So, I believe building infrastructure becomes meaningless if there is no end user to use that. Therefore, I wish that in future ICANN meetings, climate effect concerns get more highlights and also become a strategic priority for the SSAC group.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you very much. Tripta will take this, but just a reminder, please everyone speak slowly for the interpreters. Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA

Yes, thank you for the question. I think we're all witnessing that climate indeed is affecting infrastructure around the world. And as you know, the Internet is a very complex set of devices and infrastructure that bring together all the different components, and on top of that you've got services that ride upon it. So indeed, that is a problem.

Building infrastructure, beyond DNS-related infrastructure, is outside the remit of ICANN. However, point well taken, and I think there are many partners in this ecosystem that would need to come together to ensure that we continue to build on this resilience. And essentially, you're pointing to a highly resilient infrastructure for the internet so that no matter what, whether it be an undersea cable cut or a climate-related activity that takes out aerial cables and so forth, we have the internet continue to function.

But I must say that LEOS, Low Earth Orbit Satellite, is another aspect that is being leveraged these days to provide backup connectivity should something be taken out. But thank you very much for the suggestion.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you. Amitabh?

AMITABH SINGHAL

To add to what Tripti just responded with to Rachel's question, I think if you look at our strategy plan, we have some focus on ecological sustainability. We have completed an audit on the emissions, and we are going to be looking at doing our bit in terms of reducing our carbon footprint. So, in that sense, ICANN is also committed towards doing its due in terms of how we sustain or maybe work towards mitigating some aspects around climate change. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Amitabh, and I ask for your patience again. I know you've all stood for some time, but there's also people who are quite anxious online. So, I'll take an online question.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. From Fatima Noor, "My question relates to the guidelines recently published by the Universal Acceptance Expert Working Group. The work of this group is very valuable in advancing Universal Acceptance and ensuring domain names and email addresses function correctly across systems and applications."

"However, I would like clarification on what happens next. Is the role of the expert working group limited to producing these guidelines, with implementation left entirely to ICANN org, or will

the group continue to support or monitor their implementation? Additionally, what expectations does ICANN have from contracted parties and other community groups to help ensure these UA guidelines are actually adopted and implemented across the ecosystem?” Ultimately, the success of Universal Acceptance will depend not just on publishing guidance, but on ensuring its real adoption.”

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you. Jim?

JAMES GALVIN

Thank you, Fatima, for your question and looking forward, I do also want to acknowledge a question from Jim Willis and John Mason in the question-and-answer pod. My response here would be the same for all three of these questions in the pod. And that is to acknowledge that the UA Expert Working Group that was set up was certainly set up by the President, CEO, by Kurtis, and its intent was to look at the ongoing implementation-focused work on Universal Acceptance in general and what was the Universal Acceptance steering group that we had and honored last meeting for their 10 years of work.

It's important to note that there is a public comment period going on right now that is open with respect to the work product that came out of that expert working group. There's plenty of time still

for the public to comment, the community at large, on the efforts of that work and to help to prioritize that.

It is ICANN org's responsibility after that public comment period closes to take on board those comments with the work product that was produced by the expert working group. And then consider how to prioritize that work, consider what org feels that it can do and how it would do all of that, and that is what would continue. That is what will be brought to the board for consideration.

I don't really want to speak for the org, but I think they would agree with the comment that they will keep the community involved all along as they go through all of this work. They certainly will advise the community as to what they're doing and give the community an opportunity to comment on that and where appropriate to participate in that work. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you, Jim, but since Jim has answered three questions from the online group, I come back to the floor. Go ahead.

İDİL KULA

Hello, everyone. Hello, community. I am İdil Kula for the record. I am a second-time fellow for the ICANN, an IT lawyer, as well as ecology entrepreneur. My point today is the Internet relies on planet resources. The content of Internet relies on apparently to our planet. And also, its operation has impact on planet and ecology, but whenever I voice up this issue, I always hear the words

of, “Oh, oh, oh man, this is not included in our remit. We are only technicals.”

This is the ultimate reaction, but the same argument can be just diverted to the issues like gender, post-quantum cryptography, AI, AI safety and transparency, which are obviously part of some bodies or part of some constituencies within the ICANN. So, it is obvious that ICANN is not a gender community or AI community or cryptocurrency. So, why do we care for these issues?

So, to speak, I'm going down to the bylaws and ICANN strategy. We can actually touch upon the issue of ecology in bylaws and strategy through the means of human rights as well as ecology and sustainability. We have some points in strategy as well as bylaws. So, this is my call out to all of the community to create an initiative. I don't know how it will be, but to create an initiative and present some best practices among us, from registries, registrars, and all of the internet operators. Because if we're going to do that, we can't be eating or drinking bits and bytes. Thank you.

CATHERINE ADEYA

Thank you very much. Amitabh, you could maybe say something because I think there are quite a few things there and I hand over to you as well.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you. So, I will take the part about the ecological sustainability that you raised, and this was a question that was

raised earlier as well. And I think, let me also correct the perception that we are not including ecological sustainability as one of our priorities. It is definitely a priority for us.

As I mentioned earlier, we are conscious of climate change effects and we are in the process of doing our bit. And we'll definitely, as a board, keep a track on how the organization is moving forward on doing our bit in terms of doing our bit on ecological sustainability. Thank you so much, and I think there are other points. Yeah.

TRIPTI SINHA

I just wanted to add one more comment, which is you mentioned AI and cryptography and that we don't deal with that. Actually, we do. When it impacts the DNS, we are certainly paying attention to it. Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you. I think the camera keeps rolling now. Do we have someone online?

ANDREA GLANDON

Yes, thank you. Maxim Alzoba, you may ask your question.

MAXIM ALZOBA

Maxim Alzoba for the record. Is it possible that ICANN has the provider for scheduler and meetings website, which doesn't discriminate based on the geolocation of the remote participant? That makes the remote participation really hard and materials of

the meeting to be somewhat less than easily reachable. Without it, the global Internet community turns into a part of the Internet community.

The same for the ICANN survey system provider, the current one denies our attempts to take the survey about ICANN85. It's not the first meeting. I'm asking almost the same question. Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you, Maxim. I think you raised this question in Dublin as well. We, or someone did at least, we do try to work with the providers of all the software that is not geo-limited. Unfortunately, some of these providers use CDNs and other cache without our or the provider's control put in restrictions.

We do try and go back and make sure that this is not the case and all the software is available and accessible. Although we are not always successful because of the nature of how websites today are mostly run, or these tools are run, I should say, it's not a website. We will continue to look into this. I'll take your point and we'll go back again and see what we can do about this.

I think we did look into that or we did look into it after Dublin when you raised this last time. And it's, of course, not great to see this is happening again. So, I think we need to have a bit of a longer look at what we can do, but thank you for raising that.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Gentleman in the queue.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET

[Foreign language - 01:04:50].

AMITABH SINGHAL

Well, let me also respond in the local language as Sebastian has done it in French. Sebastian [foreign language - 01:06:49].

TRIPTI SINHA

[Foreign language - 01:07:32].

KURTIS LINDQVIST

If my French background would reply in French, but I think I'm going to stick to English. I just wanted to comment a point on the queuing and translation. I think on the queuing point, I think we all acknowledge that we could look into a different system. I think that's a good idea. We can see what we can come up with for future ICANN meetings, Sebastian. So, thank you. [Foreign language - 01:07:58].

MOHIT RAIZADA

Hi, I'm Mohit Raizada. I'm from LdotR and I represent an online brand protection company. In the 2012 gTLD round, ICANN received almost 2,000 applications resulting in 1,200 TLDs that were delegated into the root zone. It's been almost a decade, and

many industry analysis suggest that the actual end-user adoption and meaningful utilization of these TLDs is very low.

Particularly, I'm talking about dot-brand TLDs, wherein the adoption isn't very low. Even if you were to get around to a dot brand website, it would almost always redirect you to the .com version. In many cases, a substantial number of the delegated TLDs even have limited domain registrations. So, given this context, my core question is, does the board view greater real-world adoption and functional use of the TLDs as a strategic objective for this program? Or is ICANN's role limited only to enable choice on the internet and competition? And what is your metric of basically determining the success of this program? And given that there is low adoption and if this does not change, will this affect if and when we have a next round? Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

So, thank you. I think that's a great question. I'll let some of my colleagues who might be closer to this talk. I just want to note one thing that in my interaction going around to various constituency groups, I would say that one of the really largest interest groups in this round is brand.

Brand owners, brand management is a phenomenally large interest in this round, but I think that -- I wasn't here. Well, I was around in 2012, but I wasn't really working with the brands, but I think one thing we're seeing now and a lot of the talk we're hearing,

is that there is more use cases than just the marketing side of the brand TLDs. There's a lot of other use cases.

There's a great presentation by Sky, I've used the example quite a lot of times, about all the other use cases for brand TLDs that are not the marketing part. I mean, there's a lot of other use cases for this. There's everything ranging, of course, from trademark protection all the way to infrastructure security and other use cases that are being used.

I don't know that we, from an external point of view, can determine success for that brand. I mean, that is in the eye of the beholder. We don't know what their purpose was for applying for a brand deal. It's very hard for us to determine if that was successful or not. Only they can measure that.

For the wider round, what a success measure looks like, I think there is no numerical number picked. We believe that it will be similar to the last round, but you said 2,000, we have had quite a lot of other guesses in the community on a rather wide-ranging scale. But a program isn't determined by success by numbers. That's not a success. A success is to allow people to apply, right? But I don't know if any of the other board members want to add to that who are closer to this.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Tripti, please.

TRIPTI SINHA

I'd just like to, this is a very futuristic comment, but as you know, AI agents are a big thing now and these agents are created by end users and LLMs and so forth. So, potentially, depending on who the end point is, you might generate a whole bunch of AI agents. And if it's coming from a brand, you could have brand-directed AI agents.

So, it's still very much a developing field so let's see where it goes. There could be a very strong use case. Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Tripti. Andrea, anyone online?

ANDREA GLANDON

Yes, thank you. From Amir Khan. "My question is regarding the location of the ICANN87 AGM currently planned in Oman. Given the ongoing geopolitical tensions and the broader instability in the region, many community members may have concerns about potential travel disruptions.

Could the board clarify whether ICANN is actively assessing the situation and whether any contingency planning or decision timeline exists regarding the meeting location? More specifically, if a change of location becomes necessary, will the board ensure that such a decision is taken sufficiently in advance so that community members can avoid last-minute travel disruptions and unnecessary costs?"

KURTIS LINDQVIST

So, thank you. I think I'll answer that question. So, we're obviously aware of the situation and we're monitoring it. The Oman meeting is seven months out, so it's still quite a long time to go and a lot of things can change. So, at the moment, we are planning for this to go ahead, as announced.

I'd just like to point out that for any ICANN meeting, as part of the meeting strategy, we do always have contingencies for many events around ICANN meetings. Of course, we have it for here, we have it for Seville, we have it for any meeting we plan for. So that planning always exists, but at the time being, it is far out. We are continuing to plan for the AGM to go ahead.

But, of course, we are continuing to monitor the situation and we will always take into account the events surrounding security, accessibility, and other issues around any of the ICANN meetings throughout the year. We do that continuously, and we continue to do that for this as well, but that's really the status at the moment. We continue to plan for this to go ahead for a moment.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Do we take one online before we go to the queue? Okay. Ihita, please.

IHITA GANGAVARAPU

Thank you so much. I'm Ihita Gangavarapu, a former NextGen and also the coordinator of Youth IGF India. I'll be speaking on my personal capacity today.

With a background in engineering and cybersecurity and having had the privilege of working with youth for the last eight plus years, including our recent contributions to the WSIS+20 discussions, I have personally seen a lot of strong interest among the young professionals to engage more deeply in the technical aspects of Internet governance.

Capacity building and strengthening trust in ICT has been a core focus area of the WSIS+20 review and ICANN already contributes significantly through its technical and policy work. However, in many developing countries, there is still a gap in youth exposure to practical, hands-on technical training programs. And within ICANN community and outside, young people are eager to contribute and want to understand what are the clear pathways to contribute to ICANN's technical work.

So, as part of implementing the WSIS outcomes, how is ICANN looking to further strengthen youth-focused technical capacity building, particularly in developing countries, so that young professionals can gain practical experience and contribute to ICANN's technical resiliency, stability, and security-based developments. Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

So, any one of my colleagues here? There's quite a few points inside of one question. So, Chris?

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

I can certainly respond. I think as you say, coming out of WSIS, there is a need for building and continuing to evolve the inclusivity of our processes, and ICANN has a role in that capacity building. But I think its role is also very much in collaborating, coordinating with different aspects of our technical community, so other organizations doing this capacity building work, but also in the non-technical community or beyond the technical community to make sure that inclusion is very real and that people can understand the impact that they can have and how these decisions affect their lives and their ability to go online.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you. Can we go online and take the questions from there? Please, thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON

Yes, thank you. A question from Amin Dayak. "ICANN has historically defended the multi-stakeholder model as the foundation of global IG. Yet in recent years, we are seeing the emergence of regional governance initiatives and state-aligned coordination bodies that operate adjacent to the ICANN ecosystem.

How does the board assess the long-term risk that these parallel governance structures could reshape the multi-stakeholder model into a hybrid system where geopolitical coordination begins to outweigh bottom-up community legitimacy?

AMITABH SINGHAL

Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I'm not sure I quite follow the question, but I'll try. If the question is that there are state or government-led organizations that are operating very close to ICANN's topics, that is not new, that has existed since the dawn of ICANN.

We have had CETel in Europe, there is BEREC, there is -- I forgot what the Asian equivalent is called. There is many of these forums that have existed and coordination bodies that existed way before. This is in 2005 and actually goes back to the dawn of telecom. I think it could go back to the 80s for some of these.

So, I don't think these organizations are new and they have throughout the various forms of this is a multi-stakeholder-ism. And the formation of ICANN, these bodies have always existed and always provided government coordination on topics very near to ICANN's mandate. So, I don't think that's necessarily new.

Obviously, we want to work with them. Some of them are actually even observers in the GAC and participate here, and I think that's very welcome. And I don't know that that in itself is a threat to the multistakeholder model. I think that's one way to provide input because a multistakeholder model doesn't exclude governments. Government is just an equal footing in that part, and that's very important that we recognize.

Do I think there is a risk that they somehow would transform into taking over ICANN? We just confirmed in New York in December that we were not seeing that, and that the governments believed that this model was working. So, I don't think there's a risk about that. I think they will continue to work parallel to ICANN and have their coordination forums in relation to that. I don't know if anyone else had anything.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Kurtis. And Raúl, you wanted to respond?

RAÚL ECHEBERRÍA

Thank you, Amitabh. I'm Raúl Echeberría speaking. May I speak in Spanish? So, I think that's what Sebastian was suspecting was that we make the meaningful comments in Spanish, in other languages. [Foreign language - 01:19:42].

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Raúl. Vivek, please, thank you.

VIVEK GOYAL

Thank you. It took almost as long to get here as getting a taxi in Mumbai. Glad to be here at the mic.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Sorry about that. Apologies.

VIVEK GOYAL

No problem. Namaste. My name is Vivek Goyal. I am the COO of LdotR. I am a member of the Business Constituency and represent the Business Constituency on the GNSO council. I'm speaking on behalf of the Business Constituency.

Physical ICANN meetings are a key aspect of the bond [inaudible - 01:21:20] in the ICANN community and help build trust and camaraderie in this unique multi-stakeholder model. The 2026 AGM is scheduled to happen in Muscat and we just heard a comment about that. What we at the BC believe that holding a physical meeting is of key importance.

This is a pivotal year for ICANN. There's a DNS abuse work that has just started and the next round after years of waiting is opening. I know there are global challenges which prevented us from attending the event or going to Muscat last time and it may happen again. But I would strongly urge ICANN to strive to find an alternate and not resort to having a virtual meeting.

We achieve a lot more when we meet physically. 10 virtual meetings work worth 10 virtual meetings can be done in one physical meeting. So please, whatever is possible that can be done to ensure that AGM happens physically should be done. And if we in the community can help, and especially in the BC, then we are more than open to work with the ICANN or to make it happen. Thank you so much.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you. Any quick response to that?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

We always want to keep the meetings in person as much as we can. As I said, at the moment, we are planning to have an in-person meeting. We continue to go ahead with that, and we obviously follow what goes on as well.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Kurtis. We have just about five or six minutes left for the session, so I will request those in the queue here to just quickly go through their queries or inputs that they have, and we wish to close on time. Thank you.

CARLOS ALVAREZ

Good morning. My name is Carlos Alvarez. I lead disruption partnerships at ZeroFox, a large global cybersecurity company that protects large enterprises, governments, and high-profile individuals. We're also an accredited registrar.

I want to praise the community for the big step forward with the policy development process, focused on associated domain checks. Requiring registrars to proactively investigate malicious domains linked to a threat is one more necessary move to protect the domain space and impose higher costs on threat actors. We see this work as a major win for global Internet governance.

However, we must also address a very serious, hard-to-catch problem, the misuse of parked domains, a phenomenon that has been observed for the last three or four years. This threat research shows criminals renting park domains for very short time frames for an hour, two hours, maybe a week. After the lease expires, the domains revert back to being parked. Because it's so quick, malicious domains hide easily and are hard to detect.

By the time a registrar gets and processes an abuse report, the attack is over and the registrar often just finds a benign parking page. This means enforcement fails and the domain is left alone to be used for attacks again.

To combat this, the ICANN community should implement a structural change by adding a new rule banning short-term domain leasing, amending section 3.7.7 of the registrar accreditation agreement. Requiring a 30-day minimum lease period by way of a new provision in the registration agreement between the registrars and the registrants. Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you so much. I think Jim.

JAMES GALVIN

Thank you, and thank you for the question. I will acknowledge that there has been some good research in the space of parked domains and short-term domains. There are a number of interesting elements associated with that, and it is a real problem. Domains

that come and go very quickly, quickly enough that they don't even appear in the zone files that are available in CZDS so people can't even see them there. So, it is true that they can be around, you can have abuse, and by the time anybody knows about it, they're long gone and not even visible. So, you can't take action because it's already happened.

I think it's important to point out that while we have the current DNS abuse PDP that's happening and there's another one lined up to follow it, we do have an issue report which has a number of elements on it. I would expect that the GNSO Council will seek to keep that issue report itself and the list of priorities up to date and re-examine that from time to time.

There is much work that we could be doing in the DNS abuse space, and certainly the item that you raised is one of those things, but, you know, it's up to the community to prioritize that work and move it along. The board is very much open to seeing as much work as the community is willing to put forth in proceeding to address DNS abuse and provide more mitigation strategies. So, thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Jim. I think I just want to remind, we are almost out of time, one minute left, so we just probably have one question that we can quickly take from the lady on the left. And I am sorry, those waiting in the queue, we can discuss offline for any inputs that you

have. We'll be happy to do that offline. Thank you. So, one more, please. Thank you.

SHIVA UPADHYAY

Hello, everyone, my name is Shiva Upadhyay from CDAC India and thank you ICANN for giving me this opportunity to raise this question. However, my question is in several jurisdictions, including India, increasingly issue orders relating to malicious domain names involved in fraud or phishing. Given the cross-border nature of many gTLDs, registrars and registries, how does ICANN envision strengthening cooperation mechanism to facilitate timely compliance with legitimate court orders affecting abuse domain names? Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Jim again.

JAMES GALVIN

I think the important thing to recognize is it really is a question to the community and for the council to consider and how it wants to move forward with PDPs. It really is up to all the parties, the registries and registrars in the community to agree and come to consensus on how to proceed on these issues.

Neither ICANN org nor the board are in a position to prescribe exactly how that should happen, but we do welcome the

community telling us their own ideas about where they want to go.

Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Jim. I think we are closing the queue now and with that, thank you, everyone, for all the inputs and the questions. And I would hand it over to our chair, Tripti Sinha.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Amitabh. First, I'd like to thank everyone who participated today. We did not get through our queue. First, thank you for being as active as you were. Please send in your questions if you'd like them to be addressed to globalsupport@icann.org.

Also, as I said in my opening comments, we are going through some very difficult times in the world and people are being disenfranchised from access to communications and other critical services because of the state of play of world affairs and infrastructures being bombed and so forth.

I've spoken to several of you in the hallways and have understood how you've been impacted, many of you directly, because you have families in regions that are affected. So, I ask that we all support each other and I assure you that ICANN will do what it can do within its remit to ensure that the DNS continues to function for the world. But I do ask that all of us come together in our common humanity and show support to each other. Thank you.

To my colleagues on the board, thank you for the discussion. On behalf of the board, I extend our appreciation to language services team for their exceptional support during this session and to Andrea Glandon for moderating the online interactions.

We will see you at the ICANN board meeting, which will be held in this very room at 4:30 local time and this session is open to all. Again, thank you for being here and thank you for making your voice heard. This meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]