
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – ASO Address Council Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 16:30 to 17:30 IST

OZAN SAHIN

Hello, and welcome to the ASO Address Council monthly meeting. My name is Ozan, and I am a participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and the ICANN Commit to Anti-Harassment policy.

Please observe the following guidelines to participate in this session. I will also post them in the chat for your reference. Only questions posted in the Q&A pod will be read aloud during the session as time permits and when directed by the chair of the session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in Zoom or otherwise as directed. When speaking, please state your name for the record and speak clearly at a moderate pace. I will now hand the floor over to Hervé Clément.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you, Ozan, and welcome, everyone. I am Hervé Clément, the chair of the ASO AC, and I welcome everybody to our monthly meeting for March. This is a specific meeting because we meet here in person, and it is part of the ICANN agenda. That is the reason it is recorded and organized as an ICANN meeting.

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This meeting, except for the closed session, is open to observers as well. Welcome to everybody who wants to attend. Apart from that, I will give the floor to German for the roll call. Thank you.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you, Hervé. I will start with the AFRINIC region. Saul Stein?

SAUL STEIN Present.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Nicole Chan?

NICOLE CHAN Present.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Maemura Akinori?

MAEMURA AKINORI Akinori is present.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Devesh Tyagi? He apologized before this session. Amy Potter?

AMY POTTER

Present.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you. Alyssa Quinn?

ALYSSA QUINN

Present.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Kevin Blumberg?

KEVIN BLUMBERG

Present.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you. From the LACNIC region, Ricardo Patara?

RICARDO PATARA

Hello. I am present.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you, Ricardo. Esteban Lescano?

ESTEBAN LESCANO

Hello. I am here.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Jorge Villa?

JORGE VILLA Hi, German. I am here.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Constanze Bürger?

CONSTANZE BÜRGER Yes, I am here. Thank you.

GERMAN VALDEZ Andrei Robachevsky?

ANDREI ROBACHEVSKY Here.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. And Hervé Clément?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT Yes, I am present.

GERMAN VALDEZ We have all members present except for Devesh, so we have a quorum for this session. I will continue quickly to keep records of the observers for this session. From the AFRINIC region, we have no

one today. Brajesh Jain? From AFRINIC, yes. Thank you, Brajesh.
Anybody else from APNIC?

PADRAIG O'ROURKE Padraig O'Rourke from APNIC.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Jeremy Harrison from APNIC?

JEREMY HARRISON Jeremy Harrison from APNIC.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you, Jeremy. I will move to ARIN. Observers from ARIN?

EDDIE DIEGO Eddie Diego with ARIN.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you. Michael Adewole with ARIN?

MICHAEL ADEWOLE Michael Adewole with ARIN.

GERMAN VALDEZ Thank you, Michael. Hollis Kara with ARIN? Thank you, Hollis.
Nancy Carter, ARIN? Thank you, Nancy.

PETER HARRISON

Peter Harrison, ARIN.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you, Peter. Anybody else who would like to identify as an observer from ARIN? If not, from LACNIC?

KAT WOODCOCK

Kat Woodcock, ARIN.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you, Kat. Nobody from LACNIC. RIPE NCC?

ATHINA FRAGOULI

Athina Fragouli from RIPE NCC.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Athina Fragouli. Ulka Atre from the RIPE NCC. Thank you, Ulka. We will continue with keeping a record of the ICANN staff. Ozan, Carlos, and Andrew are present in the room. No ICANN board members are present. Anybody else following online who would like to be in the record for this meeting?

MIRJAM KUEHNE

Mirjam Kuehne from the RIPE chair and the RIPE community. Thank you.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you, Mirjam.

ANNA WILSON

Anna Wilson from the RIPE community.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Thank you very much. Thank you, Anna.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

You also have Julia, who is my intern.

GERMAN VALDEZ

I have Julia Nassey as well. Fantastic. I also have Christopher Kesar from the community and ARIN. I think I have everybody in the record for this meeting. Thank you, Chris.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you, German, for that. You have displayed the agenda on the screen, so it is displaying on Zoom. I have just checked. Is everybody okay with this agenda, or does anybody want to add anything? There will be a closed session with the CCG and the legal team to work on the timeline. You have the subject, but the outputs and the conclusion will be open at some point. With that, I do not know if there is anything you want to add?

ESTEBAN LESCANO

I do not think so, Hervé.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Okay, and with that, we can go through this agenda. Thank you very much. Point number four is the approval of the minutes from February 2026. I read them and had no specific remarks. Are there any additional ones? If not, who wants to propose a motion to adopt the minutes?

ESTEBAN LESCANO

I call the motion to approve the minutes.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

Kevin seconds.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you very much. Does anybody abstain? Does anybody oppose? None. Thank you very much. The motion is carried, and the minutes of February 2026 are accepted. Thank you.

Point number five is the review of open actions. I see them on the screen. Also, new action item 2602041 for German Valdez to coordinate the agenda topic meeting between the ICANN board, the ASO, and the NRO during ICANN 85 in Mumbai. This was related to the session to be held on Tuesday, 10 March at 09:00 AM local time. This meeting has been organized and coordinated. Thank you for that. Action item closed.

The second one is action item 24-06-053, which is two years old. Hervé Clément is to prepare a new monthly report on the ICP-2 review and send it to the NRO EC for feedback. Hervé will then send the final version of his report to the EC prior to the next NRO EC meeting. As you can imagine, during this ICANN meeting, we have had a lot of interaction with the EC. This is currently being done for this month. As our ICP-2 work is not yet ended or closed, this action item is ongoing. Welcome, Madhvi. You can add Madhvi to the observers as well.

With that, we can go to point six, which is the ICP-2 update. We have worked intensely on this during the week. There was an open session at the beginning and different joint sessions with the ALAC, the RSSAC, and the GAC. There will be another one with the ISPCP and At-Large. We have had different closed sessions to advance the open issues we had. I can leave the floor to you, Esteban.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

Thank you. I want to add that we had a public session at the beginning of the week, and we are having another public session tomorrow. Today we have a session about the reviews of the reviews to share the full agenda for this week. It was very busy but also very productive.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

I am actually curious when we are going to stop calling it the ICP-2 update and call it the final version.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

We have a secret agenda, and you will discover it at some point. I promise. Today is the last day of ICANN. We have a final session tomorrow on the ICP-2 and the wrap-up. This will be ongoing and will continue until ICANN 86 in Seville.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

I want to congratulate the full team for the work we did this week. All the discussions were very productive, and we made a lot of progress. Thank you for the time, the ideas, the brainpower, and the energy. It was very important. Thank you.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

I actually want to thank Ricardo. It is very easy to do this even with jet lag, but it is a lot harder to do it when you are ten and a half hours in a different time zone. Ricardo, if you are listening to this, thank you for participating remotely.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you very much. I totally support Kevin. During the session this morning, I was curious to check your local time. When I saw it was 02:30 AM, I was impressed. I do not think we will spend a lot of time on point six because we produced a lot of work and discussion, and it is not finished. I am afraid that in April 2026, during our monthly meeting, we will have another point called the ICP-2 update, but we can be creative.

With that, we can go to point seven, ICANN 86 preparation. It is agreed that we will meet in Seville. I thank the NRO EC for that. I encourage everyone within the council to start preparing for their mission to Seville. We have to fix the agenda so everyone knows which day they need to arrive. It is already decided. With that, I give the floor to Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN

Thank you, Hervé. This is Ozan Sahin for the record. ICANN 86 will take place in Seville, Spain, from the 8th of June through the 11th. This is less than three months away, 89 days to be exact. I would like to show you the production timeline. This is the shortest gap between all of the three ICANN meetings.

This is the block schedule for ICANN 86. It is the shortest meeting of the year. It is a four-day meeting, starting on Monday and going through Thursday. The other difference you will note is that instead of five blocks in a day, we have only four blocks, sixteen in total. Initially, two of them are expected to be community plenary sessions, but the community will discuss that further. Going to the production timeline, the kickoff call will happen in two weeks.

What is important here is the EMS submissions starting on the 6th of April, by which we need to prepare the ASO AC schedule for Seville. In the next three weeks, we need to prepare the schedule for this meeting, after which we will be able to submit it to the online system. The other thing I wanted to note is the prep week,

which incorrectly shows as the 26th and 27th of May, but it will actually be on the 20th and 21st, one week earlier.

We confirmed today that the prep week session the ASO AC asked for has been confirmed for the 20th of May. I will share the details about the time and date. Just for background, when we discussed whether to conduct a public session during the meeting versus a prep week webinar, the biggest difference is that sessions during an ICANN public meeting often conflict with other sessions unless they are plenaries. A prep week webinar gives you a chance for bigger attendance.

We have secured that, and the meeting is happening from the 8th of June through the 11th. The ICANN 86 schedule is up and running with hotel information, so you can check that. If you have any questions, I am happy to take them.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you, Ozan. Kevin?

KEVIN BLUMBERG

There are two hotels, both are Melia, and both are within ten or fifteen euros of each other. It would be great if we could all pick one so we are not randomly split between them. If the chair or vice chairs can pick one and let us know, that would be awesome for coordination. The second thing is a confirmation from Ozan. This policy meeting in June is not about meeting with others; it is about us getting our work done. We should not expect to do requests for

joint meetings. This meeting is about us getting our work done, correct?

OZAN SAHIN

It is totally up to you and your needs. If you would like us to schedule only closed working sessions, that is what we will do. To your question, Kevin, there are no joint meetings with the ICANN board on the block schedule, so that is one thing that is eliminated. If you want to meet with other groups, we will organize that, but we do not have to.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Okay. German?

GERMAN VALDEZ

If we take the Prague meeting as a reference, which was also a June meeting, we had some joint sessions there. As Ozan mentioned, it is up to the ASO. Another observation that is going to be unusual for ICANN meetings is that we are going to have a later start at 10:00 AM and end at 06:00 PM. We are adjusting to the Spanish lunchtime breaks. If we break at noon, we will not find any restaurants nearby for lunch, so we need to adjust to local customs in Spain.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

Will we be meeting at all on Sunday? Is there even the opportunity for that? I want a definite answer because when we set our flight schedules, we need to know if we are coming in on Saturday to be

available for Sunday. This start is much earlier than I am used to. It is usually Monday, and we start on Sunday. Is that something we can confirm?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

As I said a few minutes ago, that is something we have to consider and fix very soon. Esteban?

ESTEBAN LESCANO

My comments go in that direction. This will be a very important meeting as we have a document to finish. My general proposal is to arrange as many closed meetings as possible to provide enough time for final discussions on the document and for the drafting team to modify it as needed following those discussions. That is my general thinking about the meeting.

We can also arrange some joint meetings regarding the ICP-2 update if needed, but the priority is to use the time to finish the document and have enough time to progress on it.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

I support what you say about organizing as many closed sessions as we can have. The priority is the closed sessions and the work. Joint sessions are a lower priority during this meeting.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

I think that missed the question. Is Sunday an option for room space or anything like that? If Sunday is not an option, we just need to know.

OZAN SAHIN

Sunday is not a meeting day for ICANN 86. In terms of planning, Sunday has not been accounted for. Only if the ASO AC wants to fill all these sessions and use Sunday would we ask the meeting team if an additional day, space, and remote participation are available, but that would come with additional costs. There is no guarantee, as there are deadlines for such requests. This would be treated as an additional meeting outside of ICANN 86.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Okay. Well noted. Thank you. Andrei?

ANDREI ROBACHEVSKY

I think we should plan for these four days, perhaps taking Friday into consideration if we run out of time. What is the deadline for scheduling joint meetings?

OZAN SAHIN

There is no deadline, but other groups are planning their sessions now because they are due in three weeks. Since there are only sixteen blocks, they will prioritize their internal work. If you need to work with other groups, we need to knock on their doors quickly.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

After talking with Kevin, I see there are twelve working sessions available without conflict. Maybe we can request those twelve working sessions as a first idea and then adjust if joint sessions are needed. We should focus on Monday to Thursday without any additional days and use as many sessions as we need. That is my general proposal.

OZAN SAHIN

I believe there are fourteen sessions. Even if you need to use all sixteen, you can schedule against plenary sessions if the benefit of an ASO AC work session is higher.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

The chairs, vice chairs, and the ICANN team should arrange the final availability. The idea is to focus on that week without additional days and use the sessions to finish the document.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

I am hesitant to ask other organizations for time just for an update. This is their policy week as well. Unless we have a real reason to coordinate with them, we should respect their workflow. This is not a typical ICANN meeting; we have our own work to do. Updates are what the prep week is for. Unless it is critical, let us respect their workflow.

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| HERVÉ CLÉMENT | Thank you, Kevin. As chair, I have no plans for joint sessions so far. |
| RICARDO PATARA | I agree with that criteria. |
| GERMAN VALDEZ | As a decision of the ASO AC, I will report to the NRO EC that you are keeping the plan to meet in Seville as approved in the timeline. They can facilitate the travel support. It is summertime in Europe, so earlier preparation is better. I will pass this to the NRO EC. |
| RICARDO PATARA | Thank you, German. Excellent. |
| HERVÉ CLÉMENT | Thank you as well. Ozan? |
| OZAN SAHIN | Two more updates. The link to the ICANN 86 website is in the chat. We also need a title for the prep week webinar. I do not know if you want to discuss that now or later. |
| RICARDO PATARA | We can use the same title we used for this webinar, something like reaching the end or the progress on the ICP-2 work. |

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Are there any other comments? If not, thank you very much. You came at the perfect time, Pablo. It is a pleasure to welcome Pablo Rodriguez, our appointee from the ASO to the NomCom. Thank you for providing regular reports. You proposed making a report from the groundwork of the NomCom. I give you the floor.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ

Thank you, Hervé and Esteban. It is a real pleasure to be here. As your NomCom appointee, it has been a lot of work. I will take the opportunity to talk about the process. The NomCom originated in 2002 during a time when ICANN was reflecting on how board members should be elected, as ICANN is not a membership-based organization. The NomCom is one of the most important features of internet governance and ICANN.

It differs from the RIR model because RIRs are member-based. While three RIRs have nominating committees for vetting, the ICANN NomCom actually appoints half of the board members, as well as PTI board members, GNSO Council members, ccNSO Council members, and At-Large members. The goal is to find independent individuals of high integrity who can add fresh perspectives and act on behalf of the public interest. This was designed to prevent capture by stakeholder groups with commercial interests.

The NomCom has gone through many changes, which are detailed in Article 8 of the bylaws. Reviews have brought continuity, institutional memory, and independent leadership to the

committee. In 2026, the current NomCom received a record 232 applications, a 120% growth from last year. Your help with outreach worked very well. The cost of applying has reduced with the use of AI, but we still have humans reading each application. It can be boring to read synthetic text, but it helps in discerning the right candidates.

We have two ICANN board seats, one PTI board seat, two regional representatives for At-Large, one seat for the ccNSO Council, and one seat for the GNSO Council. The application window is closed. We started with screening and a superficial review, followed by soft dives where we discussed candidates in Mumbai to create a shortlist. We will now move into interviews and deep dives. All of this happens between now and Seville, where deliberations will occur. I am happy to talk about the process, but I cannot share more than that.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Excellent. Thank you. That was very useful and clear. We thank you for this impressive work. Kevin?

KEVIN BLUMBERG

Historically, an ASO AC member used to join, but the workload makes that impossible now. One thing that would be helpful is to keep a running tally of the hours you put into this. Knowing the time commitment helps us inform potential future candidates. If

you can provide real data on the hours, it would be very helpful to us.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ

I have that. Can I also add an invoice?

KEVIN BLUMBERG

You can add double zeros, and I am happy to cover that.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

Regarding the process of hiring, when do the appointees enter office? At the end of the year? When is the starting date for the ICANN board members?

PABLO RODRIGUEZ

At the ICANN AGM, which will be in Thailand this year.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

Thank you.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Are there any other questions for Pablo? I see none. Thank you very much, and we hope to see you soon. We will now move to the review of reviews, also called the CCG or Cross-Community Group. It is my pleasure to give the floor to Akinori.

MAEMURA AKINORI

Thank you, Hervé. Thank you to the AC members who participated in the joint session with the CCG ROR. It was a good opportunity to see what has been going on in the review of reviews Cross-Community Working Group. We were fortunate to have Chris Disspain, one of the three co-chairs, whose explanation was fantastic. I sent a document for your reference titled as a broad overview of what is intended for the CCG ROR.

I will maintain it and keep it up to date. For example, the prep week presentation is now updated for the joint meeting. More important is the current design proposal, which is in Google Docs for the ASO AC members to review. It is a comprehensive coverage of the content. We have five focus areas, or buckets. Bucket A is accountability and transparency, including the ATRT reviews.

Bucket B is continuous improvement, which includes annual operational procedure reviews. The Continuous Improvement Plan for the ASO is currently suspended until we conclude the ICP-2 revision. Bucket C is the structure review to confirm if SOs and ACs are fit for purpose. Bucket D is the review of reviews, and Bucket E covers on-demand or ad hoc reviews. Most ICANN activity involves gTLD policy. The ASO's major activity is within the RIR arena. I think we can leave buckets A, C, D, and E to the GNSO and core ICANN committees, but we must take care of Bucket B ourselves.

The CCG ROR is maintaining a high cadence with weekly meetings. The meeting times rotate to accommodate time zones. We are in Phase 2, and the initial design has been communicated. We are

looking toward finalization at ICANN 86. I will keep you updated and ask for your input if the ROR needs it. Does anyone have feedback or questions?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you very much, Akinori. I have nothing more to add. We had an extensive session this morning, and there will be a global session tomorrow morning. Kevin?

KEVIN BLUMBERG

I appreciated having Manal and Chris this morning. It was a well-thought-out conversation. There is a lot to this that is beyond just the ASO AC. We were requested by the NRO EC to observe, but we should recommend that the NRO EC have their own people on this. This is a much bigger process. Until we complete ICP-2, we cannot get too into continuous improvement, but there is a lot at stake regarding the MOU and intrinsic knowledge that the EC handles. We should give them that advice sooner rather than later.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

Thank you. Chris, did you want to say something? No? Thank you, Akinori.

MAEMURA AKINORI

Thank you, Kevin. It is important for us to maintain our fitness as a supporting organization and demonstrate that to the rest of ICANN. Thank you for keeping an eye on this issue.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

If not, next is any other business. Is there anything anyone wants to add before our closed session? I am checking Zoom. If not, thank you to all the observers for your participation. We will now have the closed session with the ASO AC, the CCG, and the legal team. Ricardo, is it almost 09:00 AM for you?

RICARDO PATARA

It is almost 09:00 AM here. It is early in the morning.

GERMAN VALDEZ

Time for breakfast.

OZAN SAHIN

Hervé, is it okay to stop the recording now, or do you have additional words?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT

I have no additional words. Please stop the recording. The board members can stay as well.

GERMAN VALDEZ

The Zoom is being kept on because Hollis and Michael from ARIN would like to stay for the session, along with Ricardo and Laureana.

ESTEBAN LESCANO

The idea of this closed session is to review the timeline and next steps in finalizing the document. We can project the timeline from the public session. It is clear what happens between now and June. We have to advance the drafting and discuss open points. After ICANN 86, we need to manage the remaining six months of the year. We should have informative sessions in different regions and events. We talked about a last call, but it is not yet defined. We should ask the CCG for their thoughts on that.

ALYSSA QUINN

Once we get to Seville, what are we intending to work on? If the drafting team is going to draft what we discussed, when will the final draft be prepared? Are we presenting that after Seville, or are we finalizing it there? What are we presenting to the RIR meetings over the next few months?

ESTEBAN LESCANO

The drafting will begin in the coming weeks. We had a conversation with the ICANN legal team, and they requested a new version as soon as possible for analysis. We will have a new document before Seville. The idea is to circulate it by email among the ASO AC members for comments. In Seville, we will have a face-to-face meeting to finish the document and cover any issues. We need to present the final document to the EC after Seville.

KEVIN BLUMBERG

Please schedule meetings with no emergencies. It is helpful to have them in my calendar even if they are canceled. Regarding the last call, it is not ours; it would be ICANN's. It would be helpful to get a sense of what that looks like so we can inform the community. We also need to manage the feedback loop with the legal team. They are waiting for us, and we are waiting for them. It would be helpful to bridge that.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]