
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – Joint Session: ccTLD Board Members and ccNSO
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CLAUDIA RUIZ

Hello and welcome to the Joint ccNSO Session with the ccTLD Board Members. My name is Claudia Ruiz and I, along with my colleague Joke Braeken, are the participation managers for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

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Thank you very much. And with this, I will now hand the floor over to Biyi Oladipo, moderator for this session. Thank you.

BIYI OLADIPO

Thank you very much, Claudia. And good afternoon, good evening, and good morning to everyone, depending on where you're joining us on the globe. This is the Q&A session with the ccNSO, ccTLD-related Board members. The session today will be of two parts. There is a formal part and there's an informal part.

The formal part is going to deal with the questions that we got from the Board, and there are answers. I will call on the individuals who would give those answers in a little bit, and then we'll transition then into the informal part, where you get to ask the ccTLD-related Board members a request. And this is the way it's going to work. When we get to the point of the questions, the Menti would be displayed.

Yeah, that's the Mentimeter code. Please put in any question you need to ask the Board members, and we'll read the questions out, and then we'll give them the opportunities to answer. Patricio and Byron, you're welcome to this session.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Well, if I may say a couple of words, thanks very much for inviting us. You know, our duties on the Board usually tend to keep us away from this room, which still, I try to come whenever it's possible, so it's a pleasure to be here with our colleagues once again.

I must confess, I'm a little more nervous this time than before, because it's always the ccTLD-related Board members who come, right? And that usually involve, until recently, involve Becky, and Becky's, of course, able to answer anything, so we're now Becky-less, so it's a little harder. But still, I've survived crossing the street to come here, so I'm ready for anything.

BIYI OLADIPO

Byron, any initial thoughts?

BYRON HOLLAND

I'm not sure how I can follow that. Plus one. I defer to the senior member of this team right here, but yeah, of course, it is always great to be back at home in this room, compared to all the other rooms that we end up having to be in during the course of this whole week.

So, great to be back, folks, and really looking forward to the conversation, and I think certainly for me, but probably for us, the input and the feedback that we get here is really useful when we sit around the Board table and can share thoughts and insights to the rest of the ICANN Board.

So, all the candor you can, of which I know this room can do that, so I look forward to your questions and just general feedback on issues that we should be thinking about as we participate in the Board.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. Thank you. So, can we have the questions from the Board?

PATRICIO POBLETE

And these, by the way, are the same questions that the board asks to every group, every constituency.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. So, the first one says, the ICANN five-year FY26-30 Strategic plan highlights priorities that support ICANN's vision for 2030. The annual strategy review program is launching at ICANN85. This program provides a structured way to assess whether updates to the FY26-30 Strategic Plan are needed, to reflect changes in the external environment and ICANN's internal capability.

From your perspective, what is the top emerging trend that may impact ICANN that you think the Board should consider? For this, I'll call on Jordan Carter to answer this.

JORDAN CARTER

Thanks, Biyi, and thanks for joining us today, Byron and Patricio. My name is Jordan Carter, I'm with .au, but my hat that I'm wearing in this moment is as vice chair of the ccNSO council.

As the question identifies, there is the strategy review process that's now underway, and a bunch of ccNSO members got together on Sunday afternoon to run through that process with the planning staff. And the group didn't deliberate to a top trend emerging,

there was talk of trends that are not surprises in terms of the rise of AI and its impact on our ecosystem.

There was talk about the impact of concentration in the infrastructure stack. Cloudflare was just one of the examples that were given there, so the tensions and risks around concentration versus diversification of key suppliers, the potential future alternatives to DNS came up a bit as well, and the often-mentioned phrase about quantum and the cryptographic issues that that's giving rise to, those are under the security heading.

AI was talked about very broadly around and beyond ICANN's remit, and since we're all talking about AI all the time, I won't talk about it anymore. A few DNS marketplace issues, none of which will be a surprise to you, again, the concentration point was mentioned, the need to educate a new generation of users about our product and how it is useful for owning your own online presence, I think, was mentioned.

And in terms of the internal trends within ICANN, people are used to operating at a speed in modern life that just isn't matched by the way that ICANN does things. I think there have been a number of discussions around the almost two-year timeframe that was proposed to the very narrowly scoped GNSO PDP as perhaps one live example that's being discussed, and the need to enroll these new generations not just in our product, but also in the ICANN multi-stakeholder processes.

I don't think there are any ones other than that that I wish to draw attention to, so no key trend, but Biyi, if we've got time, it might be worth asking other people in the audience if they do have a killer trend that they want to throw at our friendly ccTLD Board members. So, thank you.

BIYI OLADIPO

All right. Thank you. Do we have anyone in the room who has anything to add to the key trends? Anyone? Yes, Chris.

CHRIS DISSPAIN

Good afternoon, everybody. Chris Disspain, ccNSO Council. Just a comment, I suppose. Jordan deliberately didn't talk about AI or said AI is outside of our remit, and that's quite right. However, I just wanted to add to that by saying that the effects of AI may be very much within our remit, so I think we do need to be cognizant of that as a part of the landscape as opposed to the regulation of AI, which is a different thing entirely. Thanks.

JORDAN CARTER

Can I just sort of -- I didn't actually say that. I said that we talk about it all the time in all sorts of forums, so I said some other things might be outside of scope, but the point is I agree with you on that point, and the example from last meeting where the SSAC talked about the sort of way that AI is helping on both sides of the DNS Abuse challenge was a good example of how that discussion is happening,

so I just didn't feel like it was valuable to throw the examples on the table again now.

BIYI OLADIPO

Right, thank you. Okay, let's go to the next question. So this says, how is your group participating in the Review of Reviews, cross-community group, and what are your thoughts on how the proposals to date are evolving, reviews to be more fit for purpose and sustainable?

In particular, would you share your views on the respective roles of self-assessment as in the Continuous Improvement Program and contemplated assessment of SOs and ACs by the broader community in the context of reviews of reviews? This looks like a double-pronged question, two questions in one. So, on Review of Reviews, I will have Alejandra, and on Continuous Improvement, I would like to hear what Sean has from the GRC point of view. Okay, so let's have Alejandra first.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Biyi. This is Alejandra Reynoso, ccNSO Council, and welcome Byron and Patricio. Well, regarding our participation in the Review of Reviews, we are following closely the evolution. We have our very own Chris in the leading role there. We will have a session after this one with the whole community, so I think we are a little early on the question to let you know what has been discussed or the views on that one.

I personally, I am very keen to see how what I personally feel is one of the key issues will be addressed as in the overload of workload that those reviews will have in the past and why we're having the Review of Reviews.

So, I'm looking forward to see a more efficient way of dealing with accountability and transparency in a manner that doesn't generate too much burden on everyone in the ICANN ecosystem, not just in the community, but on staff, on everyone. So, that's my short answer because we are a little ahead of time before we can discuss it with the ccTLDs.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Personally, I intend to stay for that session, so I'm looking forward to that discussion.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay, thank you. I'm sure you'll be very much welcome to stay for that session. Sean?

SEAN COPELAND

Thank you, Sean Copeland for the record. In terms of the Continuous Improvement Program, obviously we were involved in the SIP with the wider community, and Irina, myself, and Chris were part of that. When the five principles came out, that was referred to the GRC, and in Dublin we ran a World Cafe, funny enough, a

Continuous Improvement Program, and in that we got over 75 recommendations from the community on indicators.

What we have been doing is taking those indicators and synthesizing them into a combination of quality and quantitative results, and the reason that we do this, of course, is it's not only performance, but it's also the perception of the community and seeing that.

While we have not yet finished the work of putting this to Council, we have actually been actively doing processes that have come out of it, and the place that you can see that very effectively is in our review of the work groups that we actually started with the DASC and the type of questions that we are doing and how we are doing them.

And Byron, you'll appreciate that we are actually following a model developed by Statistics Canada, which is, I know, a gold standard on how you actually do this around the world, and what that process actually is a questionnaire where we take the responses and we actually scribe them as opposed to having online forms done and filled out, and the result of that is interesting because it directly or indirectly deals with the first three principles and gives us measurement, and then when we feed that back to the community.

That actually deals with principle number four, and hilariously, I guess to a degree, the fact that we are actually talking about it here with you actually deals with principle number five, which is pretty

interesting, and also on Saturday we were talking with the organization after the SOPC about the different measurements that we are looking at, because we are doing things where we've looked at multi-stakeholder models in different arenas, and we've discovered that the World Bank, for example, has a number of different measurements that actually apply incredibly well within a multi-stakeholder model and fit, and so this goes well beyond KPI.

So, that generally is what we are doing in both theory and application, and I will say this in terms of the SIP program, the support of the Board in it I think is appreciated within this community, I know appreciated by myself, because the amount of work to actually do it behind the scenes is considerable, and it takes not just the community, but also our staff, past and present, to make this work, so that is what I have to say.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay, thank you. Any comments from anyone on any of the two topics? Yes, Irina.

IRINA DANELIA

Thank you, this is Irina for the record, and I'm a member of GRC, and together with Sean, I was representing ccNSO in the Continuous Improvement effort. But I will speak in my personal capacity, because while I fully appreciate the concept of Continuous Improvement.

One of the aims replacing organizational reviews by Continuous Improvement was to make this process less resource-consuming, and at this particular moment I have concern that it's not happening, and that the process itself requires efforts and resources and time, and hopefully my concern will not ever become true, but we'll see.

BIYI OLADIPO

All right, thank you. I'm sure that the issue around, I'll call Byron, I'm sure the issues around Continuous Improvement is something that all of us would always continue to look at and ensure that we keep an eye on. Yes, Byron, your comments.

BYRON HOLLAND

Thanks. I just wanted to say I was really encouraged by what Sean said in terms of kind of a real fact-based approach to thinking about it, or the process of thinking about it, and the ability to then certainly provide us, but the broader community as well, fact-based qualitative and quantitative feedback input into the process I think will be extremely valuable.

So, I just wanted to say I'm very encouraged to hear about the process piece of this and look forward to the substance soon, and duly noted, I think that there is a, that concern is shared, and making sure that we don't end up in that exact position I think is something that we and many people in the community are concerned about paying attention to and definitely want to avoid.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay, thank you. Yes, Jordan.

JORDAN CARTER

I'm Jordan Carter again, .au. Just a personal view on the second part of that question, sort of the respective roles of self-assessment and broader community assessment. I think they're both important because going well, the Continuous Improvement process should be a manageable way for us to reflect on our practice and improvement.

But it's difficult sometimes for that kind of process to reveal blind spots. And so that's the advantage of an external view or a broader view being taken. I think where that's involved consultants in the past, part of the problem is they haven't been given the time and resources to acquire enough context to make meaningful or credible recommendations.

So, we need to make sure whatever process is built by the Review of Reviews for the second of that, the non-Continuous Improvement part, provides a way for high-quality, relevant, credible recommendations to be developed that the community then has a process to work through and take seriously. So, thanks.

BIYI OLADIPO

All right. Thank you. Last comment on this. Chris?

CHRIS DISSPAIN

Thanks, Biyi. Two things, I think. We're going to cover in the review of review session after this part of this in respect to the CIP stuff, but specifically to respond to what Irina said, I think it's important to remember that the current Continuous Improvement process is a pilot, and it is intended that that pilot will be reviewed at some point, and that I think is a guardrail, Irina, against your thing about have we actually built a classic ICANN massively overengineered thing to do something that is really relatively simple.

And on that score, Sean, when it comes to that review of the CIP, of the program itself as opposed to any outputs from it, the experience of the ccNSO is going to be critical because it is the most advanced SO in respect to Continuous Improvement simply because it's been doing it for far longer than anybody else and has already developed a whole heap of techniques. So, our input on how we've managed to deal with the principles and all the other stuff that this process has put in place will be incredibly valuable. Thanks.

BIYI OLADIPO

All right. Thank you. So, we transition into the informal part of this conversation. And can we have the Mentimeter code back on? All right. So, that's the Mentimeter code.

Please take this and ask your questions. I think we have some questions already. Do we have questions already? Yes, okay. So, I would like to remind us that this is an informal discussion, and the Board members who are here are here in their personal capacities,

and they're not representing the Board or the views of the Board. It's their own views.

So, please, we're not holding the Board to anything that they say. We're holding them to whatever they say. It's their views. All right. So, please, let's have that. And I will keep repeating this all through the conversations. Okay. So, do we have questions? Oh, we just got access.

Okay. All right. So, while we are waiting for the questions to -- oh, sorry, there's one question. It says, what is currently keeping the Board awake at night? Okay. So, what is currently -- let me rephrase the question. What is currently keeping Byron and Patricio awake as Board members at night?

PATRICIO POBLETE

Eating too much Indian food at night is not a valid answer, I guess.

BYRON HOLLAND

Am I in the hot seat, or is this whole room just really warm? Okay, I guess I feel better about that. What keeps me awake at night? I mean, obviously, like everybody in this room, I'm an operator, and I'm a Board member. Doing this from the personal perspective, I would say the blend there is DNS resilience-related issues.

The pace of which AI is changing the landscape to be a DNS operator to both experience and then potentially defend abuse. Those are the things that are really keeping me awake at night. And they are, generally speaking, related to DNS resilience. And that's

a pretty broad-brush term, but that would be the space that keeps me awake at night, certainly from a day-to-day job operator perspective. And as a member of the Board, that is one of the things that I think about.

PATRICIO POBLETE

I would say I agree. The part of the Internet that we all operate that's fundamental for the working of everything. So, the fact that there could be events happening that could put that at risk is a danger that we never forget. We plan for that. We try to be prepared. But there's also something called the black swan events, and those are really the ones that keep me awake from time to time.

Now, thinking about the recent events, it also worries me that by coming here or going back home, we might be near areas of the world that are dangerous to be in. I'm hoping that everybody gets back safely at home. And I'm also worrying a bit about the future coming meetings.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. So, we have a question online, yeah?

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Yes. We have a question from David McAuley from Verisign. It says, the community was having a discussion a short while back about how we meet. This seems to have gone quite silent. Now that the Board has selected the dates for meetings through 2033, do you

know if consideration is still underway at the Board level over how we meet?

BYRON HOLLAND

In this particular workshop, it wasn't a big feature of the agenda that we had. I mean, putting out way in advance the meeting dates, no locations yet, or at least only for a few into the future, was part of that, which is giving people long, long lead times. But in the most recent workshop, that wasn't a feature of the workshop. Yeah.

PATRICIO POBLETE

I must say that I'm not exactly sure about the status of that. We, as Patricio said, the dates have been announced, but I'm not exactly sure what the status is of the format of each of these meetings. There was word of shortening some. I really have to bring myself to speak on that matter.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. So, this question says, with Becky off the Board, do you need any extra support from the ccNSO?

PATRICIO POBLETE

With Becky out of the picture, any extra support is welcome. Yeah.

BYRON HOLLAND

A fourth term for Becky, that would be great. Becky is both with us in spirit, and she's still in the ecosystem and the community. I'm

sure we've all seen her this week. I would say that there is no resource quite like Becky. Obviously, it's literally her signature on the contract from when she was with the U.S government for the initiation of ICANN. She has a history and institutional knowledge like nobody else.

She is available to us for conversation and discussion. She's still a resource, but it was also time to take the training wheels off, and Patricio and I are working hard to make sure that we deliver what you all and what we need as a community, even without Becky, but she's available when we need her.

BIYI OLADIPO

Excellent. It's always gladdening to know that people are available when we need them. Byron, after one year with the Board, how did your understanding of challenges ICANN is facing and its priorities change?

BYRON HOLLAND

Maybe I'll interpret that question a little bit too. I mean, what I thought going in versus what I've experienced over the course of just shy of a year now as a Board member.

BIYI OLADIPO

That would be a nice way to actually interpret it.

BYRON HOLLAND

To reframe the question, but I think I'll get to it. And that, you know, the breadth of topics that the Board deals with is really quite remarkable. You know, being in this community, we often have the advantage of being able to really go into depth of topic and issue.

At the Board level, the breadth of them is, even though like intellectually I understood it, when you actually go and experience it and get the Board package and suddenly you have to become semi expert in root zone governance. That has been quite, I would say, actually quite breathtaking in terms of the breadth of topics that the Board has to deal with.

And then the other thing is the machinery itself of pushing through the work of the organization, of which the Board is just a piece of the organization, the constituencies are a piece, work itself are a piece. But, you know, if you think of it, it's a pipe and there's only so much that can go through it based on all of us, the people.

And trying to manage that in a reasonable way while dealing with priorities, trying to figure out what the priorities are, whose priorities are them, are they urgent or are they just important or are they both? All of that balancing seen from the perch of the Board has probably been the thing that, like I said, I understood it intellectually before I went in, but when you actually live with it and you're forced to consider and make those decisions, that's probably the thing that has stood out to me the most.

And, sorry, I'm looking at the screen down there. I mean, I think I've captured it. I mean, in terms of my understanding of the

challenges, it's really around the scope, the breadth and the balancing of priorities because the pipe through which all this work has to go through is limited.

And I would say on the other side, just from an Org perspective, we need to be responsible with the resources of the organization, right? We don't per se want to have 500 or 600 employees just to accelerate the work. We need to keep it efficient, effective and restrained to a certain perspective.

Those two things are in tension, the work and the throughput versus the scale of the Org. And it's trying to find that right balance that is something that has challenged my thinking, definitely.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. Do we have any other questions coming up? What? Okay, please.

PATRICIO POBLETE

He mentioned that we cannot add 500 more employees for getting things moving faster, which, of course, it's true from the point of view of the resources that would meet. But also, some of you may have heard of a book written by Fred Brooks, the manager of the OS 360 project back in the 60s, The Mythical Madman, that his books ended up being called Brooks Law, is that adding more people to a project that's late only makes it be later.

So, there is a point where there are so many people that need to coordinate, that coordinating the people takes all the time and

energy. So, it's not just a matter of adding more people. One of the things I realized when I started working in the committees of the Board is that it's complicated to find the time where everybody in the committee will be available. And you can say for moving ahead this proposed policy, for instance, we should be meeting every day, but we cannot.

At the end, we meet every other week because it's impossible to get everybody that needs to be there having the time slot free. And besides the members of the committee who are Board members, there is a small army of staff that also attend the meeting to be available to provide whatever support we need. So, it's not easy to get things moving fast, as fast as we could. And it's not a matter of a shortage of support staff.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. Thank you, Patricio. I have a question for you, Patricio, and the question is this. You're rounding up because we're not going to meet again as ccTLD-related Board members until the next community forum. So, it's good that I ask the question now. You're rounding up the second term and will be starting the third term in October. What would your priorities be going into the next term?

PATRICIO POBLETE

Well, I can do so many things, and it's hard to prioritize because at the end, all those things need to be done because the community expects those things to happen. So, I've seen a lot of effort going

into prioritizing algorithms that at the end don't make that much of a difference.

We need to be efficient and to do all our homework, because otherwise there will be community initiatives that will just remain there, forgotten until somebody says, oh, this is too bad. This has been sitting there for a year or two, and nothing happens. And they have every right to complain because it's a fact. Nothing has happened for that particular issue. So, we have to get everything moving.

I would like somehow to contribute as far as I can to being more efficient, being more responsive, getting things moving faster. I still haven't really found a way. Former Board members like Chris probably all did what they could, but still, we are how we are.

I'm old enough to remember when ICANN was being proposed as a vehicle to develop the necessary policies much faster than what governments could do, for instance, by legislating. And sometimes it's turned out to be the other way in particular cases, because ICANN process is too slow, some governments feel the need to legislate. And that's exactly the opposite of what we were looking for when we started ICANN.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. So, talking about community initiatives and priorities and the speed of getting things done, PDP4, what's the status? That's for me.

PATRICIO POBLETE

We have at the end of February the meeting number 15 of the caucus. We meet every other week when we can, sometimes for some reason or other we have to skip one. But the good news is that we're finally done reading and analyzing all of the proposed policy.

And now we're ready to start preparing the report that we'll present to the full Board for the recommendations about adopting this particular policy. That's the current status. Okay. It is a very complicated policy. The fact that there are now variants which bring their own set of complicated issues and they're basically untried yet. So, we have to consider a lot of hypothetical cases, which may never happen or happen very, very seldom. But still, even those corner cases have to be somehow dealt with. So, that's one reason that hasn't moved fast.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. This one says, have there been any occurrence in the recent past when exchanges between ccNSO members and the Board member they elect have been used in bad faith to forge false Board official positions?

PATRICIO POBLETE

False. My short answer is no.

BYRON HOLLAND

Not that I've seen.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Okay.

BIYI OLADIPO

So, should the Board take part in the CIP using the five principles and so on? Maybe you guys will need to phone a friend.

BYRON HOLLAND

I mean, in the CIP specifically, I guess, as opposed to the broader reviews, I mean, my sense is yes. And I think you can, and the people who are participating in the Review of Reviews can see that we actually have a couple of Board members who are participating in that process, just as everybody else, roughly. Oh, I can see Chris reaching for the mic.

CHRIS DISSPAIN

I just wanted to clarify my question because it's my question. What I mean is, should you run your own CIP on the Board using the five principles that the rest of the community is using for its CIP? And I apologize for the question not being clear. Xavier says English is not my first language.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Sounds like a good idea.

BYRON HOLLAND

I think it would definitely be worth the effort. Absolutely. Then the challenges in all of those agendas that we just talked about, where do you put it? But obviously, this is a very high runner, higher importance. So, I would say yes.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. Are there any other hot topics related to ccNSO or ccTLDs that the Board has been discussing over the past year, aside from the Review of Reviews and DNS Abuse? Yeah, in the past year.

BYRON HOLLAND

Not, again, having been a Board member since the meeting after Seattle, really, no, not specific to ccTLDs. I mean, there is, of course, finance and the operational side. What do you think?

PATRICIO POBLETE

Yeah, of course, the finance and the operational side is one thing. And the ccNSO, by the way, is, I think, unique among the groups that provides very detailed and thorough input to that process. So, that's taken into account. But I can't recall of any issues discussed at the Board level because the review mechanism was before that, but not in the past year, right? That was something that the Board had to discuss when it adopted it. And just as it will have to discuss PDP4 when it comes to the Board, but not in the past year.

BYRON HOLLAND

The one thing, I mean, that was part of the conversation, many will recall last year when there were some changes to the finances of the organization. And essentially, the finance group had to alter the budget projections and then how that happened and was communicated.

This community actually had some strong feelings about that and made some pretty robust suggestions about how to improve. And then there was a framework of communication. I may be incorrect in the term, but I think it was the framework of communication about how ICANN would communicate updated financial reporting or statement of position.

And I think that was actually, you know, that's actually a pretty important thing that this community just did in the past year that was responded to and changed by ICANN Org. And I would argue certainly for the better. So, that's probably one thing that would fit into that bucket.

PATRICIO POBLETE

One thing that I think did happen during the past year was finalizing the revised scheme for contributions that was submitted to the org. But as far as I remember, it was not discussed at the Board level.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay, I think I should at this point remind us that this is an informal conversation. And the points and the views expressed are those of the Board members and not of the entire Board. Okay, there was a

question. So, there was a conversation around How We Meet. So, now there's a question on Where We Meet. All right. So, are there thoughts of having soon an ICANN meeting in LAC and Africa? Cancun was three years ago and Kigali was almost two years.

BYRON HOLLAND

Well, my personal opinion is we absolutely should.

BIYI OLADIPO

There should be. Okay. And where would it be? LAC, Africa?

BYRON HOLLAND

We volunteer. Patricio?

BIYI OLADIPO

Sorry? Microphone. Nigel, microphone. So, Nigel is advocating that we go back to Chile. That was one of his favorite meetings.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Yeah, the ICANN meeting in 1999 was where we had the pleasure of first meeting Nigel Roberts.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. So, there is a serious gender imbalance on the Board. What is the plan to change this? How do you bring the diversity of women's experience and views now versus into key decision now?

PATRICIO POBLETE

Replacing Leon by Justine Chew.

BYRON HOLLAND

I mean, that is part of what the NomCom is in part there to do, which is to balance overall the dynamics of the Board across multi-spectrum diversity perspective, of which obviously gender is one. But that is part of what they do. And, of course, they're taking other factors into consideration as well. The one thing I can say as a new Board member is certainly the women that I interact with or that we interact with on the Board are strong and powerful voices on the Board.

So, yes, there is a numerical element to it, but it's also the quality and the competence of the folks on the Board. And I can certainly say that the women that I interact with on the Board have all of that plus some.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. I'm sure we would always, always use the idea or the opportunity of having more women on the Board. Okay. This question says, is the committee or caucus structure at the Board working well or are there tough issues that are unhelpful? Personal opinions.

PATRICIO POBLETE

I don't see that as anything generating problems. One could always question whether some committee or others should have a different charter or set of responsibilities. But otherwise, I believe perhaps since I've been there for almost six years, I've gotten used to it. That's the way it is. And the caucuses are dynamic. They are created whenever there is a need for one. So, if the caucuses that we have didn't match the need, it would be easy to fix. So, I don't have a feeling at all that there should be some fundamental change in that.

BIYI OLADIPO

Any views?

BYRON HOLLAND

I think the caucus structure in particular is useful because it's issue-based. And as a result, tends to be, from what I've seen, time-boxed. So, it's not like a standing committee that goes on indefinitely. And I think that that is very useful because it can deal with just one issue in a very specific period of time and then feed that into the Board. So, my observation of it is it seems to work reasonably, fit for purpose.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay, thank you. Any more questions? If there were only one topic you as Board members think the CC community should be more involved or aware of, what would it be? Brilliant question.

BYRON HOLLAND

I mean, from my personal perspective, until the session just before this, I would have said DNS resilience, DNS Abuse from like an operator's perspective. I was very encouraged to see what happened in the session just before this one. So, that would still probably be the one that I think about.

And I think Nick made some good comments around the question of why are we involved at all in a GNSO policy process. And I think Nick articulated it very, very well. And I am encouraged to see this community think about these issues. And also try to not just think about the issues and act on them, but then also think about the downstream to the registrars that we both have, both the G and the CC community.

And if we can find a way to be more efficient, more effective, and therefore help reduce DNS Abuse across the ecosystem through our shared registrars, I mean, I think that's a win for the community. And also, politically for us in our countries, when you listen to what happens in the GAC, if we can be good contributors to that process, I think that also just helps us in general across the government landscape.

PATRICIO POBLETE

I'm a firm believer that our community has the capacity of contributing to ICANN in a very significant way by the diversity that we have. The gTLDs are all ruled by the same contracts and rules.

So, it's like a species that has very little genetic diversity. While here, each ccTLD has the freedom to do things the way they think are in the best interest of their community, that are technically in the most efficient and resilient way.

And if we could continue bringing all this diversity, this genetic diversity of ideas and practices, and putting that at the service of the whole of the ICANN community, I think that's a great contribution. We're already doing that. Some things like TLD-Ops is something that was brought out of this community. And going much further back, the Tech Day was also an initiative from this community, which now provides useful, valuable input to all of the ICANN community. I think we can continue doing more and more of that.

BIYI OLADIPO

All right. Thank you. So, no more questions on the Mentimeter. I'll just give an opportunity if there's anyone in the room. We still have a few more minutes, so if there's anyone in the room who would like to ask our Board members any questions. Not listed. Okay. Seeing none, I would turn to Byron and Patricio. Last words. Or final words from this session.

BYRON HOLLAND

My very final words? I just want to pick up on something that Patricio said. I think this community is incredibly diverse. We share common issues, but we do things differently in many ways. And

there's a real opportunity to share some of that into ICANN in different ways and places.

And DNS Abuse clearly is an important one that we could do that. So, from my perspective, the more kind of informal conversations we can have, like this one we're having right now, but also even just as individuals, hallway conversations, that type of thing, where we as a community, you as a community members, can share with me and with us feedback and input and ways of doing things, that can be incredibly helpful when I'm in the Board and we're talking about the issues of ICANN.

So, this rich and diverse community, please feel free to provide your input directly and very much in these sessions as well.

PATRICIO POBLETE

When I joined the Board, I had some very big shoes to fill. Those are of Chris Disspain. I tried my best to live up to that standard. I'm not sure I've always been successful, but I'm happy that you are continuing giving me your trust to be on the Board for another period that will begin soon.

So, that's the trust that you have in me is something that really motivates me to try to do my best all the time. Thanks for this opportunity to be together. And whenever I cannot be in this room, be sure that I regret not being here. And whenever I can, you'll see me sitting somewhere in this meeting room. Thanks.

BIYI OLADIPO

Thank you so much, Byron and Patricio for coming and for your honest and open answers and the conversation. And thank you everyone for attending. This meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]