
ICANN86 | Prep Week – Geopolitical, Legislative, and Regulatory Developments Update
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ALEXEY TREPYKHALIN

Hello and welcome to ICANN's IGO updates. My name is Alexey Trepykhalin and I am a remote 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 Community 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 out loud during this session, as time permits and when directed by the chair of the session. Interpretation for this session will include English, Spanish, and French. All are welcome to use the chat.

Please note that private chats are only possible among panelists in the Zoom webinar format. Any message sent by a panelist or a standard attendee to another standard attendee will also be seen by the session hosts, co-hosts, and other panelists. I will now hand the floor over to Janis Karklins, Head of Government Engagement at ICANN.

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JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah, thank you very much, Alexey. I will start by briefly introducing the government and IGO engagement team for those who do not know it yet. It is a team of 11 dedicated professionals distributed on three continents, Asia, Europe, and North America. What we do? The GE team supports ICANN's mission by working with governments and international organizations to strengthen understanding of ICANN's technical role, building informed participation in its processes, and ensure that public policy discussions are rooted in a clear understanding of how the Internet Unique Identifier System operates.

How we do? By serving as a bridge between ICANN and the government, we aim to be a trusted source of information in order to consolidate support among governments for ICANN's mandate and the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance. We also translate and explain policies of different governments to the ICANN community and seek feedback from them.

Let me briefly introduce the agenda of today's webinar. We will start our conversation with the topic of Internet Governance Forum and we'll hear from the chair of the IGF Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group, Ms. Jennifer Chung, her

reflections about the preparations that will lead us to the IGF 2026 meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in the middle of December.

The GE team member, Rebecca McGilley will talk about ICANN's preparations for the upcoming IGF. After that, we will move to the preparations of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference that will take place in November this year. The presentation will be done by the GE team member, Elizabeth Oluoch.

After that, we will move to updates on the UN Commission Science and Technology for Development 29th Session and UNESCO. The UNESCO party will be presented by GE team member, Elena Plexida. And before taking questions and comments from the audience, GE member, Alexey Trepikhlin will briefly inform about the session that ICANN organized together with Albania and Kenya missions in the United Nations in New York for the diplomats covering UN.

With this introduction, I would like now to turn to the first speaker, newly appointed IGF MAG Chair, Jennifer Chung, but before giving Jennifer the floor, brief introduction. Jennifer Chung is a Vice President of Policy at .Asia Organization. Ms. Chung was serving as a co-convener of Informal Multi-Stakeholder Sounding Board for the WSIS+20 Review. She's appointed to serve on the IGF MAG in 2025 after serving period of 2018 to 2020 and the 2022 expert working group that

developed recommendations for strengthening the IGF. In other words, Jennifer is the right person for the job. With these words, Jennifer, over to you.

JENNIFER CHUNG

Thank you very much, Janis, for the very kind words and the warm welcome. Hi, everyone. My name is Jennifer Chung, your newly appointed MAG Chair for 2026. I think it's actually quite fitting that the first time I speak in this role is to the ICANN community because it's very much a part of my home community and where I learned a lot of things, especially to do with Internet governance and how we make policy bottom up, multi-stakeholder way. So, let me share just a few thoughts about the preparation.

I know that I've heard from many in the community that, oh, it's already May, what are we going to do? So, I'm very, very happy that we finally have the official go-ahead to start the preparations for 2026 IGF that will be in Nairobi. It is actually wonderful to have this very first IGF in its permanent mandate in Nairobi, Kenya, because, you know, particularly coming out of such a strong leadership from the co-facilitators of the WSIS+20 Review process from Albania and of course Kenya so it is wonderful to see it being hosted in the African continent.

What is really crucial for us to do in these now six months is really to chart a good course for IGF to develop into all the

areas that it has been mentioned and enshrined in the WSIS+20 outcomes. And these include closer ties to the WSIS architecture and the UN institutions, a strong cohesion in all of the IGF outputs, including the wonderful, diverse, varied, intersessional work that the community has built bottom-up, brick by brick. And of course, this whole thing doesn't really get anywhere unless we have very targeted landing spots for this output that ties us closer to the WSIS architecture, closer to what it means for IGF to have this permanent mandate.

Particularly important this year is the government dialogue, which we will need to get right, because it is important to bring all the stakeholders together in the IGF to have this fulsome discussion in a multi-stakeholder way. And of course, increasing the participation from Global South. So, it is wonderful, again, to have it hosted, will be hosted in Kenya.

So, by now, I'm sure you've all seen the 2026 MAG is announced. Of course, there is very strong representation in this 2026 MAG, and I have every confidence that we will also be able to pull this off in the six months that we have left for us this year. I was fortunate enough to be part of the 2025 MAG last year when we had to pull off the meeting in the same period of time. So, again, learning from past MAGs, learning from past MAG chairs as well. Janis is one of our very first past

MAG chairs so learning from all of this and building on the very good foundations we have.

I know that we are all asking about more details on what this timeline will look like. The IGF Secretariat is very diligently updating all of these details and the MAG will be meeting next week. So, the very first meeting virtual call for the 2026 MAG will be next week and hopefully all of this information will be made public to the community for your own preparations.

I know that here in ICANN, the community is very supportive of the IGF and also participates very much. So, again, relying on our good participation and engagements for us to collectively be able to bring a very good 2026 IGF in its new permanent mandate to Nairobi in Kenya end of this year.

I know also that there are other questions that people have, especially with, you know, focus and I think right now before we meet officially as the MAG, I think two things that are very clear we need to be mindful of. The focus to be able to prepare for the meeting, the annual meeting and the second part, which is also very important, is to make visible and impactful changes, especially when it comes to IGF and its new permanent mandate. I think these are the things that the community looks forward to and of course, devil's in the details so I look forward to hearing all these suggestions when the

MAG officially meets. I look forward to the entire community giving us these suggestions and feedback when you see it.

And I, of course, am at your disposal because at the end of the day I serve as your chair and I listen to all of the inputs. I know there will be questions perhaps directed, but at the end, so I'm happy to take those questions if they are directed on this particular point. So, back to you, Janis, and thank you very much for the opportunity to be able to speak during this webinar.

JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah, thank you, Jennifer. And now I invite Becky to cover the next presentation.

BECKY MCGILLEY

Thank you, and thank you, Jen, for sharing your vision with us. I'm very excited to have you as a MAG chair representing the technical community. So, hi, yes, I'm Becky McGilley and I've been leading the ICANN preparations for the IGF for the past five years, coordinating across multiple functions, ICANN community, and our internet organization partners.

And as we look ahead to IGF-26 in Nairobi, our approach remains anchored in our commitment to the multi-stakeholder

model and focused on sustained support and meaningful participation and strategic impact.

So first, for our ICANN engagement, our presence at the IGF reflects leadership of the executive team and ICANN board members, as well as ICANN experts. This year, we continue our tradition of CEO representation. Curtis will be leading our delegation again. And in addition to participating in sessions, the week will also include bilateral meetings with government officials, intergovernmental organizations, and key stakeholders.

And these conversations are critical. They ensure that ICANN remains responsive to evolving policy discussions while promoting the multi-stakeholder model in practice. Oh, and we are also thrilled to have our very own Angela Wibawa, our Director for Government and IGO Engagement representing ICANN on the MAG, joining Jen there.

For programmatic contributions, ICANN intends to remain an active contributor to the IGF agenda. We plan to propose an open forum, which serves as a key platform to engage directly with the community. In addition, we are aiming to organize at least one other session, potentially in collaboration with partners such as the African Telecom Union, Internet Society, UNESCO, or other government stakeholders to bring diverse perspectives into dialogue on issues within ICANN's remit.

As for our strategic direction, ICANN will continue advancing priorities outlined in our IGF We Want paper that was shared during the WSIS+20 Outreach Network mailing list and also published in our contribution to the WSIS+20 zero draft, so we can share that in the chat. And this includes supporting all of the efforts and opportunities for the now permanent IGF while ensuring it remains grounded in the multi-stakeholder model, is open, transparent, and globally representative.

And so, we are looking forward to engaging with all of you and sharing ideas for IGF26. We recently launched what we're calling the IG Network to bring together members of the global internet community to share information, share resources and perspectives on developments relating to ICANN's remit. So, if you visit our webpage, which we'll link to in the chat, you can subscribe to the IGF 2026 mailing list. So, please do subscribe and come share your ideas, join the dialogue. And now, thank you, I will hand it off to my colleague Elizabeth to share about the ITU, which we also have a mailing list for as well. Thanks.

ELIZABETH OLUOCH

Thank you so much, Becky. Hello, everyone. I'm going to share some updates on ICANN Org's preparations for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026. I will interchangeably refer to this as Plenipot or PP-26. It is a priority for ICANN. We have a cross-organization team working together on the

preparations. Our work began in January. I know we have community members that are familiar with the Plenipotentiary, but we may also have some members that are unfamiliar with the conference. So, I will spend a couple of minutes to provide some background and then focus our updates on our engagement and on the key issues that are relevant to ICANN.

The Plenipotentiary is the highest decision-making body of the ITU. It's held once every four years and has a treaty outcome, the Final Acts, which is signed by accredited governments at the conclusion of the conference. It is currently scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar from November 9th through the 27th.

At the ITU Council meeting earlier this month, where ICANN attended as an observer, they discussed the location, considering the situation in the region, and deferred a decision on the location for a special council session in July. It could be Doha or an alternative. We have to wait and see. The Plenipotentiary sets the ITU's strategic and financial direction for the next four years, so 2027 to 2030. They will conduct leadership elections for positions such as the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Directors for the three bureaus of the ITU, as well as adopt resolutions that determine the future of global ICT policy.

Decisions are often achieved through consensus, which is preferred, although ITU member states do have voting prerogative. Negotiations on Plenipot resolutions often take most of the time and they can influence the development of digital and ICT policy or strategies at the national level, or they can be used to build new work in the ITU standardization sector. Our focus is on the internet-related resolutions.

So, who gets to participate? Well, 194 member states. They will send delegations that will consist of high-level representatives mainly from telecommunication regulatory authorities and the Ministry of the Telecom ICTs. Sector members such as ICANN can also participate, but as observers, as well as regional organizations and international organizations.

To understand why PP-26 matters, we have to consider the post-WSIS+20 landscape following the UN General Assembly's WSIS+20 Review, which resulted in positive outcomes for the technical community. The multi-stakeholder model was reaffirmed and the Internet Governance Forum was given a permanent mandate. Now, PP-26 will be a test case. It's the first major intergovernmental meeting in the ITU since the WSIS+20 Review. And it's where governments will consider whether to integrate some of those global commitments and actions. Next slide, please.

So why is ICANN engaging in PP-26? While Plenipotentiary discussions touch on internet governance and internet resources, which potentially can impact ICANN's mission, we have a clear mandate in our strategic plan to promote ICANN's multi-stakeholder model of internet governance. So, at Plenipot, we plan to promote and sustain the single globally interoperable internet. This means looking at the internet-related resolutions with this lens. For example, do they support the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance? Are the references to the role of the technical community, particularly on internet resources, maintained?

We want to cultivate and deepen partnerships with stakeholders at PP-26. The internet is a shared responsibility and we need to collaborate with all stakeholders. For example, in our preparations, we'll share and exchange our priorities and issues important to ICANN among all stakeholders, including governments. And as Becky mentioned, we recently launched an IG discussion mailing list which includes one on PP-26 preparations. And we welcome everyone interested in internet governance and in this process to join and share and exchange information.

ICANN is a technical organization. We want to broaden awareness about ICANN's technical mission and various initiatives. There are Plenipot resolutions dealing with domain

names and IDNs. ICANN and the ICANN community brings tremendous expertise and value to the discussion. We are collaborating with partners in the internet ecosystem and other stakeholders, for example, the Internet Society and the Regional Internet Registries. Since the conference will discuss internet governance and technical topics, ICANN is positioned to be a trusted and independent information resource to all interested stakeholders on the technical aspects of the DNS and the internet. Next slide, please.

Plenipotentiaries are most often a continuation of discussions that have taken place during the intervening period between plenipotentiaries as the supreme decision-making body. Topics unresolved are often brought here for a decision or a path forward. Some of these topics on this list are outside of ICANN's remit, but we wanted to mention them as they're likely to be discussed. I won't go through all of them in essence of time. There is a blog that was published, and I'll share the link later, which outlines some of these hot topics, but I just want to briefly touch on the internet-related topics, which has always been a hot topic at plenipotentiaries.

These resolutions deal with the ITU's role in internet governance. This is where ICANN's focus will be. We are seeking outcomes on these resolutions that support the MSM of IG, which is key to maintaining the global interoperable

internet. On the table will be the future of the Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues, or the Council Working Group Internet. Its membership is limited to member states and the Council Working Group holds consultations with stakeholders.

The Council Working Group has a scoped mandate that excludes any discussions on the technical involvement in the day-to-day operations of the Internet and focuses on issues where governments have a public policy interest. Its goal is to identify and analyze issues and foster global collaboration where members can share best practices.

At PP-26, there will be discussions on whether to renew the Council Working Group Internet, whether to expand its terms of reference to allow the Council Working Group to broaden the scope of topics for discussion, and whether it can render decisions. We have seen suggestions recently to discuss technical and operational aspects of the Internet as well as on internet standards and develop recommendations. Such a shift away from the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance could impact the health of the internet. There will also be discussions on whether to maintain its current membership or open it up fully to all stakeholders.

Now with respect to the ITRs, just some quick context, it's a binding treaty instrument signed by member states, and it sets

the rules for global telecommunications, ensuring they run smoothly. Now, the ITRs were developed during an era of telecom communications, and in 2012, there were proposals to expand the ITRs to include internet-related provisions at the ITU World Conference on International Telecommunications, or WCIT.

Number states were divided on the issue, resulting in a split outcome and two versions of the treaty, the 1988 ITRs and the 2012 ITRs. Some members see no problems with having two versions of the ITRs, while others view that as important to have a single set of ITRs, and that having two versions of the ITRs is not positive for the ITU. So, at Plenipot, we may see proposals to reconvene another WCIT, and possibly in 2028. Only the Plenipot can convene a WCIT. Convening another WCIT to open up and revise the ITRs could present risks similar to 2012 where proposals on internet provisions could be introduced. Next slide please.

So, preparations for Plenipot begin well in advance at the regional level. There are six ITU regional telecommunication organization groups that have major ITU conference preparations. At these regional meetings, member states will define their priorities for the conference and develop common regional proposals. It is often more strategically advantageous

to have a common regional position than an individual country position.

Each of these groups are in various stages of preparations. Some have several draft common proposals and are gathering the required number of member states' support to become common regional proposals. We shall share updates later in the year.

ICANN has affiliate or associate memberships in the Asia-Pacific and Americas regional groups. We are observers in the Africa and European groups. My colleagues from GE, Angela Wibawa, Elena Plexida, and from GSC, Rodrigo De La Parra and Yaovi Atohoun are attending the regional prep meetings and we are engaging in these preparations and are available to share information on issues that are relevant to our mission, for example, on the Plenipot Resolution dealing with IDMs. Next slide, please.

So, I won't go through all of these resolutions, but this is just to give you a sense of the core set of Internet resolutions that we are focused on. They deal with Internet governance. They deal with IP based networks. They deal with critical Internet resources. In Resolution 133 on the role of administrations of member states in the management of internationalized multilingual domain names, we have seen tremendous progress in terms of updating these resolutions to focus on UA

readiness. We had some great success at the development conference in Azerbaijan last year, where the focus is on UA readiness and, you know, we hope for that to be replicated at Plenipot. And I will hand this over now to Janis.

JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah, thank you. Thank you very much, Elizabeth. So, I will be speaking about the 29th session of Commission Science and Technology for Development. So, the session took place in Geneva from 20 to 24 of April. As you know, the Commission for Science and Technology for Development has been tasked by the WSIS Tunis phase decision to ensure the follow-up and the implementation of the WSIS decisions.

The Commission meets annually and reports to the UN ECOSOC. This year, CSTD was addressing three main issues, science, technology, and innovation at the time of artificial intelligence. Preparations for the UN Global Dialogue on AI that is scheduled to take place in Geneva 6th and 7th July in conjunction with the ITU AI Summit for Good and WSIS Forum. This segment was devoted to the discussion of the report of the Secretary General as well as consultations on the joint WSIS and Global Digital Compact Implementation Roadmap that was prepared by UNGIS, UN Group on Information Society, upon request by the UNGA December WSIS+20 outcome document.

And finally, the Commission discussed the report of its working group on data governance. At the end of the week of the work, the Commission adopted two resolutions, and one of them was on WSIS implementation. Next slide, please.

It is worth mentioning the following points from this consensual decision. First, recognition that Internet must be open, global, interoperable, stable, and secure. That international cooperation among all stakeholders should prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet. The recognition that Internet governance must remain global and multi-stakeholder in nature. Internet governance should follow provisions set forth by WSIS Geneva and Tunis decisions, including in relation to enhanced cooperation.

The acknowledged permanency of IGF, recognized the need to increase participation in the IGF of governments and other stakeholders from developing countries, requested IGF the annual report on progress towards this implementation to be presented to Commission Science and Technology for Development and decided to adopt the resolution every two years. So, the next session of CSTD will take place in April of 2027. So, this concludes my update on CSTD and I invite Elena to present the next topic.

ELENA PLEXIDA

Thank you so much, Janis. Hello, everyone. I will talk to you about our collaboration with UNESCO. ICANN and UNESCO collaborate closely to promote a multilingual internet. Specifically, our collaboration focuses on internationalized domain names and Universal Acceptance, which are both about making the internet work for everyone, not just English speakers or Latin-based alphabet users. Something that might not look that significant right now, but if we imagine two or three generations down the line where we don't have paper anymore and everything is digital, it becomes crucial to preserve identities and tradition and everything online.

As we all know, even though IDNs, Internationalized Domain Names, exist, not all, actually very few, websites, apps, or systems handle them correctly and Universal Acceptance aims to fix that. ICANN and UNESCO have a longstanding cooperation on that front under the existing Memorandum of Understanding that the two organizations signed in 2009 and then updated in 2025. I'll give you the highlights to date of this cooperation in brief.

As part of our long-standing cooperation, UNESCO joins ICANN and partners worldwide in celebrating more than 30 Universal Acceptance Day events this year, 2026. These are taking place between 25 March and 30 May across different regions. The

events aim to raise awareness and strengthen capacity for Universal Acceptance adoption in technical systems.

Another key moment and the one that I want to bring to your attention wheeling of our joint efforts with UNESCO is the development of a policy brief on Universal Acceptance. Universal Acceptance is not merely a technical issue. It requires coordinated action across stakeholders. So, this policy brief that I refer to is a step forward. It doesn't just raise awareness, but it outlines recommendations for governments, technical communities, academia, and the private sector. These include developing national strategies that integrate Universal Acceptance into digital inclusion and multilingualism efforts. They also call for stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration through platforms for dialogue, coordination, and joint initiatives.

The policy brief was presented at the last ICANN meeting in India, you might recall that there were some sessions around that, where there was also a consultation on it with the GAC. It has now been finalized. Together with UNESCO we had an inaugural launch just this Tuesday at the EuroDIG online pre-event. I am going to post a recording in the chat, as well as the link to the policy brief. Please take a look if you'd like to learn more about those recommendations.

We're organizing a similar session about the policy brief at the WSIS Forum in July, and we're of course exploring additional venues to release the publication in the other four regions. Thank you so much for your attention, and with that, I will hand over to my colleague, Alexey.

ALEXEY TREPYKHALIN

Thank you, Elena. Hello, everyone again. Alexey Trepikhlin in my GE Senior Manager capacity for the record. On 18 May, ICANN in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Albania and Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations, conducted a briefing for the UN diplomats and UN organizations on the topic of the role of governments in the launch of the new generic top-level domain names. The briefing continues a long line of briefings for the UN diplomats at the UN, but a first one in this calendar year.

The main purpose of this exercise was to familiarize the representatives of the UN permanent missions with the new gTLD applicant guidebook and the role of the GAC in this process. The audience was unusually engaged in the discussion on such a technical issue for the UN and asked ICANN senior vice president, Therese Swinehart many questions. We also received positive feedback from the audience in an anonymous survey that we distributed during the session. This is the, I

think, end of our presentation and I turn over to Janis to steer us on questions and discussions. Janis, the floor is yours.

JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah, thank you very much, Alexey. So, we do not have any questions for the moment in the Q&A box, which means that I will look whether there is anyone from participants who would like to raise the hand and ask the question. So, it seems that presentations we're clear. No, there are a few. Let me take in turn. So, first I will invite Raul Echeberria to take the floor. Raul, please.

RAUL ECHEBERRIA

Thank you, Janis. There's a question for Elizabeth with regard to the Plenipot. I don't know if you can elaborate a little more about the two sets of IPRs that you talked about. I think that probably is something difficult to understand for many of us.

ELIZABETH OLUOCH

Absolutely. Hello, Raul. It's good to see you. So, we are raising the ITRs. It is a treaty amongst member states, but it's also very important to bring it to the fore, primarily because there are a lot of people that are not familiar with the ITRs and what the implications are for the internet.

So, with the 1988 ITRs, if you think back, I don't want to say it, but if you're of my generation, when we used a lot of the old telephone system, telephony, making phone calls, the ITRs really set the rules, accounting rules, for international telephone calls. But they also ensured that the networks were interoperable, that they could communicate, so seamless communications. So, the ITRs have played a very important role in global communications, global connectivity, and interoperability.

Now in comes the internet and there are some in the ITU member states that believe that the ITRs should encompass the internet. What is the role of governments in managing critical internet resources? If you think about ICANN's mission and mandate, these were some of the discussions that came up in 2012 when it was reconvened.

There were provisions dealing with combating spam, dealing with internet critical resources, IP addressing, and there really wasn't consensus around whether to fold in a treaty. A treaty on the internet as a decentralized system can be very problematic in a very top-down approach. We are advocating for a multi-stakeholder approach that involves all relevant stakeholder groups, there was no consensus to include these provisions.

Over the past, since the last two plenipotentiaries, so over three cycles, there have been some expert working groups that were convened by Plenipot to examine and review the ITRs, to consider their relevance in terms of current telecommunication trends and their applicability. They have been three expert group ITRs and there has not been consensus. Some member states believe that the ITRs, one set of ITRs applies you don't need a new set. You don't need to go beyond the 1988. So, this is where the divisions are. They have not been able to agree.

But in the last expert group ITRs, which just concluded this year, so this was from 2023 to 2026, there were proposals to think about, how can the ITRs address the digital divide? How can the ITRs provide some sort of regulatory oversight over satellite communications? How should AI be folded in there?

Granted, these are not issues that touch on ICANN's remit, but opening up the ITRs, it is a treaty amongst member states, and so it is conceivable that they could be proposals on Internet provisions. I hope that answers your question, Raul.

JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah. Thank you, Elizabeth, for this explanation. Next is Maciek Piasecki, ICANN Fellow. Maciek, please ask your question.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Hello, Maciek Piasecki here, also with EURALO. So, At-Large will be conducting a lot of outreach, engagement, activities related to training users on DNS abuse phishing, in particular. The campaign is now starting. We've got 40 amazing leads from all over the world and we will be training the trainers on this topic.

So, I was wondering if you see any opportunities to combine this ALAC effort with the initiatives that you have mentioned here, because I am planning to approach conferences and possibly regional IGFs here in Europe, but having the support of the wider community would be something wonderful here. Thank you.

JANIS KARKLINS

So, thank you very much, Maciek, for the information. So, I think we have one question in the Q&A box.

BECKY MCGILLEY

Yes, Janis. So, from Anne Aikman-Scalese, how will the outcomes of the Nairobi meeting influence the work of the UN on WSIS+20 going forward? And I think, Janis, if you'd like to answer that, and then maybe we'll have Jen chime in after.

JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah, I will try. So, the IGF, when it was created 20 years ago, was sort of meant to be a discussion forum where everyone would come to lay out their issues, discuss them, and go back home, make more informed decisions. So, over a period of time, the topics that are addressed in IGF have evolved and then they become much more complex than they were at the beginning.

So, how the outcomes of IGF will influence work forward, so mere fact that the WSIS+20 Review Conference decided that IGF should become a permanent forum at the UN suggests that the first permanent forum should be successful in terms of richness of conversation and topics addressed. So, what topics will be addressed in Nairobi remains to be seen. That is the task of the multi-stakeholder advisory group to discuss based on proposals coming from the community and setting up the program.

So, as you also heard, CSTD asked the report from IGF on its work that will be discussed in the 2027 session. So, all that is leading that we need to be actively engaged and make sure that IGF session is very, very productive this year, even though we have only six months to prepare it.

BECKY MCGILLEY Thank you, Janis. Jen, would you like to add anything from your perspective?

JENNIFER CHUNG Thank you, Becky, and thank you, Janis. I'm just checking that my current audio is okay.

JANIS KARKLINS It is.

JENNIFER CHUNG Thank you. Absolutely. I agree with what Janis has responded to this particular question. It is an important question. Just a small, I guess, tie-in to the WSIS outcome, specifically in paragraph 100, we are requested to, of course, report all of the annual and sessional outcomes to relevant entities and processes to make sure that these outcomes are taken into account in the UN system and with this related work and proceeding.

So, kind of just tying back to what I mentioned earlier on in the beginning of the webinar, how do we make sure that these good outcomes through the entire process lands in a place where there is impact? Because at the end of the day, of course, IGF is a multi-stakeholder policy shaping forum where we discuss all of these matters, but what comes out of it, where

it lands, where policy decisions are being made, that is always, you know, the million-dollar question. And I hope we're able to manage this in a really good way, starting from this year in the permanent mandate. Thank you.

JANIS KARKLINS

Okay. Thank you, Jennifer, for your comment. So, we have two more questions in the Q&A box. One question comes from Murray McKercher. I believe that regulations of global satellite systems would be relevant to ICANN's remit as it relates to internet connectivity for underserved communities. Does the panel have any comments? Who will take that? Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH OLUOCH

Yes, thanks, Janis. Thank you very much, Murray, for your question. You know, ICANN's vision really is, they want everybody to be on the Internet, to use the Internet and I think it's always good to promote and encourage more people to come online. The issues of global satellite systems are a bit complicated. They're not really issues for ICANN. Some of the issues are around regulating the space that they operate, but also internet services, satellite connectivity services. And so, these are issues between the providers and between governments.

So, this is not really within ICANN's remit, but certainly, you know, we think it's always a positive thing for people to have access to the Internet and it's something that we promote. I hope that responds to your question.

JANIS KARKLINS

Yeah. Thank you, Elizabeth, for your comments and answer. So, there is actually another question in the Q&A box, which is, has the call for sessions for IGF Nairobi been issued? And Jennifer just answered the question in writing, but maybe Jennifer, for the sake of others, you could also tell what's in making.

JENNIFER CHUNG

Yes, of course. Thank you, Janis, and thank you for the question. I know this is something that the community would like to know as soon as possible. So, as mentioned, the 2026 MAG will be meeting for the very first time next week. We hope to be able to make all of this information available to the community as soon as possible. Of course, we know that there is time that you need to prepare for certain things, to prepare for your proposal. So, as soon as this information is finalized in any way, we will make it available to the entire community. Thank you.

JANIS KARKLINS

So, thank you, Jennifer. So, any other questions? For the moment, we don't have any questions in Q&A box. Anyone? We still have technically 12 minutes available for this conversation. So, in absence of questions I take that the presentations have been exhaustive and provided all necessary points and -- No, there is one and that comes from Robert Guerra. "Jennifer, thank you. I look forward to engaging colleagues at ICANN86 working on DNS abuse and IDNs who could be interested in submitting a session." I think that that is more comment than a question.

So, in absence of further questions, I will then draw this session to a close. So, thank you very much for all who attended sessions. Thank you very much to all presenters and I declare the session closed. Thank you.

UNKNOWN

Thanks, everyone.

RAUL ECHEBERRIA

Thank you. Bye.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Thank you, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]