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ICANN86 Seville | PF – ICANN Empowered Community-Community Forum (tentative)  
Thursday, June 11, 2026 – 10:00 to 11:15 CEST

ANDREA GLANDON

Hello and welcome to the ICANN86 Empowered Community-Community Forum. My name is Andrea Glandon and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded, and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

During this session, questions or comments should be submitted to the Q&A pod. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the moderator of this session. Please do not use the chat for questions as they will not be tracked. Interpretation for this session will include Spanish and French.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Please remember to state your name for the record and if you will be speaking a language other than English. And please remember to speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Alejandra Reynoso. You may begin.

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ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Andrea, and welcome, everyone. Today we have the Empowered Community Approval Action Community Forum. And before we begin with it, I would like to walk you through some of the terms that are being used just to refresh our memory. If we can go to the next slide, please.

So, what is the Empowered Community? It is a mechanism through which the ASOs and ACs of ICANN can organize under the California law to legally enforce community powers defined in the ICANN articles of incorporation and bylaws. Now, who are the decisional participants in this Empowered Community? They are the ASO, the Address Supporting Organization, the ccNSO, the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, the GNSO, the Generic Name Supporting Organization, the ALAC, At-Large Advisory Committee, and the GAC, the Governmental Advisory Committee.

So, we talked about the Empowered Community and the decision of participants, but now we will check what is the Empowered Community administration, also known as ECA. It is an administrative body through which the Empowered Community acts. So, it is not a decision-making body. They just administer the paperwork handling between the ICANN secretary and the decisional participants. With that, let's move to the next slide, please.

Now that we've been through the concepts of Empowered Community, decisional participants, and the ECA, what are those powers that the community has? They're in front of you. Some of

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them are, for example, to reject the standard bylaw amendment or to appoint and remove individual ICANN Board directors. It gives also the community the right to inspect and investigate or to reject ICANN budgets and IANA operating plans and strategic plans, among others.

But the power that gathers us all today is the one in the middle. It's to approve fundamental bylaw amendments, article amendments, and asset sales. In particular, it's approved the bylaw amendments that have been through a process of drafting, public comment, and now that they have been, the ECA has been notified by the ICANN secretary, we are starting this journey. Let's go to the next slide, please.

So, as mentioned, the Empowered Community administration got an approval action board notice by the ICANN secretary on the 11th of May. And here, that kickstarts a timeline to act. This community forum has two options. It can be held online, or it can be held during an ICANN meeting, and the Empowered Community should request how they want to proceed. This time, we decided let's do it in the next ICANN meeting, and here we are. Now, we're at the approval action community forum.

Well, this forum, it's for us to have any comments, questions regarding the approval action on the bylaw amendments, if any. And with that information, the decisional participants have then 21 days to decide whether they want to support, object, or abstain from this decision. For the approval to move forward, at least three

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decisional participants need to support, and no more than one decisional participant should object. If in the 21-day period, there is no action received from a decisional participant, then it will be deemed to have abstained from this process.

And with that, I'll hand it over to Sam to walk us through the background on today's community forum. Thank you.

SAMANTHA EISNER

Thank you. I'm Samantha Eisner. I'm a deputy general counsel with ICANN. Andrew, if you can move to the slide, a couple slides forward. We're going to go through the background of what this community forum is about. So, there are two sets of bylaws that were approved by the Board in the beginning of May.

As Alejandra indicated, each of these sets went through public comment, and before the Board approved the bylaws, the Board had an opportunity to review the public comment, consider the inputs, and the Board's consideration is reflected within the resolution and rationale that accompanies the Board's decisions posted on the ICANN website.

So, the two sets of bylaws today, and the reason that we're handling them together, is that they are both related to the community's role in the oversight of ICANN and the performance of the IANA function. We have the customer standing committee, which is a way that the customers of the IANA naming function have the opportunity to regularly review and oversee the performance

of the IANA naming function. And then we have Article 18, which is about the IANA naming function reviews, which is, they are a set of either periodic or as needed reviews over how ICANN is performing to the IANA naming function contract to see if there's any changes needed there.

So, the Customer Standing Committee amendments, these came through the customer standing committee effectiveness review, which was another item that was put in when the customer standing committee was created to make sure that the CSC itself continues to operate in an effective way. The CSC effectiveness review recommended two different types of changes in addition to other improvements that they had, but there are two changes that impact the ICANN bylaws.

The first is the membership. The CSC effectiveness review recommended there be alternates allowed within the CSC to support more effective engagement of members in the event that people weren't available at times, and that required a bylaws amendment because the CSC membership and participation is defined in part in the bylaws. And it also recommended changes to the CSC effectiveness review cycle, which was set at every three years to every five years because those who are conducting the reviews identified that it wasn't necessary to happen on as frequent of a cadence as it had been.

Neither of these types of amendments alter the CSC's core role of monitoring PTI's performance at the IANA naming function, and it

also does not impact in any way the CSC's ability to impact issues. This is just about the membership and the frequency of the CSC review cycle, and the Board approved the exact language as posted for public comment.

As a note, if the Empowered Community approves the CSC effectiveness, approves these amendments to article 17, then another item that will take place is the CSC charter itself will also be updated. As part of the public comment, we put up a proposed charter after working through that with the relevant communities that reflects the opportunity for alternates to participate.

And then if we go to the next slide, so, article 18 is the second set of amendments. It's a very simple amendment to this one, came out of the IANA naming function review. We've run two of the periodic IANA naming function reviews since 2016. The second one identified that the running of these periodic or every five-year IANA naming function reviews, the timing of it should be altered from five years measured from the convening of the prior reviews, to change it to five years from, measured from the delivery of the prior IANA naming function reviews final report to the ICANN Board.

So, what that does is it actually gives a five-year cadence for consideration and implementation of the IANA naming function review recommendations as opposed to what tends to wind up to be a three and a half or so year cadence for that same work when you time it from the initiation. The IANA naming function review team identified that that was probably a more effective way to

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assure that there was implementation of the recommendations, and that there was time to measure the impact of that implementation.

Similar to the CSC effectiveness review amendments, these IANA naming function review cadence changes do not in any way change the scope or authority of the IANA naming function reviews or the ability to initiate a special IANA naming function review. It only changes the cadence of when the IANA naming function review is going to be initiated.

And as for both, the Board approved the amendments as posted for public comment because throughout the public comments there were not issues raised through the community that necessitated any changes to what was posted. If anyone would like to see the amendments during the conversation part, we have the amendments ready to project.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

This is Alejandra. Thank you, Sam, for the background. And now, well, the floor is open for any questions or comments on, or shall we go to next steps now? Questions and comments. Oh, sorry.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Alejandra. I'm glad to join this approval action community forum on behalf of the Board. This is the third approval action community forum on fundamental bylaws that I have participated in, and I remain impressed with the empowered

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communities dedication to the process designed 10 years ago. These community forums are an important step in facilitating dialogue across the community regarding the empowered communities exercise of your powers.

Today, we have two articles of the bylaws before you for Empowered Community approval, each related to the ICANN community oversight of ICANN's performance of the IANA naming function. The amendments to both article 17 and 18 were each generated out of an ICANN community process. Public comments on these amendments demonstrated continued community support, and the Board approved each of the amendments without any modification. Now the Empowered Community has an opportunity to consider these amendments.

For both the periodic IANA naming function review and the customer standing committee effectiveness review, the proposed bylaws amendments change the cadence of each of those reviews to better align with the community's needs. The community has also identified a need to allow alternates to be named to the customer standing committee. This also must be implemented through a bylaws amendment. The CSC and the IANA naming function reviews are essential components of the framework through which the ICANN community performs its stewardship of the IANA functions.

The Board appreciates the time and effort you continue to dedicate to this work, and welcomes the opportunity to consider community

recommendations on these efficiency improvements. Based on the community support to date, I anticipate that the remainder of this Empowered Community consideration of these fundamental bylaws will be straightforward. Even so, faithful adherence to the Empowered Community process remains important.

I understand that one of the decisional participants in the Empowered Community exercised the ability to raise a petition to reject a separate act of the Board last week. The Board respects the Empowered Community's role in holding ICANN accountable and appreciates the care with which the community exercises these important powers. Whether a matter before the Empowered Community is routine or raises more complex issues, the Board is committed to engaging openly, constructively, and in the spirit of the multi-stakeholder model, these processes were designed to support.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our appreciation for all your time and dedication across the bylaws change process and for convening this community forum. Thank you for your consideration and forthcoming vote on this action.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Tripti. Okay, now any questions or comments?

ANDREA GLANDON

As a reminder, you can raise your hand in Zoom or put a question in the Q&A pod. We do have a hand up from Avri Doria.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Yes, Avri.

AVRI DORIA

Thank you, Avri speaking. I'm actually quite pleased to see a recommendation. As someone that spends way too much of my time thinking about reviews these days, I just want to say how glad I am to see that there is a review, that a review came out with a recommendation, that it went through the whole process, and then it's come to here for acceptance.

I've been part of several unsuccessful appeals to the EC, but still am very happy to see that the mechanisms exist and that it's doing its job. I spend so much time complaining about things and picking things apart that I really wanted to take the chance to say, this is good and I'm glad to see you doing it. So thank you.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Avri. Anyone else? Oh, I see a hand in the room. Please get close to a microphone.

ANDREA GLANDON

Hi, Laurie, just come to a microphone. Laurie Schulman.

LORI SCHULMAN

Thank you. I want to echo Avri's thanks. I think this is an incredible progress and congratulations. I have not been following this issue,

and I do have a question about Article 17, not Article 18, and in the discussions of the policy of when alternates can be chosen, was there any discussion about any risks about too frequent rotation or consistency, I understand the need not to be frozen into a single designee, and if that does, if there's no provision to provide alternates, then that could absolutely be a problem, but I could also see a reverse issue happening where perhaps there might be too much rotation. I was just wondering if there was any discussion about that, or was that even an issue that was considered at all?

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Well, thank you for the question. There was a discussion on how to add the alternates, and we did at least a test first to check how well the alternates would adapt to the work. More on the need of having quorum as well, there's four members, and all of them need to be there to be able to have quorum.

So, that's why we said, okay, sometimes it's difficult to have, even though they meet monthly, and it's scheduled in advance and everything, life happens, and sometimes one of them cannot attend, so the idea of the alternate, it's really to be there just in case. So, they are not another member, but in case the member cannot be there, they need to be updated, and they join the calls and everything, but I'm not sure if that's what you were asking.

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LORI SCHULMAN

Yeah, I think to some extent it is, just to the extent of how it was discussed following any bylaws change, you're going to be writing procedures behind the bylaw. So, I would assume that any concerns that there might be have a too frequent rotation could be covered in a set of procedures rather than in a bylaw itself, which I don't think you would want.

SAMANTHA EISNER

Thanks. So, I was not part of the CSC deliberations as the effectiveness review was going forward, but I can talk to the current deliberation that went into the updates to the CSC charter that actually gives more of the detail about how this is implemented. And we, I think, did consider multiple ways of how it was appropriately reflected. So, the charter itself was posted on the public forum, the public comment page, the updates that go with it, and so that charter will go into effect.

And I think, to your point, Lori, to the extent that the charter needs to be modified to reflect experiences after it's been implemented, because it's in the charter, it's a bit easier to update. There still are requirements for how the CSC charter itself is updated, but it's not the full bylaws process. So, there's a bit more nimbleness to make sure that the procedures themselves, that the charter really serves in operating procedures item, can be changed if it needs to be without going through the full bylaws process.

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LORI SCHULMAN

Thank you, I think that really went to the essence of my question, because I believe you keep the bylaws simple and clear as possible, and then you follow up with good procedures, so thank you again.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. Just giving a few more seconds if there's anyone else. Not seeing any hands up in the room or in the Zoom room. Do we have any questions in the?

ANDREA GLANDON

No, nothing in the Q&A pod either.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

All right, so with that, I think we can move to the next steps.

SAMANTHA EISNER

I'm happy to take this if you'd like. So the bylaws amendments will only go into effect if they are approved by the Empowered Community. Alejandra talked through the thresholds. So again, we need three of the Empowered Community's decisional participants to approve this, to vote to approve during this 21-day period that starts today, or actually tomorrow after midnight in Los Angeles.

The 21-day period, each decisional participant has its own internal processes for how it considers the votes on these matters. And as Alejandra also explained, there's an opportunity to support, object, or abstain. If there's no action taken, it's considered an abstention. And so we look forward to receiving the Empowered Community

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votes on this matter once the formal votes are tallied and they come in after that 21-day period. If the item has been approved, you will then see the bylaws amended, effective on the date that the Empowered Community process has concluded.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you very much, Sam. And with that, I think we can go to the next slide. Thank you all for joining us today in one of the Empowered Community processes, and I wish you all a very good day.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. You can stop the recording.

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