
MONTREAL – Joint Meeting ICANN Board and ALAC
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LEON SANCHEZ: Hello, everyone. This is Leon Sanchez, and I'm going to speak in Spanish, so if you don't speak Spanish, please go ahead and use your headset.

I'm going to make it difficult, Cherine.

Welcome to this session of the ICANN Board ask ALAC. It's my pleasure to welcome you again. As we already told you, we want this meeting to be as fluent as possible. We want to have a conversation between the Board and the community. We want a more relaxed, informal, honest discussion that will help us talk comfortably and exchange ideas about our concerns, about the priorities in our agenda, our priorities for next year, and for the following years.

You were told to sound questions. The Board has also prepared some questions.

Franco, can you please put the questions on the screen?

These are the Board's questions for the community. And the questions we are asking are related to being prepared -- the readiness as a community, as a Board, as the organization -- our readiness to implement three major plans that will shape the future of ICANN in the following years.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

The first one is the strategic plan for fiscal year '21-25, the second one is the operating and financial plan for these years '21-25, and finally, the work plan to improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model.

We'd like to discuss these ideas with you to know what we need for different parts of our community and for different parts of the organization to be ready to approach this challenge.

I'd like to give the floor to Cherine for him to maybe fine-tune the question. I know you've already seen Cherine's presentation, so we're not going to repeat Cherine's presentation.

Welcome our chairman and pass the voice to him. Cherine.

CHERINE CHALABY:

Thank you, dear friends. What's going on, man?

...of these plans.

[Laughter]

I was told that they were read, and we're ready for engaging in questions and dialogue. So there's no point in saying more than that. Is that right? Okay.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Well, then, I'd like to open the mic for questions by our ALAC colleagues. Maureen, would you like to start, maybe, with a comment or maybe telling us who may have questions for the Board?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you very much, Leon. And thank you to our current chair.

CHERINE CHALABY: Be careful now.

MAUREEN HILYARD: I not allowed to say "past" because your not past yet.

We have prepared a presentation today. First of all, we'd like to make a presentation -- a very short presentation on responding to your query about the -- our views on the various plans, which we -- we responded to quite comprehensively in the public comment, but we do have -- you know, we can summarize that, and perhaps they may have a few queries. I do have my representatives who are going to be doing that. But I would like to say, first of all, that we very much appreciate that we won't get your lengthy presentation that we watched yesterday. And we had actually sort of -- had actually seen it before. So we're very much aligned with your thinking. And -- But there are some questions ask queries.

Following this, then I would like Jonathan to present on our issue of concern, which of course seems to be the issue of concern for a lot of the people at ICANN at this meeting. And if we have any -- any time, there may be questions to come from -- from the -- of members of our community who may wish to add something.

So I -- for the strategic plan, we have Holly Raiche who will raise an issue there. The operating and financial plan, Ricardo Holmquist will represent, and the work plan to improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model has been actually an issue for Marita Moll. So I'd like to pass over to them. They have five minutes each. Yeah, go for it.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Maureen. Holly for the transcript records.

It's a question, really. One of the objectives of the strategic plan, and I'm quoting, to address the geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure -- and the words -- really critical words, single and globally interoperable Internet.

Now, there's been a lot of talk the past months, years about the threats of fragmentation. And there are -- they come from many quarters. The security ones, we're very familiar with, demands to deal with inappropriate, even threatening content. And as we heard today amongst many of the times, there is supposedly a red line between the technical and the content; that delineating what ICANN is or not, is dealing with or not; the threat of new technologies and what that actually means for interoperable. I'm thinking of the dot DoH stuff, what happens with the resolvers so there are many technologies that actually might challenge that concept of single and globally interoperative Internet.

And I'd like to have a response on at least some of those threats of fragmentation, having seen today and listened to today's very comprehensive discussion of DNS abuse. But I'm sure there are other threats.

Any response from anyone?

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Holly.

Goran, would you like to comment?

GORAN MARBY:

Maybe I can start and Akinori can talk about it. I think that the.

[Feedback noise]

Sorry.

So fragmentation of the internet is sort of -- there are two types of fragmentations. One of them is different kinds of legislations around the world. For instance, on one side you might have privacy legislation, so block something and some country come up with something that says you have to open it up. And that's the kind of fragmentation that I think it's -- that is probably the closest one.

So in the strategic plan and in my goals, you could see that we're working on -- we just made a proposal how to have a better interaction

with the community, about legislative proposals; according to our charter could have a problem for people accessing the Internet or prohibit ICANN's community to make policies. So that's the part there. But we really need to engage with the community, because you know much more about those legislations than we do. We -- you know, despite what you sometimes think, ICANN org is a fairly small organization. But we have you, thousands of volunteers around the world, that can help us.

But we shouldn't glide over it to say, because actually there is what I often think that the actual fragmentations will happen. The technical one, you have several. You have DoA, or as someone said, Death on Arrival, and you have 5G, which there are standardization proposals that says that what would we do with the DNS system and the IP addresses are best-effort Internet. Most of the IoT devices will be connected to a completely different Internet, not using IP and not IP addresses.

So that is sort of something that is happening and that we are engaging and talking about, and we should probably talk about that more in the ICANN community.

And then we have those things that someone comes up with, blockchains or DoA or something, and our attitude is to bring them into the ICANN community. I think we started in Copenhagen the first time with the tech talks where we asked -- we had presentations about it.

There are countries around the world that has been talking around -- I'm not going to name them, I don't know who they are -- but have been

talking about the terms the root server systems. What I often say to them, and we are actually trying to engage more with them, to some people's surprise, because we would like to explain to them that if you have an alternative root server systems, that's fine, can't nothing to do about it, but your users will not be able to connect to anyone outside. And then we have the discussion that maybe it will have an effect on your trade, for instance, because most logistical chains around the world is now built on the Internet.

So we're trying to find -- Also that ICANN cannot and should not be a political organization. So we will never vouch what level of democracy we are. We are a technical organization.

So we are trying to put all those things together. But what you see in the plan is that we are actually thinking about them. We are trying to deal with them. Trying to build better interfaces with the community for that dialogue with the community. But we're divided into technical fragmentation or what you can sort of call geopolitical fragmentation. I think it's very important to hold those two things different because geopolitical fragmentation can happen by our friends. Technical one could happen to people who -- for companies that probably has other issues and other foras. And I don't make any judgment on them.

But so far, we still have now a growing amount of people going online every day.

Final -- just because this is so at the heart of what we do, OCTO, our research engine, are looking more and more into how we can maybe even sometimes not have opinion from ICANN but actually have an

opinion from OCTO, if we could figure out a way of doing that, to say sometimes from a technical perspective what we think. But we don't want to be spokespersons for ICANN, either, because you are the ones who should tell me what I should say, or you wish. Thank you. As such.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Goran.

Akinori.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Yes. Thank you very much. Akinori Maemura for the record.

Goran covers a fairly major area of the response. I'd like to make some comments for the DoH and the DNS abuse.

For the DoH, that's -- it is a quite new technology. And then the technical description is clear. It's encrypted path is -- path is established, and then DNS query goes through it, go through it between the browser and the server. So that's clear. But what is unclear is by that, the players -- players want to do what?

So this kind of one is now clarifying by emergences of a lot of implementation of the DoH and DoT. So we are quite keen to track this situation.

And one of the product from the ICANN org is the recent document which is numbered as the OCTO 003. That is illustrating that DoH technology from the OCTO's point of view.

So if you -- if you have -- if you have -- haven't done it yet, so I would suggest you to read once. So that is for the DoH.

Another thing is the DNS abuse. I had -- actually, I was overwhelmed by the DNS abuse session in this morning. So it is really -- I -- I'm more than sure that it's everyone's concern how to deal with the DNS abuse. Then we definitely need quite a coherent -- coherent and clear, the same picture what is the DNS abuse, and what portion of the DNS abuse should be addressed by the ICANN organization.

So that kind of discussion, that kind of consideration need a lot of committee input.

So we are -- we -- I understand that we are at such a phase. And then at the Board -- at the Board of ICANN, we should take a responsibility to coordinate that -- coordinate the community process to have that clear view on the DNS abuse.

And then it is actually the -- not still. It is moving around time to time. So we need to maintain such a definition.

Thank you very much.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Akinori.

Sarah.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Yes, thanks. I wanted to just add on some of the legislative risks and the discussion about not straying into content issues.

The trend that I think is concerning is that we're seeing more and more legislation and regulation in Europe where the whole objective is to remove content. So the eCommerce directive, the scope of the intermediaries who are covered ask getting wider and wider, and it looks like registrars and registries and that leaked copy of the services directive were considered parties who would be removing content. And, you know, if they fail to act, maybe they would even ask ICANN to go up the food chain or to go up to an ISP to block conduit traffic.

So I think it is an issue that we -- shouldn't be sticking our heads in the sand and need to be thinking about, especially if there is a direct implication for the organization.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Sarah.

Do you want to follow-up, Holly, or should I go to John?

HOLLY RAICHE: Just a brief comment. On the legislation, I would say that perhaps Australia has the worst legislation at the moment. But that said, what was said today in the DNS abuse forum was both comments about we shouldn't go above the line, but from the registry/registrar group came the comment, well, actually nobody else is dealing with the worst of the worst that's above the line. So maybe we need a conversation as to

where that line is drawn. And both the expectations and the ability to deal with the worst of the worst that sits above the line. I think that's an issue that we haven't yet solved.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Holly.

I think Matthew wants to comment on this same topic.

Is your comment on the same topic, John? Okay. Then I'll go to you and then Matthew.

JOHN LAPRISE:

Thank you. John Laprise for the record. I wanted to play off of Akinori's comment about how striking the DNS abuse session was today, and in particular, how strident the comments were from the GAC representative on the panel.

We -- If we do not act on DNS abuse, we risk having governments act before we do, passing legislation, and then potentially getting us involved in another EPDP without ever wanting to be in that position.

So I strongly urge the Board and the community who are here to take heed and act preemptively to avoid that contingency.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, John.

Do you want to -- two fingers?

Then go ahead, Akinori.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Thank you very much, John. I -- I observed the session as you do, so your point is very taken. Thank you very much.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Akinori.

Matthew.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Yeah, and actually this isn't on DNS abuse, but coming back to your original point, Holly, there are a couple of things also that I just wanted to add to what's being said. One of the things that we mentioned all along and Cherine has reinforced is that the strategic plan is a living document and it will be going through a trend, update, probably on an annual basis. So that gives us an opportunity to review some of the issues that you raised in terms of legislation and technology. But we're doing a couple of other things, and perhaps most important is we realize that we need to have an even greater understanding of what's coming down the road.

And so for that reason we're going to be putting in place a kind of ongoing monitoring process that will try to look at not only legislation

but also cybersecurity threats or new technology threats, and things like that.

So we'll have that extra -- hopefully, that extra forward-looking element to address some of the concerns that you've raised, and that will give us a little bit of a better sense as to what's coming down the road. Thanks.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Matthew.

Back to you, Maureen. Do you have other questions for the Board?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

I'm sorry going to continue with item number 2 of the financial and operational plan for year '21 to '25. First I'd like to thank ICANN. Every year they give us very detailed information by the finance department. In fiscal year '19, we have already seen an idea of having expenses that are more in accordance with the budget and also in accordance with ICANN's income. There are actually less expenses than what was budgeted, and this is much better than what they expected in terms of income.

Now, as for the '21 to '25 fiscal year, so far we haven't really seen this. What we have seen so far is the IANA entity budget for the '21 year. We have just come from the final session where they told us what the budget for '21 to '25 will be like, but this will not be released until December 15.

The operational plan will not be released until '21-25.

I am especially concerned because almost 86% of the budget or the current expenses by ICANN are as a result of administration and staff services and very little remains for all the rest, for meetings, for travel expenses. And then there's only 3% for capital expenses when we are referring to a technical company and we need to be at the forefront of technology.

I am also concerned that passing from Adobe to Zoom, well, we are not using the same work sites, and this may or may not be related to the financial part.

Now, as for the operating and financial plan for '21-'25, whether we are ready or not, I think the most complicated part will be to be aligned to that strategic part, and with that, to the operating and financial plan so that we are all in tune and we know what we want.

This is not easy, because the strategic and operating and financial plan will be presented simultaneously.

And I have a final comment. Last week, the report for the '19 fiscal year was released, and it included not only the financial part, but also the whole documentation of what ICANN did in 2019.

And when I read the Europe section, I saw that two months before the Barcelona meeting, ICANN was present in the first -- in the five top universities in Spain, trying to engage with the universities there, giving talks there. And to my surprise, ALAC and LAC and EURALO didn't know about it. I live in Spain. There are ALSs in Spain. EURALO didn't know

about this. And I think this is the type of thing where we have less money, but -- maybe we can invest it better. We need to work together for the community.

Probably one of us would have been a good speaker at one of these universities, and one of us could probably have taken a small space to provide some outreach to reach out to these people who are teachers and to try to bring them maybe. But then if we see that only one year after, we realize that there is no one single ALS or one member from the community asking this, then at least from At Large, the return on investment is zero.

And, of course, I am also concerned that the multistakeholder model is on paper, but sometimes we need to bring it to the street and to work together so that we can make it a reality.

Thank you very much.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Ricardo.

I think we had, like, 52 questions in one. So I am going to try to dissect them to try to talk about what you shared with us.

The first part is the issue that the ICANN people were in Spain before the Barcelona meeting.

Perhaps what we need is to have better coordination with local people. I can assure you that there was no bad faith at all and we didn't want to act showing our back to the community. It was just probably a

communication issue. It probably was an issue that we just didn't say exactly what we were saying. So we're going to work to improve that, to improve our communication and how to be in touch, how to be engaged with the community so that when there are events from the organization or from the board, we can invite you to join us, because it is simply good to be able to invite you and to engage in these kind of events.

Now, as for the budget, I'm sure you noticed that there have been some savings here and there. But I don't really want to get in detail with that.

Maybe Goran can provide us some comment in connection with your question.

Goran, please go ahead.

GORAN MARBY:

I can at least try to.

Thank you. And sorry for not speaking Spanish at all.

So a couple of small points would probably -- we don't spend 84% on administration. I know where the number comes from. It's actually trying to tell that a lot of our costs are already prefixed. And I'll give you an example.

IANA, which we run, costs I think about ten and a half million dollars per year. Just -- you know.

The meetings team -- the bigger meetings cost, I think -- I don't really -
- 12, \$15 million per year.

And if you start adding those -- One single review costs, I think, \$500,000. Sometimes they go longer and it becomes more. The first PDP cost \$800,000. So we can just add those numbers, and you actually add up -- the 86% is probably to say these are money that it's very hard to change in the budget without some very underlying discussions with the community about things you asked us to do.

One of the in- -- and you might agree or disagree with that. That's up to you. But that's actually the facts. If you go through the budget, you will see that most of the budget parts don't change from year to year.

So what we're trying to say is we actually go into the budget process and concentrate on the 14% or 15. It's really hard constant on that part, because these are sort of the things we manage from year to year. And that's often where you, as community members, also engage, in travel programs, in CROPs programs, and travel support.

And I'm not saying this because -- I mean, you as a community can go out and make decisions. And I'm not even going to make a proposal, because then you would think I want to do something. But it's really entirely up to you.

So that is the -- it's not admin.

But also think about this. To take -- to run this meeting, run this meeting, I have 150 people on the ground to run this meeting. So -- And to be able to have 150 people here, I have people where I have to pay

salaries and HR, and we need to have offices to actually have them in. And then we actually hire local people here as well, because the technical -- a lot of the technical staff here actually comes from here as well.

It takes -- Most of the money ICANN org uses is in support of something that we do for the community. Every time you go online, we have -- you know, every time you have a call, we have people there. We do transcripts. We have our excellent translators over there.

[Applause]

Yeah, I was going to say that.

[Applause]

GORAN MARBY:

And I don't want to end up in this we against them. We are about -- we have been -- for the last few years, we more or less are spending the same amount of money as we did three years ago. We are more or less the same amount of people. We have to add some people now because we actually have new things that we need to do. But we're more or less the same.

So -- But first of all, I really appreciate the fact that you care enough to read our budget and all those things.

Despite this, we have community member -- we actually had community members of giving presentations to the universities as well. We engaged as much as we can on a local level. Before every ICANN

meeting, we engage with different parts of the community. We go out and we do engagement. We are actually quite good at doing engagement and getting people into it.

I can look around the table and see people who actually come in through these programs. Our poster boy is Leon, and now is the incoming vice-chair of the board.

[Applause]

Yes.

Long answer to a lot of the questions.

And thank you also very much for complimenting us for the transparency we're building. And therefore, in the end, I would like to market something.

Tomorrow, we have -- the whole executive team will come, and you can ask Sally, you can ask Xavier, you can ask anyone on my executive team any questions you want about anything. We're going to talk about the narrative for the five-year operating plan.

Just one more thing. It takes 18 months for us to do a 12-month budget.

I have one month per year, that's July, where I have no one who talks to me about budget. And then in August, Xavier comes into my room and says, "Now we start again."

And the fact that we then start -- the first thing we start, how much money do we think we're going to have. That's when the forecasting starts. And the fact that we are actually every year in 95% to 100% right about what funding we're going to have 18 months later, that's where we start the planning process. And then in -- now I think it's in December, we go out to you guys so you will have sufficient time to look into it. And then we make the decision just before where we (indiscernible) to be next summer.

It's a very interesting process. And we do that to be able to (indiscernible) to you. It was a long answer, but I think your -- a lot of your questions deserve really good answers from my side as well.

Thank you for the question. Thank you for your engagement. And thank you for putting me on the spot.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Goran.

Maureen and Sebastien, I can give you the floor now.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Sebastien Bachollet.

Thank you very much. I'm going to address you in French.

Thank you for your answer. If I understood it well, there are members of the community who participated to activities in universities in Spain. I'm not asking you for an answer right now, but it would be interesting

to know who these people were. Because it would have been useful that EURALO would have been informed and participate. And since my mind a little skewed, it makes my French friends laugh, but did the -- the team did not invite certain part of the community or others? Meaning that it was not necessary? But that is my skewed mind talking.

I wanted to make a second comment.

When you say that it takes 18 months to make the yearly plan for finance, it comes back to the discussion we had earlier. We said we were going to work on the strategic plan every year.

We have a lot of work as it is. If we add the strategic plan on top of it, it will be extra work. Wouldn't it be better to leave that alone and do this every 18 months, since we have five years ahead of us, we don't have to do it on a yearly basis. If we add work to work, there will be a point where it won't work anymore.

I want to remind you that in November and December, there are at least five topics that are important to the communities that are added to the public comment period. That is a lot. So let's not add more, even if it's for reason of transparency because you think it's a good thing. Maybe we shouldn't do this on a yearly basis. Thank you.

GORAN MARBY:

Let me also clarify.

Was the question that we shouldn't do the strategic plan or the budget?
Because I can answer the budget, and Cherine will answer the strategic plan discussion.

I hope it was the strategic plan so I can point at Cherine.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Of course, I don't want to point and to -- No. It was about the strategic plan.

The question was -- my question was why we will do that each year, because we have already a lot of things to do. Maybe it could be each 18 months.

As we try for the budget to have one each two years and not one each year. Then maybe we can try for something different. Thank you.

GORAN MARBY: Sebastien knows I made a proposal to do with two-year budget cycle, which we didn't get support for from the community at that time, and therefore we skipped that idea because the community didn't like it.

If I can start, and then Cherine wants to say something.

The notion is that I think that maybe sometimes we in ICANN have been accused and been right that we haven't been very good at actually planning. And sometimes we miss things because we have not looked into the sort of future. Maybe you can say that about some of the legislation that comes around and new technologies.

And a lot of discussions -- I mean, it's like the discussion about the fragmentation of Internet -- we haven't looked into. And I think that one of the fantastic things from my perspective in the process leading up to the strategic plan, what's your engagement? We did a strategic plan thing. But more than 700 people in the community.

And I think what I hear, I think, actually, Jonathan was the first experiment.

You were, weren't you? We did it for the CCT. It was an enjoyable exercise.

In the basis, I think we learned a lot. So maybe by doing investments looking into the future you can maybe save some time in the work you do so you actually do -- can plan something.

But I will leave it over to Cherine as well.

CHERINE CHALABY:

So your concern is the burden that could be put on the workload of having to do an annual review of the strategic plan. Is that right?

So I 100% agree with you. And I don't think we said it's going to be annual.

Yes, these are some ideas. We said it has to be done -- the objective is the strategic plan has to be a living document. You agree to that? Okay.

It has to be reviewed at some regular intervals.

Agree with that?

And we have to find a mechanism that every time we review it, it cannot be the full production of the strategic plan. We have to find a light way of doing that.

I don't think we have figured this one out yet. We're talking about it. We're thinking about it. There are some suggestions, which you mentioned.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Metrics.

CHERINE CHALABY: Metrics.

So what -- we cannot -- so that I agree. But I also agree with Matthew.

What we can't do is not think about it for two years and then suddenly pick it up and say, oh, now it's time to review it. There has to be a constant monitoring and tracking of all of these, whether they are geopolitical threats or security threats or trends so that the team or the group that is tracking that, when the time comes for a periodic review, you know, will be aware of these things and tracking them. Will not be surprised by them.

And if, indeed, as they track things down, they identify a new threat or something that is really serious that requires the community to be aware of it, then I think they'll bring it to the attention of the community.

But I do agree, to have an annual production of the magnitude with which we -- all the efforts put in to develop the strategic plan would be not practical and not doable.

So we have to find something at a regular interval that is light, but that is effective as well, and that engages the community, that the board doesn't do it on its own.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Cherine. Sebastien, and next Ron, and then we'll move forward.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you, Cherine. I think it's a good way.

I would like to point out that we need to try to find a way not to put everything in stone about when we do things. Because, for example, the five things important we have in front of us for the next two months, if I ask you to push one of them, the answer will be, in the bylaw, it's written that it must be at that time and so on.

Then if we can find some way to be more agile in this organization, it will be great. Then when we have a new topic, let's try to be agile for the future, even if we can't be agile for the past.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Sebastien.

Ron.

RON DA SILVA:

I just wanted to comment briefly on the finances as well.

With regards to the timing of releasing the proposed FY21 budget along with the FY21-25 operating and financial plan in December, that's very intentional. And it's really the first time that the organization has done this. So I want to commend you for paying attention and participating and anticipating that as a new process. And, Sebastien, you're absolutely right, taking that annualized budgeting process and looking at the next five years now each year and ensuring that the next five years -- right, so right now we're doing the FY21 proposed budget and how that maps into the FY21-25 operating and financial plan. And how that aligns into the FY21-25 strategic plan. That process, now, of aligning all three of those elements will be an annual thing.

So this time next year, we should be talking about the FY22 budget and how that maps into the FY22-26 operating and financial plan. And then a very lightweight touch on are there things that have changed or moved in the strategic plan and do we need to modify anything in FY22-26 plan; right?

So think of it as a continuous process that we're introducing. It's very different than the way we've done this in the past, and very much appreciate your participation and awareness and providing input and feedback into that.

So thank you very much.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Ron.

Back to you. Do you have more questions for us?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Marita.

MARITA MOLL: Thank you. Marita Moll, for the record

I'm going to do speak to the multistakeholder model. And thank you for the opportunity to do so.

I wanted to point out, and I was so happy to hear during the board and GAC meeting yesterday that to support and enhance the model, ICANN and the community has to commit to make it happen.

And we can assure you that we are committed to making it happen. And we truly believe that you are committed to doing that as well.

We also heard that one of the things that needs to be done is to increase the pool of volunteers that actually do the work.

We couldn't agree more. We're at the pointy end of that. All volunteer-based stakeholders here are there and are crying out for help.

The question was raised, how are we going to take up our commitments vis-a-vis those actions and how are we going to

strengthen inclusiveness and meaningful participation in the multistakeholder model?

So those are the things that you brought forward yesterday. And we here want to focus on that particular aspect of the multistakeholder model as well.

There's a lot of things in there that we have commented on. But, really, one of the most perennial and pressing problems for us is getting more people on the ground, getting more people on the ground to help us do what needs to be done here.

And the thing is it's very, very complicated, because we need to get those -- we need to attract and retain those volunteers in multiple locations and in locate contexts and who can engage at multiple levels. It's a very tall order and there's absolutely no one size that fits all.

So I think the message that we'd really like to get across here is that we really need to be more creative and innovative in the way we're trying to do this.

We may need to break things. We really need to go out and look for new ways, and we need to -- we just need to loosen some of the strings that keep us from actually going out and finding new ways of doing it.

Certainly in our own community we've done quite a few things to improve our processes and to do what we can within the -- within the confines that we have fiscally, financially, and human resource-wise to do this sort of thing. Right now we have an ATLAS III process going on which is bringing 50 new people in and teaching them leadership skills.

Every week we have a one-and-a-half to two-hour policy call which has at least 25 people on every week, and not the same people on every week. Because of course the time changes, the time is staggered to meet the global commitment. And we have a committee that coordinates and oversees outreach and engagement efforts at the local and regional levels, but all of these things are not proving to be enough.

So we're not attracting enough people. We need to find new ways of doing this. We need to open up different ways of participating. We need to seize every idea that comes forward and ask how that idea can support ICANN's outreach and engagement.

And in this challenge, we really have to highlight the fact that the community has to lead. That's where the local knowledge is, and that's where the creativity is, and that's where the solutions will come from.

So we may have to really put our heads around the problem of reaching out to the community, being more -- being more strategic in the way we do things. And we need to work with ICANN to do that. I'm sure everyone in the room agrees with this.

But it doesn't always work. There's a lot of hurdles that -- that are always in place. I just want to bring forward one example, because examples are always useful.

Last Thursday and Friday, there was an extremely successful North American school of Internet governance here in Montreal. It was organized entirely by a group of volunteers, all of them active At-Large members. Taking advantage of travel support to ICANN66, 60 students,

including many Fellows and local people, spent two days immersed in Internet governance and ICANN before this meeting ever started.

This was not an ICANN event, although one-eighth of the \$40,000 budget came from ICANN. And I can assure you that no one was staying in five-star hotels.

It's not ICANN's fault that one of the organizers paid personally for some of the unavoidable last-minute logistical changes. That's just an example of what happens. The fact is that these community-organized events literally run on shoe strings, and shoe strings just wear out very quickly. Business doesn't function this way, but volunteers are expected to do so, and it's not that unusual to find volunteers using their personal funds to further the multistakeholder model. That's a huge commitment.

So there are committed people out there. We need to help them. And we're using this time here to highlight this part of our response to the multistakeholder model and how it evolves.

We would like it very much if the Board would encourage more volunteer-driven innovation in this capacity building space, more risk taking. That will require more flexibility in funding and some more resources. It's going to require creativity, innovation, and some thinking outside the box on everyone's part. But I think it was Chérine Chalaby who said during the opening ceremonies that if something doesn't work, at least shows that we're trying.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Marita. I think you have underlined several major aspects. You said many other things I was going to say. The programs that help us bring new people into ICANN. I have been a beneficiary of one of these programs. You know, I got here through a Fellowship Program. I see many of my fellow colleagues sitting here as well. There's the Next Gen Program. As you correctly said, we have the ATLAS III meeting now taking place that made it possible for about 50 delegates from different regions to come here. And, indeed, these are all efforts made to bring new people to help us, deal with these significant issues we discuss in ICANN in our community.

You mentioned another important aspect. The community is the one that has to lead these efforts. From the Board and from ICANN org, we believe it's important to get closer to you to provide our support to you. I want you to tell us how we can support you. Give us ideas about programs we may implement, programs we may explore or we may consider, maybe pilot programs. I've been following up the discussion on the At-Large list. I've seen very good ideas. I don't want to mention those ideas here because I don't want to take the credit away from the community. Rather, I'd like you to send us your proposals so that we can analyze them in the Board. And obviously so that we can share them with ICANN org. But we need your support. That's key to us. We are a team. We have to work together. You have to support us to give us your ideas, innovation. We can do the same thing. However, you said this very well. You have to lead this effort. If we propose this, we're breaking the system, the bottom-up approach, and it will be a top-

down approach. That's why it is so important for you to bring these ideas to us, to share them with us, so that together we can find a way to support you.

There's some colleagues who want to speak. I think Avri I think would like to talk.

Go ahead.

AVRI DORIA:

Yeah, I just wanted to comment a little. I have been very aware of the - work that's been going on within the policy. And as you probably know, I listen in quite frequently to your policy discussions. And I've actually been quite -- quite impressed. I've seen the development of some of the folks there. You really have some incredibly strong talent that's analyzing, that's talking, that's preparing advice. And I have to admit that sometimes I cheat and I use your meetings as a way to sort of keep up with everything, because there's a lot to keep up with, and you have a lot of really talented people that are reporting on the details, going into the -- going into it. So I must say that over the last, I guess, year or so, I've really noticed that incredible amount of volunteer talent that has developed.

The one thing I would like to add is that we shouldn't assume that those that aren't users aren't also sometimes volunteering their time. I've known many of the people that have things as part of their job, but they end up doing a lot more here.

So I would assume that, you know, almost everyone at some point is volunteer. But you're right, the -- the folks in At Large and in some of the other constituencies are completely volunteers, and it is incredibly impressive.

Thanks.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Avri.

There's Lito, Sarah, and then Holly and John. There's very little time left, so please be brief.

Lito, go ahead.

LITO IBARRA:

And I will speak in Spanish, too.

It was my pleasure and a privilege to attend ATLAS III yesterday for a moment, and it was a work session. And once again, I confirmed there is a lot of creativity in the community, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region in my case, regarding what Marita just said about innovation and creativity.

In my table, I'm also part of an ALS in El Salvador, in my country, we're working on those ideas to capture people from the community. And I would like to emphasize the following. We're trying to capture the youth who are the new generation who will be following what we will stop doing at some point in time. So I'd like to emphasize the

importance of youth and the new generation who will be following what we do in our field.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Lito.

Sarah.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks, Lito. I just wanted to express my thanks. So many of us board members were invited to the NASIG event, and Tripti, Avri and I were on a panel on gender diversity, and I have to say, we were just blown away by the enthusiasm of that audience. And they were not -- I think we got through one question. I mean, they did just as much if not more talking than we did. This was not a session where people are talking at each other. We were talking with each other. It was truly inspirational. So we learned a lot from being there, and thank you so much. But it does show the value of these programs.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Sarah.

Holly and John.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Just good news in a follow-up on youth. I was at the APAC hub meeting this morning. There were two young women there who said they went through the Fellowship Program, and then they just felt dropped. They didn't have the follow-through. So we had to talk to them and imagine what Goran is going to do; extend the monthly APRALO meeting, talk more about policy and find other strategies, which obviously we'd like support for. But I think that's -- it was a terrific initiative just to hear these young women saying we're trying, actually, to work through how we can be engaged. And I have to say there was support.

It's particularly important in the Asia Pacific where most of the time we're at meetings at 2:00 a.m.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you so much, Holly.

John.

JOHN LAPRISE:

John Laprise for the record. So to Avri's point, I just want to publicly thank Jonathan Zuck, Olivier Crepin-Leblond, and ICANN staff for making the consolidated policy working group as effective as it has been since they've taken over leadership of it. It has been incredibly successful.

[Applause]

My second point, and this goes to an issue that was drawn much earlier in conversation which goes to the support of the multistakeholder model and the work that the community does. And I was -- my attention was drawn to the GAC session and the slides. And a lot of the things that were listed on the slide regarding community inputs into the model were very aspirational. And I think from a community standpoint, we have to do more than just be aspirational. We have to make much firmer commitments about the degree of work that we're willing to commit in terms of hours, in terms of actually measured time that we are spending to support the multistakeholder model as opposed to being merely aspirational about it.

So this merits consideration by the community.

Thank you.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, John.

I don't want to close the meeting without noting that this is our last Board-ALAC session with Cherine as chair. So, Cherine.

[Applause]

Thank you for all the support that you have provided to the At-Large community. Thank you for the -- the friendship that you have shown to our community. Thank you for belonging to us.

Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Cherine, when you came to the Board, the first thing you did was to come to see what was going on at At-Large. And that is why you are president of the Board. If other people want to become president of the Board, chair of the Board, they have to come to see us first.

Thank you.

[Applause]

CHERINE CHALABY: You got that?

[Laughter]

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: I've been there already. But for sure, I continue to come.

LEON SANCHEZ: So thank you very much, everyone, for attending this meeting. This meeting is now adjourned. And we'll see you soon.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]