

MONTREAL – CCWG IG Face to Face meeting
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OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: This is not going to be so much about policy but more about process as in what we're going to be planning for the next few weeks, months, the next year, since this is the annual general meeting. But if people want to join in a bit further to the front, because it is a face-to-face meeting, I can't see the faces, so it's a tough one. You won't be able to see us here. But anyway, we'll start in about five minutes, or a bit less.

NIGEL HICKSON: Good afternoon. I would be really nice if people could come forward a bit, because otherwise it's going to be not really a face-to-face meeting, it's more like a head to head, which is okay.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Olivier speaking. In general, we are in a smaller room for this because this is the face-to-face meeting and there's a lot of internal discussions about what we're going to do next, about our processes. The main meeting took place in a more face-to-face fashion, which was earlier this week, this one for some reason ended up in a classroom or theater style.

But anyway, it's going to be a little hard to work out because we're supposed to have our notes and things in a round table or square or

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rectangular table, but we'll go through the agenda and we've got the presence of Leon Sanchez who is the Chair of the Board Working Group on Internet Governance, and we have several Board members that are on that working group that are scattered throughout the audience.

NIGEL HICKSON: Perhaps the Board members would like to come to the front...

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Some Board members are busy at the back.

NIGEL HICKSON: ...if that's possible, and then perhaps the Board members could introduce themselves, that might be appropriate.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: You want to start, yeah, okay.

LITO IBARRA: Lito Ibarra, member of the Board Working Group on Internet Governance.

LEON SANCHEZ: Leon Sanchez, also member of the Board Working Group on Internet Governance. Not anymore the Chair, I'll introduce you to the new Chair just shortly.

NIGEL HICKSON: Thank you, Leon, and I think, ah, Avri is trying to hide.

AVRI DORIA: I didn't do a good very good job. Avri Doria member of the Board Working Group on Internet Governance.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you Avri, now I can't see any other Board members so far.

NIGEL HICKSON: As always, there are clashing sessions and a number of the Board are involved in other activities, but will be joining us later.

LEON SANCHEZ: May I just, to remark, we have Matthew Shears and Tripti Sinha joining us in a moment, they had an overlapping meeting and they are offering of course apologies for that, but they will be catching up with us soon.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, thank you very much, Leon. I hope they'll find a chair to sit on. So, today's agenda is going to be looking first reporting back from the CCWGIG on the activities that we've had in the past well maybe part of the thing since the past meeting that we had but also in the past year and that sort of moved from CCWGIG to the next vehicle that we're going to have.

We will also be reflecting back on the discussions that we had earlier this week in our public session that looked at the UN high level panel on digital cooperation, lots of feedback on that hopefully from some of you and from perhaps Nigel and his team as well.

Then we'll have afterwards a look at the upcoming internet governance issues next few months until our next meeting that will take place hopefully in Mexico, and then we'll have Leon and his team being able to speak to us a little bit about the Board Working Group on Internet Governance and what you have been up to and how we're going to be able to work better in the new model that will be starting from I guess this meeting onwards, since the Cross Community Working Group in itself is dead, dead as in the vehicle itself.

So, starting first with the report from the CCWGIG, as I mentioned, one of the big things that we've had to do procedure wise is that because this started as a cross community working group and has now moved to an engagement group because the rules of a cross community working group have a start and an end to the work and need to have more than one supporting organization in an advisory committee.

Two of the three signatories basically left and so we ended up with just one, so it's not a cross community working group per se.

There was a cross community engagement group charter that was proposed to the community and the difficulties with it is the more you put into an engagement group, the more tasks you give it, the more likely it is that some might have concerns that it would do things without their own approval.

So it was never the intent of the working group to produce papers without the approval of supporting organizations and advisory committees, but the moment you come and add this whole thing of producing papers then you need to design a mechanism by which these papers would be agreed on by each one of the chartering organizations, and that of course then involves work in the chartering organizations because this is not the sort of thing that they usually do on a day to day basis.

So, in order to avoid all of that and not have the whole complexity of having documents that need to be agreed on, et cetera, the main worth of this group has been over the years the exchange of information between the different communities this platform that has been available for the different silos that we used to have it ICANN to be able to discuss in rooms during the meetings but also in between meetings intercessionally on the mailing list. I think that's one of the important takeaways from the first vehicles.

So, bearing this in mind and bearing in mind the fact that if you use the whole term "cross community group" of some sort, one might think well, no, it has to be balanced, you have to make sure that every single part of the community takes part into this, because we have so many loaded terms at ICANN, the proposal is made to just call it an engagement group on internet governance.

It's unchartered, but at the same time it has the ability to continue to exist in the ICANN space by having both minimum staff resources to be able to do what we have here, agendas and things like this, but at the same time be able to meet at the ICANN meeting in sort of environment that we've had so far. So a charter is sort of subset non-charter has been developed, that's currently going through the motions of the group.

I don't think there's been much feedback from anyone on the working list because it's all very procedural and one of the things though that we did discuss at the last meeting in Marrakech was the engagement of the Board Working Group on Internet Governance, this group that we have here, and the staff resources, and I think that we might wish to discuss this a little bit later when Leon takes the floor.

That's where we are at the moment, I hope I haven't confused everyone on this but it's just still a platform for exchange of information and the continuance of the legislative tracking that has been taking place that government engagement department has been providing to the group but also engaging with the different communities.

Now, I'm well aware that there is a Working Group on Internet Governance on some other parts of ICANN, as well, some other as in of course from my perspective being in At-Large.

The ccNSO has a working group on internet governance, I've missed the meeting, I'm hitting myself on the head that I missed their meeting but I do know Pierre Bonis very well and he's in charge of this, so we do exchange on what's going on in that space, and it is of course recognized that each component part of ICANN might have a different angle and different interests in what we call internet governance, but what is really administration of internet resources outside the walls of this organization.

So I think that we have some members I think from the ccNSO that are present in the room and it would be good to perhaps exchange with them on what happened at their meeting and perhaps even I will check with Pierre as to what the priorities of this working group are moving forward. So, that's one. I'm not aware of any, I don't think the SO has anything, but I thought I'd give the floor to Nigel to provide us with a little bit more, maybe another angle of things I forgot to mention. You have your own microphone.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Thank you very much. Nigel Hickson, Government Engagement team. As Olivier said, although the name of the Cross Community Working Group might change to the Cross Community Engagement Group, or

that's what we're changing it to, the purpose and the value of this interface with the community still remains very valuable.

We as a government engagement team are engaged in a number of activities with international governmental organizations, as you know, whether it be at the IGF, whether it be at the UN in New York whether it be at the World Trade Organization, whether it be at the World Intellectual Property Organization.

And in these different venues we were discussing internet governance issues very often and in these venues, touching on the domain name system and country code names and generic top level domains, we find being able to discuss with the broader community these issues is very valuable indeed.

So, for instance, ahead of meetings at the ITU on international telecommunication regulations ahead of meetings at WIPO on country names, we put information, we put agendas round to the Cross Community Working Group and we get feedback.

Now, this isn't policy positions of the community, it's just expertise of people in the community that are members of the cross community engagement group that are experts and are able to offer opinions and views on various things that are going on. And as we will hear later, as the engagement group takes on takes on a role perhaps in terms of legislative tracking which is something that's been discussed here before, and Leon will say something about that, then the expertise of the community becomes very important in that, as well.

So, certainly in terms of us engaging with international government organizations, having a community mechanism to discuss things with is exceptionally useful indeed and those that were at the IG public session, the Internet Governance Public Session that we held on, it seems ages ago, it was only Monday, wasn't it, we had a very valuable session there and indeed we will report on that briefly now.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Nigel. So Monday we had that big discussion in the room, we had quite a number of people that intervened on the overall topic. Our aim for having this topic on the agenda was not to put together a concerted statement from the whole community. The whole idea was to joggle people's minds in this community, hear what other people might have to say on the topic, and then get them, if they wish to participate in the consultation that I believe is still open at the moment on IGF level.

There is going to be a session at the IGF on this and so we thought it would be interesting for people to be able to hear different points of view. That's really what we were pushing for. There is no ICANN position on this, we have heard an Internet Society position that was shared with us. I don't believe that there will be an ICANN position, Nigel, will there? No.

So, there will not be it seems an ICANN position in specific, unless the Board working group decides otherwise, I don't know, maybe Leon will tell us.

But in case for those of you that are not aware of the process and I'm probably not the best person to tell you the whole process, but this was a high level panel that was convened by the UN Secretary General, if I understand correctly, and came up with a number of potential outcomes to enhance cooperation, some involving the internet governance forum and enhanced IGF plus model, some involving the creation of other committees, some involving the creation of a helpline, an internet helpline, I'm paraphrasing, but this is what some have called, you know, hi I'm here to help you on the internet.

So the discussions are still, I can't say they're early discussions because they've moved for quite some time, but they've reached a point when the IGF which is only in a few weeks time will collect more input and then some decisions will have to be taken or some proposals will have to be pushed forward. I have no idea what balance we have at the moment on what the proposals are.

I'm sure there are some people that might wish to share this, but perhaps we might have to wait until the IGF and see what comes out of the process. The main question I guess is going around the internet governance forum itself, whether that should evolve and evolve into something else or whether it shouldn't, and of course though the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group the MAG would no doubt have a say in this as well. So we're not exactly at a point of decision yet, at least that's my impression for it. So, that's what we discussed on Monday.

We then had some updates from various people on the different things that are happening out there. If you've missed it we're not going to do

the updates again because we have other things to discuss today but I found them to be very helpful and very interesting because of the various types of stakeholders that we had giving the updates on it.

One thing that is absolutely true is that we're very far away from having to conclude our work on internet governance because there are so many processes out there that at the moment more and more seem to be edging towards ICANN space or at least dealing somehow with topics that are ICANN related. Nigel, anything else on this? You might have more specifics, I just look at the general.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Thank you very much Olivier. There is a recording of the Internet Governance Public Session that we had on Monday onsite. There will also be a note of it which we will circulate around the cross community engagement list.

So anyone that's here for the first time and has just wandered in because it's a nice room, and would like to be involved in getting updates on internet governance issues that we're involved in, we do have a mailing list for the cross community engagement list and please see myself or Vera, sitting with her hand up, and we'll make sure you go on the list.

Going on the list doesn't mean that, you know, we're not going to spam, we're not going to ask you for money, it's just a list of interested people we provide regular updates. For every ICANN meeting we do a

paper for the SO and AC leadership and that was sent out fairly recently and we'll send that round to the list, as well.

In terms of the internet governance updates which were discussed on the Monday morning after the discussion on the recommendations of the high level panel. We mentioned the Internet Governance Forum and ICANN's involvement in the Internet Governance Forum. This is the annual forum taking place in Berlin at the end of the month.

We mentioned various discussions taking place at the UN in New York on cybersecurity issues, these discussions very important for the future on how governments perhaps deal with cybersecurity issues, whether eventually there could be some sort of convention or other mechanism. At the IGF itself we noted some of the main topics that were going to take place. We also referenced what was coming up at the International Telecommunications Union in the next or so.

The big event on the ITU agenda, as you know the ITU has a rolling agenda at the moment, there is the World Radio Conference which of course is not particularly germane to ICANN but it's very important globally in terms of allocation of frequencies and that for 5G and satellite locations.

The next main ITU event is the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly. This looks at a whole range of different issues including treatment of IPv6 including generic top level domains as a resolution on country code domains and international domain names.

So, some of ICANNs business, if you like, is discussed in these forums, and we use this list to update the community about what's going on in those forums and of course to solicit views that anyone has on particular issues. Just in terms of the Internet Governance agenda, perhaps I could finish by just noting as Olivier has mentioned as well, the Internet Governance agenda changes a lot and we see many changes in it over the years, and many of you are involved in different discussions in different fora.

This year's IGF is significant, is coming at a significant time. Next year is the UN's 75th anniversary, I think that is in September or October next year, the UN is 75, obviously that's a significant event, and part of that will be a declaration on the internet.

Now, that declaration is not formed yet, it's still under discussion about exactly how it might take shape but there will be discussions on that at the Internet Governance Forum, there is a main session on the recommendations from the high level report on digital cooperation and how taking those recommendations forward into some sort of broader declaration on the internet would take place. So, these are quite important times I think for these discussions.

And as you know, there has been also work taking place amongst countries, the Paris Peace Corps which was sort of taken forward from the Internet Governance Forum in Paris last year by President Macron has attracted quite a bit of attention and people talk about that. After the incident at Christ Church earlier in the year there has also been a Christ Church call which is focused more on the responsibility of

internet actors to eliminate hateful content and various other material on the web. So, an agenda goes forward.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you Nigel, let's open the floor. Any comments, questions? I wanted to ask actually, how many people are going to the Internet Governance Forum, a show of hands, there's quite a few, okay, great, so we'll see you there, hopefully. Any comments, questions from anybody on the topics? Yeah, Jim Galvin, I always do this don't I, Jim Prendergast.

JIM PRENDERGAST: I've been called worse. So, Jim Prendergast. Question, I had the inevitable conflict for the session on Monday. Was there any discussion about how we operationalize the duties that are going to be given to this group as far as legislative and regulatory monitoring, that whole effort that's been underway? Was that discussed Monday, or is that going to be discussed today?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah, thanks Jim, I think that this, maybe, I don't know whether, Leon, you're ready to share this or not because certainly we haven't received any official notification on the group's mailing list as to how, any proposal of how that would operate, so legislative tracking and how that would permeate to the group, et cetera, do you have any information on this yet? Or is that part of your presentation?

LEON SANCHEZ:

It's really not anything secret or confidential, there's a project of legislative tracking and followup and I think if I understand well your question or your comment, Jim, is how are we actually going to codify the tasks, responsibilities and what we're supposed to do with this engagement group, right?

So, if you remember it all started as the CCWGIG began to sunset because the most of the organizations if not all charter organizations decided that they were not interested in chartering anymore so we felt like this was an important effort to keep.

So, after having discussions, thinking about, et cetera, we thought that a good idea would be to have a nonchartered group, hence the name of EGIG the Engagement Group for Internet Governance, and what we've been thinking and what we've been discussing is that it is an important issue for the Board and for the community to try to bring this discussion to the table to continue to coordinate, to share information, to work as coordinated as possible, and maybe even produce some informational papers.

We have discussed this, I believe it was in Marrakech, maybe, we discussed that one of the outputs of this group could be to put together informational papers which would be of course nonbinding documents for the different SOs and ACs consumption and informational benefit. We are talking with the organization as to how we can support that group, how we can actually provide the space, the

time, the allocation, et cetera, so that the group can actually continue to perform this work.

As I said, we're talking about this with the organization, we're of course eager to facilitate that happening, but we still have some details to iron out and for that we need your help. So, I guess that the objective of the session besides other objectives, of course, is to try to have this dialogue as to how we can crystallize this plan and say okay, let's move it forward and let's make it happen.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you for this, Leon. A question on this actually because of course we've got the sunset of this group, as we said, but obviously we have a continuum in the number of activities and the challenges that are coming our way with the IGF, et cetera, afterwards. So, as the vehicle I think we might call it is being worked out are we saying that we'll just continue sailing for the time being until the new vehicle is ready? How do you see this transition taking place?

LEON SANCHEZ: In my mind I wouldn't call it a vehicle, because it's not a vehicle, it's just a space, it's a space for us to gather to discuss to share ideas, thoughts, information, to keep track of what's happening, to raise the flag on issues that might be challenging or threatening to the ICANN environment, to the internal governance ecosystem, et cetera.

So, in terms of transition I think we've already transitioned, I mean, the fact that we are here gathered today, and I sound like a pastor right? We're gathered here today, the fact that we are gathered here today, it's exactly a step forward in this transition from the CCWGIG to the EGIG.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: So we'll have to change the title because they're still using the old title in the agenda, so the next time we'll have to make sure the title is correctly written.

LEON SANCHEZ: I'm pretty sure we can do that.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Any other comments or questions on this? Or any other topics relating to IG?

BEN WALLACE: Thank you, Ben Wallace with Microsoft. With regards to the IGF since we met on Monday, the MAG met on Tuesday and we heard that there's over 5000 people now registered, which is a record for an IGF meeting, which is very impressive, partly thanks to the efforts of the German hosts. Registration in advance is closed but people can still go to Berlin and register in person to attend.

There was something I think you said about the height of a panel and IGF+ which I wanted to clarify. I think you might have said much needs to be done before we work out exactly how it's going to happen and the MAG still needs to be consulted.

As a MAG member I have no expectation that the MAG has any role in giving a view. I'm sure MAG members are all very well placed to kind of contribute to discussions but I don't think there's any privileged or particular role for the MAG as a body to decide or approve or suggest how IGF should happen, that would very much enhance the UN Secretariat.

And my other point separately, which I think Jim might have been referring to, as well. After the GDPR, ICANN started to track national legislative and regulatory developments that might have an impact on the community and that there have been discussions about how that might be taken forward to be a function that happens in even more detail than it already does, and possibly different opinions amongst the community about who's best placed to do that, personally I think ICANN is an organization that that's an appropriate function for it to play.

Others have talked about different parts of the community playing a role in that. So I wondered, I don't think we discussed that at all on Monday, but I wondered if you or anyone else knew what direction that particular function was heading?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this, Ben, it's Olivier for the transcript. So, unfortunately I haven't got very much more information than what I currently said. The matter I guess is currently being discussed between the ICANN Staff and the Board as in what comes next. So I don't know whether there is anything else to say at this point it's a work in progress obviously.

We had a big meeting as I said in the last Marrakech face-to-face and discussed some of the potential ways that this vehicle this nonvehicle, sorry, could operate and so I'm not sure whether there's anything else to share at this moment in time. What's important, yes, there are many different departments that are involved with this and I guess that's for staff and Göran and his team to work out.

With regards to tracking, the government engagement department has done this for quite a number of years already under the auspices of Dr. Tarik, so it was pretty active, and of course, we've been fed by the government engagement department on every meeting, every call.

Just one more thing, we did have just one call between the Marrakech meeting and now, partly because the summer sees a lull in activity or at least a slowdown in activity, so there wasn't so much to discuss, but we're likely to see a pickup again as the season is back now in full swing.

JIMSON OLUFUYE :

Hi, everyone, Jimson Olufuye. Let me start by really appreciating the briefs and Nigel and the staff, thanks for all you are doing. Olivier and the IG space. Well, I just want to provide some information in regard to legislative activities.

We have not discussed it here but in the African continent, Nigeria came out in January 2019 with this idea and data protection regulation as well which is mirrored after that of GDPR and it has been active as well, doing slower, like for example 2% of the gross, big companies processing 10,000 data sets of data subjects and it is less than that, about 1% and they are collaborating, which is good, they need to cooperate. So they met with the European DPA and they collaborate in regard to that, just for information.

I've been hearing again about this statement concerning the SDG because there is a session and another, someone asked a question, what is ICANN roll with regard to SDG, and apart from a number of staff, of course not the IG staff, that ICANN rule is very narrow is very limited, and things like that. Yes, you understand, but I think it would be naive to say that we cannot have any comment on it.

I think even the world summit information society came about likely because of ICANN, the first one in 2003, second one in 2005, even the IGF is because of ICANN in a way, it has cooperation because of ICANN, and leading to IANA.

So, basically if we look at where we fit in, I think it would be wise to say well ICANN has looked at this, we're part of the global citizens we have

been involved and we think our objective lines with Goal 9, for example, which has to do with the economy, industry, digital economy is driven the infrastructure level largely by ICANN activities, technical activities and also Goal 17, we talk about partnership. In the ICANN ecosystem there is excellent partnership with government, we need to emphasize that.

We say, oh we don't have anything to do with it because our remit is narrow, I don't think it is wise to just blanket say that. Then, just to announce that we have this IGF workshop, I want to invite everyone, that is [inaudible] Organization, as part of the outcome of [inaudible] 2012, across Africa, we have workshop in 293, inviting everyone, that is Unlocking the Digital Potentials of Developing and Least Developed Countries. This is happening on Thursday, November 28 at 4 pm. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Jimson Olufuye. Anyone else? So, I think we can move to the next thing. Nigel?

NIGEL HICKSON: I'm not going to answer you Jimson for the organization, it's not my role, but I want to just recognize what you said. This week at the ICANN meeting we've had a number of sessions not to do with government engagement, but we've had sessions where the organization has been able to socialize the strategic plan with a number of the different community organizations and I'm not going

responsible for the strategic plan, I'm not going to tell you what you should be doing with a strategic plan, but the strategic plan I think in any basis is a piece of work which is really important and what that does is it talks about championing the open internet, it talks about the vision of ICANN of being involved in championing the open internet and championing the open domain name system, and in terms of descriptions of the strategic plan I think it's very obvious that ICANN has a role in the internet ecosystem, we have a role according to our mandate and charter.

And when you talk about the sustainable development goals of course the sustainable development goals that the UN to put forward are incredibly wide, but if we just relate them back to a fairly narrow area, at the Internet Governance Forum we mentioned that we are going to be part of the Internet Governance Forum with supporters of the Internet Governance Forum in spirit, in body, and financially, as well, and we're doing a workshop on the domain name system on the threats to the domain name system, on DNS abuse which of course is close to the community's heart in terms of what's being discussed this week.

But also we're doing a workshop on universal acceptance and international domain names and that is somewhere that we've also stood on international platforms whether it be the ITU or the UN and have said that ICANN does work on international domain names, the international domain names do have a role in fostering inclusion and fostering greater participation in the internet by the marginalized communities, that universal acceptance is an important vehicle to be

able to have a multilingual internet that's accessible to people across the globe.

So although we are not responsible for this, we have been inputting into those avenues of discussion. And just finally on the IGF because I'm reminded by my colleagues we will be at Berlin, we will circulate round to the Cross Community Engagement Group list a list of the activities that ICANN is involved in and ICANN Board members are involved in, whether we're organizing them or Board members are involved in, and we'd be very grateful for feedback from the community what events that you're involved in, because what we want to be able to do, in Berlin we have a great team of Board members going and we want to be able to say look you know it'll be very nice on the Tuesday morning if you went along and heard you know Jordan talk about ccTLDs or whatever.

And finally, and I'm going to shut up, we have a reception we have a cocktail reception, I can see a few, yes, cocktails, we have a cocktail reception on Tuesday night, we want you to be there, but you know, there's always limited numbers, so please if you haven't given your name to anyone Adam Peake is willing to collect your name so we can put you on the list for the cocktail reception. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Nigel. Jordan?

JORDAN CARTER: Thanks, Olivier. Are we are we sort of sharing, or are we still on Item 3?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I think we're moving slowly to 4.

JORDAN CARTER: Okay, to 4, okay, I promise I won't take long. This is just offering a perspective on kind of the importance of the work that ICANN has started to do to actually understand the policy and regulatory environment a bit more. Obviously in New Zealand we had the experience of the Christ Church mosques terrorist attacks in March this year and that's led to much more focus on internet policy generally and internet governance by New Zealand authorities then had been the case in the past.

And one of the interesting things about that is that the Christ Church culling came about in a period of about six weeks and it was focused on terrorists and violent extremist content, which is generally outside ICANN's gambit, but the point was that it was one country working with some companies and then some other countries that did that in six weeks and our internet governance system it seems to me is designed to not be able to do things in six weeks or six months and sometimes six years if you look at the way that ICANN has been doing w WHOIS.

So I guess what I want to say is that in our community we don't need to expand our remit as ICANN but we need to be connected to the fact

that governments are taking more and more interest in internet policy and they're never going to go away again unless the internet suddenly becomes much less important which I don't think any of us think is likely to be a thing that happens.

And so I really commend the fact of this group, I'm glad the ccNSO set up the Internet Governance Liaison Committee that it has, and the work that the organization is doing to better understand these things. But the worst thing we could do as a community is to say to governments or communities around the world, we're not interested in your problem, we just run the technical infrastructure, all the stuff that happens on the internet, we don't care.

That's the worst message we can give, because actually we do care as people and what we need to be saying as we care about those things and this is the reason why it isn't a very good idea to ask us to fix it. And even then there might be things that we need to change, which is where the DNS abuse thing came from.

So really my point is to just commend the work that is going on here and to keep saying that there might be layers of internet governance probably not at ICANN that we need to develop better and to note the speech that Macron gave at the IGF last year, talking about more interdisciplinary, the need to evolve our governance structure to deal with the problems that the internet is culling, and hopefully that's things that people here in their other capacities and other institutions will be following up. Thanks.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you for this Jordan. Any other comments? I think just building on the points that you've made, just the very fact that we do have a space at ICANN to raise the flag while many of us are often close to the action where it actually takes place and can act early on and let everyone know this is happening, this is this is going on, is one of the things that this group ICANN really leverage on and I think that it does help staff and Board and everyone in some respect because we have such a wide ranging community from technical from country codes and generic and commercial sector etc, so there's quite a wide range.

Leon, I think we can turn over to you for the report in quotes on the IG activities and also maybe if you do have the information, cast a bit of light as to where we're going with regards to the different parts of ICANN that track these things, because there's of course the GE department but there was also at some point an initiative where there were reports sent to the Board from another part of ICANN and I'm not quite sure there was ever any light shed in any way as to how information was being transferred or you know moving around from one place to another. Maybe now it's all much simpler in this one track system, it would be good to have your explanations on it things.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thanks, Olivier. The Board Working Group on Internet Governance has been of course looking at these subjects and these issues very closely and we have mainly been discussing how in terms of our

strategic objective that is linked to dealing with geopolitical issues and challenges, how can we better take advantage of the huge input of our communities.

So we've been discussing that we are very good at crowd sourcing work for policymaking but we have been very bad at crowd sourcing work for creating awareness and maybe an example of that is GDPR, right? So we don't want to see us involved again in an issue like GDPR as we got caught there, I mean, I think we saw it coming but we just didn't care in a timely fashion about GDPR.

So, the perspective within the Board is that we don't want to see ICANN call again in a situation like GDPR caught us. So that may be a consequence or symptom of different circumstances, this is my opinion, this is not of course the position of the whole Board, but this is my opinion, maybe it was a symptom because we were very inward looking at the beginning then we were very American-centric, then I feel like we are being too European-centered where we are at now.

What we tried to achieve or what we're trying to achieve with this interaction with EGIG and within the Board working group and with the interaction that we have with government engagement is to open the lens and widen the scope to say okay so which are, as you were pointing, Jordan, which are the layers of the internet governance that are going to affect that that might affect us.

Let's get ready for that, let's get ready to face these challenges but we recognize that we cannot do this alone hence the need to establish

this engagement group because if we establish this engagement group as the space again to share information I don't want to say to coordinate positions because we are aware that there well might be different positions and different views on how we address the geopolitical and internet governance challenges that we face.

But at least we know how you think, how Jim thinkS, Lito, I mean, everyone in the room will get a feeling and awareness of how the different constituent parts within ICANN feel about a certain issue. So that is what we are striving to achieve participating within this EGIG. We are prepared as I said to facilitate whatever is needed to continue this EGIG going.

We are as I said in talks with the organization to find what is the best way to achieve this, to provide the space, to provide the time, allocation, maybe more comfortable setting for next meeting, and take care of these details so that the discussion can actually take place and happen.

Another thing that has happened within the Board working group is that we have a new Chair for the working group. This is going to be Tripti Sinha, so she was just appointed today in our organizational meeting and she will be with us in no time. she's just finishing another meeting with the Board Governance Committee, but she will be here and I'm pretty sure that she'll be glad to speak to you as to what is her vision going forward, what are her plans with this.

But I think that the central message here is that being the geopolitical challenges and issues strategic objective in our strategic plan, I think it's clear the message that we're trying to deliver to the community, that we need to take care of these issues but again, we can't do it alone, we need your collaboration, we need the organization's collaboration, and we need to take advantage of all the works and all the volunteers that we have in our community to better achieve this objective. Yes, Mandy, do you want to add something?

MANDY CARVER:

What Leon is trying to address is that we're at a point of inflection and we have had feedback from the community about various previous mechanisms and requests for an evolution and a change, and now we're trying to synthesize all of those requests to come up with a mechanism that will work.

There was a question earlier about the reports and I apologize for folks that are in the room that have already been in other sessions where these things have been discussed, but what we had was a draft initiative that described the three primary categories of things that ICANN Org was going to look at, so if it was a legislative or regulatory event that appeared to directly impact the DNS, if it appeared to directly impact a single stable interoperable internet, and if it appeared likely to directly impact the ability of the community within ICANN to make policy on the unique identifiers, then those were how we were, and I'm sorry Jimson, I've had this conversation with him, as well, that was how we were trying to narrow it.

There is a mechanism that both the global stakeholder engagement field staff and the government engagement teams are using to internally flag and identify. We had public reports, we got a fair bit of feedback about the deficits that the community had identified in them, requesting both changes in, well, a plethora of things that they would like to see changed, so we paused, rather than continue to generate things that you all had told us you wanted to see changed.

Those reports are being modified and those reports, the goal is that those will go forward to be coordinated with the release of the CEO's reports to the Board which are also made public.

The other space where government engagement kinds of things are reported are the reports that we regularly do, we, being government engagement and global stakeholder engagement, that we do for the GAC and that's circulated both to their list to the Board and then those are publicly posted so that's a retroactive look at events and engagements that we've had plus forward looking.

So that's one set of type of activity, the other are the synthesis reports and I apologize that we haven't restarted those yet, but that will be happening shortly. We had a mechanism for people to respond to those reports and the community didn't use it at all.

So part of this is a dialogue with all of you, what is the mechanism that you want to see and the different SOs and ACs are discussing how they want to participate, both through this kind of a dialogue mechanism, what do they want, and how they might want to participate or react to

the reports or contribute and so that's the ongoing discussion, what do all of you want and how do you each of the SOs and ACs have a different perspective both on priority bandwidth the criteria that they have. So we're looking to synthesize those things, but it's moving forward.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Mandy, you actually beat me to it. I was about to say that I think that the most fruitful part of these meetings for us at least is to listen to what you guys have to say and what are your concerns, how can we better facilitate this effort, what would you expect the Board takes action on so we can actually move forward with this.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you, Leon. I was going to actually ask, are there any striking differences from how tracking was being performed let's say a year or a year-and-a-half ago, the processes we had a year-and-a-half ago, to what's being proposed now?

MANDY CARVER:

The primary change I think is going to be in the out-facing reporting. There was an internal thought process if you will that wasn't evident enough to the community and so one of those specific requests are what is the rationale? So more of a rationale framing and an analysis in the material is foot forward. There had been an initial thought that

there needed to be continuity if we're reporting and posting the reports, people can always go back and look at the history.

What you all will be aware of is something might begin in a legislative or regulatory process and then it might end up being tabled or legislation can be passed in a country because there's a domestic concern that legislation requires the creation of a particular cabinet or ministry in order to be implemented and the cabinet or ministry is never established. So you may see something and this looks like it's going to have a major impact domestically here, and it doesn't move forward.

So some of it is a refining, but some of it is also very much a reflection of what you all are telling us is worthwhile and what we need is actually a better feedback loop on those reports because we had an email address that was provided in each of them and I get that, so I can tell you it actually goes to a real person and I can also tell you I never got anything from a real person on that, and that's one of the challenges of course having open accessible lists.

So to my way of thinking that's not clearly the way that you all want to communicate with us. We were hoping to have a more communal conversation rather than having individual briefings and responses from each SO and AC and sub working group separately, some of that's bandwidth and resources but some of it is all part of what enriches the dialogue is for you all to be talking to each other not just us as a single spoke back and forth.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this Mandy. I have another question and I don't know who is qualified to respond to this. The group itself has of course worked with government engagement primarily on the UN conferences, so things happening both in Geneva and New York.

When it comes down to national legislation in some other parts of the world there wasn't that much focus on this. Is now the new tracking looking at widening this and looking at national legislation in the various countries around the world or are we still set to look at the macro picture from a sort of helicopter view?

LEON SANCHEZ: I guess that's part of the objective of participating in this engagement group. As I said this is something that we cannot do alone this is something that we cannot keep track about by ourselves or even with the help of the organization. So the objective is to have input from anyone within the community to raise the flag and say guys we should be looking at this. You know there's this legislation in Mexico that is emerging and that I think could have these implications.

So, for example, we've seen how in many trade agreements the references to ICANN in regard to ccTLD dispute resolutions are being removed so in my mind are they going to cross the line and say let's remove all references to ICANN even to gTLDs, for example, are they going to cross the line on trade agreements in regard to that?

So that is what I think is actually the actual value that we can bring to the community and to the organization and to the Board with these interactions, to say, you know I've been following this issue or this negotiation and this treaty agreement or in this commercial agreement, et cetera. I think we should be looking at this, so we don't get caught in a situation like we did with GDPR.

I know that if Stephanie Perrin was here, she would tell me, I told you so guys, eight years ago, ten years, and she's right. She was right all along. So that's the intention, not to be caught again in that situation, and for that, again, we need everyone's contribution and everyone's collaboration.

So you're right the intent is to expand the scope and open the lens to situations that otherwise we wouldn't be able to actually be following. I don't know if you want to add something, Mandy.

MANDY CARVER:

The only other I was going to say, this is not to say that we are going to be running from pillar to post to say oh well, we have to go over here and talk to this country about this, but this is about having a network that can hear the weak signals, can we gather the signals. It's about pattern recognition, you know. When GDPR came out, well, okay, that's European, but obviously there's extra territoriality and an impact because, how do you define who's in there? But we also saw other regional governmental bodies picking that up.

And so, what is of interest is if Mexico is starting to have a conversation, are we seeing that kind of legislative discussion being picked up by the neighbors in the region? If you're seeing something that is happening only over here and not anywhere else, that's also interesting.

And sometimes, we do see things that percolate out from one region and start to spread, but because there's already a different perspective in a different part of the world that it isn't going to be picked up. I mean, and there's some very specific and concerning pieces of national legislation, obviously, the ccTLDs are the folks that are best place to know what is happening because that's their day to day business. So, we want everybody...

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Mandy, back to you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Mandy. Are there any other comments or questions in the room, and I see Tripti is joining us. Ben Wallace.

BEN WALLACE: I just wanted to thank you for the explanation. It's very encouraging to hear everything you're doing. I think the initial regulatory tracking reports were broad but shallow.

And I think that's something you mentioned just now and that you're, I think it's very sensible to kind of narrowly focus them, so you're focusing on what's really relevant to ICANN, and the DNS, and then you can that gives a space to go into the analysis. I'm sure there's a role for this group to be providing its own input, but I think it's very appropriate the work you're doing and I'm very encouraged and grateful for your explanation. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this, Ben. As this is a face to face meeting of the group itself. One of the questions I had was whether you had considered any mechanisms by which the group would contribute to this process. So, the actual procedure that, you know, getting to the nitty gritty and thinking, “Well, how is information from this group going to interact with the information from the different departments of ICANN and the board working group?” Did you give any thought to this in your, in the board working group?”

LEON SANCHEZ: I mean, I think we've had thought about it, but then again, it's not up to us to define how you guys want to do your work, right?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: No, transmit the work. I'm talking here, communication. So, the group here can self-organize into how it actually does its own work.

But, how do we then relate it to what we received from ICANN staff and board?

LEON SANCHEZ:

Well, I don't think we have defined a mechanism for that yet. But I don't think it'll be too complicated. I mean, the whole essence of these EGID is to get rid of complications, right?

So, the more freely the information flows between the EGID, the SO/ACs, the board, the organization I think we will be even more successful in achieving the goal we're trying to reach here. So again, I don't have a specific mechanism or vehicle to carry out this exchange. But as I said, the lighter we build it and we think about it, I think it will be more successful to achieve the goal that we're trying to reach.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thanks, Leon. One of the things that we had discussed in the last meeting was also to do with the platform itself, whether it was going to be a software platform or just continuing with emails. The difficulty with emails, as we had mentioned, was that emails do get lost. You either get an overload of them or not enough and the not enough gets lost in the overload of all of the other emails. Has your group given any consideration as to other means of or, you know, other ways to work on this?

LEON SANCHEZ:

It's also something that we still need to discuss.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, right. So, joining us is Tripti Sinha, who I believe is going to take over for you.

LEON SANCHEZ: She's already taken over. So I wanted to introduce my colleague, Tripti Sinha, as the new chair.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Just before, I see that someone wanted to make a contribution, just sharing, then we can go to Tripti. Here we go.

YRJÖ LÄNSIPURO: Thank you. Yrjö Länsipuro. When it comes to tracking what's happening out there in the 200 countries of the world or so, I just keep the things that actually, ICANN is composed of two wonderful organizations that have feet on the ground around the globe. One is the GAC and one is At-Large. GAC has 178 member governments, we have about what, 300 ALSes, At-Large structures.

Of course, nothing happens without organizing and so on and so forth, and I think this, the ALSes, the At-Large structures, that's what they do, actually, as a main job. They follow the local and regional legislation for their purposes, but they could also be a conduit, a vehicle, for relaying that information to ICANN, if that could be organized somehow. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this, Yrjö. So, let's go over to Tripti now.

TRIPTI SINHA: So, first I'd like to say I'm really excited about taking over from Leon. Thank you for all your hard work, and to reassure all of you that this is indeed a very important topic with the board. We did have a discussion about Internet governance should be, stay engaged and the response has been, “Yes, yes, absolutely.”

And, as I'm sure was discussed, we will all have, a contingent of us, will be going to the Berlin meeting. So, this is clearly, now, on the psyche of all nations, you know, sovereignty, you know, when it comes to, digital sovereignty is now a topic. They've become so aware of how the internet impacts their national growth and so forth. So, we'll keep our finger on the pulse of it and I look forward to working with, now you're terming out, am I right? So, am I right? Aren't you terming out as...

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I think I'll still be around.

TRIPTI SINHA: Okay, you'll still be here. Okay, great. So who's...?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I'm gone of everything else, I'll still be around here at the moment.

TRIPTI SINHA: So, you're still chair then?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I'm still chair, well, suppose, if I'm not kicked out of the place, but...

TRIPTI SINHA: Okay. I was misinformed. You're still chair.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: That being said, yeah, I do have to say that, you know, if there are other people who wish to take on the position, then they're very welcome to come and see me afterwards, because I'm juggling hats and things. But no, I'm very happy to continue...

TRIPTI SINHA: I'm looking forward to working with you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Looking forward, too.

TRIPTI SINHA: Yeah. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, any further questions, concerns, any ideas as to where we need to go next? We've touched on, you know, how we are going to work together. We're waiting for further details on the proposal, I guess. Once it's being discussed a bit more internally as to how the vehicle will work or how the lack of vehicle will work.

LEON SANCHEZ: Even the exchange of information.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: The exchange. You know, the legislative tracking on one side. We've got here a forum that can discuss things that can interact back and forth with the board working group, with staff as well. So, we're pretty much rolling, I would say. One test might be the IGF, because I know that we've seen many people are going to the Internet Governance Forum. It would be interesting if you saw anything that could affect ICANN that you just fire an email off over to the mailing list so to let the others know, or in other ways.

But, you know, the platform that we have, the email mailing list that we have, is one that is helpful. There are, I know, some Wiki pages that are built by some parts of the community to track who is doing what workshop.

I don't think it's a mandate of this working group to track people's activities at the Internet Governance Forum, specifically, but if you do

know of anything that ICANN is doing, and I think that Nigel might speak to us about this in a moment, or that some community members are doing that, really are very much ICANN related, then it would be good that others could attend it. Because the agenda, as we know, at the IGF is just so huge and this time we are looking at a full week rather than the shortened week that we had in Paris. So, Nigel.

NIGEL HICKSON:

Yes. Thanks very much. I mean, just to confirm. I think what we, you know, flagged on, flagged before, the IGF in Berlin will have a number of board members. Our delegation is being led by Goran Marby, CEO and president and Maarten Botterman, the new board chair, and Tripti will be there, and Leto will be there, and a number of other -- Leon will be there and a number of other board members.

We have a number of specific sessions. We have a session, as I mentioned, in day zero on DNS abuse and related issues. We have an ICANN open forum on the Tuesday, on day one. And on day three, we have a workshop on universal acceptance and IDN, and indeed, we'll flag these on the list and, obviously, it's good to know what other sessions have been done by community members. I mean, some we know because they're on the agenda, but sometimes it's not always that that obvious.

And certainly, what we would do after the after the IGF, would come back and report, have a discussion in the cross-community

engagement group on a call to discuss the implications of what came out of the IGF, both ICANN and for the internet ecosystem in general. And, also looking forward in terms of the agenda, the annual WSIS forum takes place in Geneva next March.

And we'll also be looking at what sort of engagement ICANN might have at that forum, that's the WSIS forum that tends to look at wider internet issues in terms of inclusivity, and the sustainable development goals, and a number of other topics. Thanks.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this, Nigel. And then just one more thing, just for the transcript and for the record, this group has absolutely no incidents on any travel or activities that ICANN has at IGF. So, what I mean by that is, that ICANN's involvement, government engagement departments involvement with the IGF, does not relate to any kind of budget request or whatever that -- sorry, let me rephrase this. Any budget request for this group.

This group does not have a travel budget, it doesn't have any kind of impact on the ICANN budget when it comes down to ICANN's involvement outside of this group. Community members that go to the IGF go either under their own dime or using their own SO or AC involvement for outreach and whatever. And that, I think that's also regarding the board.

The board has its own budget and does its own thing. I have heard some people in the community saying, "Well, if this group disappears,

then that's it. We're not going to, you know, we're going to be able to cut on costs.” Well, I'm not saying people around the world to do all of these things when this group has never sent anyone around the world. So it, you know, it's really, it's more of a just coordination locally.

I thought I'd mentioned this because perhaps the people that are in the room here know about this, but there are some outside of the walls that don't come to the group and that then come to me afterwards and say, “So where are you going to send people this time?” I say, “I don't know. We're not sending anyone anywhere.” I think it's important that they know that. Any other comments or questions? I don't... Okay, George Sadowsky.

GEORGE SADOWSKY:

Thanks. I think, Nigel, what you what you just said is an important thing for this group to know, because you're going to IGF and you say you're going to report back the results of IGF. Now, in fact, the IGF has no results because it's designed to have no results. But what's important are the tone, the interactions that occur, the sense of the room, if one can consider the IGF as a full room.

And that's the kind of thing that is, I think, useful for those of us who aren't going to the IGF and can't experience that firsthand. So, thank you for that and I hope that you will respond after IGF to tell us what you found, in particular, if there are things that affect ICANN. but in general, also. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this, George. Any other comments? I guess we're into any other business, usually, if there's any other comments that we've covered pretty much everything we needed to cover today. I'm not seeing any hands up at the back. Can't see any faces and my eyes are hurting with the light. So, Leon, anything else?

LEON SANCHEZ: No, Olivier, I don't have any...

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: In fact, I shouldn't ask you, I should ask Tripti. Anything else?

TRIPTI SINHA: No, I look forward to working with every member of this group and with you, Olivier.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Fantastic. Great. Who else? So, Nigel's putting Switzerland on the -- Hocke, you've twitched and that's, of course -- you're put on the spot as a twitching.

JENS HOCKE: It's working. Hello. I don't want to make this longer, but as Nigel put me on the spot, I was thinking about this approach you're taking. I

already made a comment in the GAC board meeting on the, let's say, the strategic engagement and internet governance issues by ICANN. I think that's very important.

Beyond that, I think that there's a little defensive flavor to how you have framed it in the strategic papers, that was at least my feeling. So, to monitor and address challenges, be it a regulatory or be it geopolitical. But beyond that, let's say, preventing problems approach, I think it's absolutely essential that you are part, that you're in an important, and with you I mean us, everybody here, and that you are part of the new arrangements that are going to be built. Because that's a process which is ongoing.

And those new arrangements, may I go back to the comment by Jordan, which I want to endorse and I wanted to endorse it before, it's really to, to starting with a recognition that we need better response models to address the challenges of the digitization.

And only some small issues are related directly to ICANN, but the whole new ecosystem that is being built, that some are trying to build, on the basis and basically of the IGF mandate, really tries to build up coordination methods and systems of cooperation that are multistakeholder, that are able to respond in real time, or as quickly as possible without going into ad hoc solutions or ad hoc declarations, ad hoc initiatives, which many times, run the risk of not having all the right people, or the right expertise.

In this case, the, the very important expertise of ICANN involved. So, I think that ICANN has a strategic interest of being one important piece of that interdependent, interconnected, new digital cooperation arrangements. So, that was my pitch. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks very much for this, Hocke. And I think that with these wise words... Oh, Adam Peake. You've got a mic right there.

ADAM PEAKE: Thank you very much. Adam Peake from ICANN staff. I wanted to follow up on something that was mentioned earlier, which is the reception. So, if you -- let's try that way around. So, if you don't have my email address, it's a very standard thing, adam.peake, with an 'e' at the end, icann.org and we'll make sure that you get the invitation to the ICANN reception which is on the Tuesday night of the IGF.

Other things we're doing at the booth is trying to make sure that information from the supporting organizations advisory committees are shared. So, if you are a chair or if you're involved in that, then please make sure that any documentation you would like on our website that's linked from the booth, and again, send it to me, we'll make sure that that happens.

We're also going to be using the booth for community members to join us and use for their own outreach and other little sessions that will be going on there. So, if you are at the IGF piece, please come along to

the reception and we'll also probably be supplying chocolates and other useful things at the booth. So, emergency sustenance is always a good idea. So, thank you very much, look forward to seeing some of you in Berlin. Thanks.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Adam. Any other comments? And if I'm not seeing any hands in the room, then I think we can bring this to a close, thanking all of you to come and join us here and... do we have... oh yeah, well I didn't see Vera wave her hands. No, no, remote participants, no.

So, this, as I mentioned, was supposed to be a face to face meeting, hopefully we'll get a slightly more cozy room next time so we can actually see each other in sort of a round table. But you know, it's good to see so many people interested in this and sitting in the room. So, thank you again and we'll give you five spare minutes, six spare minutes to your life until your next session. Thank you and have a very good trip home. Bye bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]