
SAN JUAN – ICANN61 Welcome Ceremony
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ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

BRAD WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the opening ceremony of ICANN61. Please join me in welcoming the vice president of stakeholder engagement for North America Chris Mondini.

[Applause]

CHRIS MONDINI: Good morning and welcome to beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico.

I would like to acknowledge Governor Ricardo Roselló, NTIA Administrator David Redl and our host Dr. Oscar Moreno de Ayala, the President of NIC-P-R... along with his Executive Vice President and my good friend Pablo Rodriguez.

Let me also welcome our community and distinguished members of our sister organizations that make up the Internet ecosystem.

Thank you all for being here. And now, I will switch to English so interpreters stop suffering.

Welcome. At ICANN we talk a lot about resilience, and we will undoubtedly be doing so during the coming week since part of

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our mission is to ensure the resilience of the global Internet and its addressing systems. But I feel resilience is also a word that characterizes the Puerto Rican people.

Hurricane Maria and its predecessor storm Irma caused tragic death and destruction. But these storms did not destroy the spirit of Puerto Ricans. I would like to take just a moment to simply acknowledge the sheer determination, the spirit and, yes, the resilience of the Puerto Rican people. We stand in awe of your fortitude. We commend your strength, we respect your innovation, and we are very grateful for your hospitality.

[Applause]

Here, like in so many other places around the world, the Internet has become more than just a luxury. It has evolved into a necessity for life. And during emergencies, Internet access becomes even more important. Puerto Rico's efforts to get its residents back online are defined by a determination and amazing innovation by both Puerto Ricans and those who came to assist. In an open session of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee just this past Saturday, government officials from around the world learned of how our .PR hosts took measures to assure the continuity of their operations for the domain name registrants and companies and businesses at the height of the crisis.

This is just one example of how Puerto Ricans are turning the experience of this tragedy into valuable lessons and future best practices for dealing with natural disasters that may occur anywhere in the world.

A number of active ICANN business stakeholders also answered the call to action and they are here with us to explain in sessions later today during Tech Day how they were able to help in the aftermath of Maria.

Google's sister company X dispatched over this island some experimental high-altitude balloons, part of its Project Loon. In essence, these are solar-powered communications towers. And it is estimated that they provided Internet access to 200,000 people.

AT&T also delivered emergency aerial platforms using a so-called flying COW, stands for cellular on wings. And these drones acted as airborne cell towers providing Internet access for emergency responders.

Microsoft also helped. It returned Internet service to a food distribution site, a health clinic, and to the University of Puerto Rico using an emerging technology that delivers broadband over unused TV broadcasting frequencies.

Tragic devastation gave way to remarkable innovation, and this will reshape the way emergency personnel obtain access to the Internet in future disasters.

Our meeting this week will tackle many complex issues, ranging from how to deal with emerging data protection regulation to the upcoming rollover of the cryptographic keys that help secure the Domain Name System. Yet, it is important for us to remember that as we tackle these problems, these complex issues, Puerto Ricans and those who came to help showed us that creative innovation and perseverance can help guide us to viable and sustainable solutions to just about any problem.

And so with that, it is my pleasure to now introduce you to Cherine Chalaby, who takes the ICANN stage for the first time in his role as chairman of our board of directors.

Cherine.

[Applause]

MR. CHERINE CHALABY: Well, thank you, Cristobal. You started very well in Spanish. Good morning, everyone.

I'm delighted to welcome you to what I believe promises to be a very exciting and important week for the ICANN community.

Together we will be addressing a broad range of fundamental issues that go to the core of our business. I am sure that through our combined efforts, we will make substantial progress in many of these areas at ICANN61.

Your Excellency, Mr. Ricardo Roselló, Governor of Puerto Rico. Distinguished Oscar Moreno de Ayala, President of nic.pr. Distinguished Pablo Rodríguez, Executive Vice-president of nic.pr. On behalf of ICANN's global community, I would like to extend not only our best wishes and solidarity, but also our commitment to help you and the people of Puerto Rico. We are ready to lend a hand in any way we can.

[Applause]

The Honorable David Redl, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator, United States, Department of Commerce, you are most welcome to ICANN61. Colleagues and friends, it is a great honor to be here in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico, meaning rich port, is also known in Spanish as La Isla del Encanto, meaning the Island of Enchantment. Its rich history, tropical climate, natural scenery, traditional cuisine, and above all its hospitable puertorriqueños have made Puerto Rico a favorite destination for travelers from all around the world.

I have been here once on holiday a long time ago, and I have been dying to come back.

I also know the ICANN community remembers fondly our 2007 meeting which was held on this beautiful Caribbean island.

Two years ago, we regrettably had to postpone our meeting. This time when we were faced with the decision to continue as planned after Hurricane Maria struck this island on the 20th of September, 2017, the choice was clear. Our commitment was unequivocal. We were confident that Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican people would overcome the tough challenges they were facing and would be ready to welcome our community. And they proved us right. We are here in this wonderful venue with terrific hosts.

May I ask you to join me in a round of applause for our hosts.

[Applause]

So with great thanks to our hosts, its time to get down to business. My speech this morning is focused on ICANN's future in terms of three things: Its strategic plan, its financial direction, and its governance model. Before thinking about the future, I would like to take a moment to reflect on where we are now today 18 months after the transition took place in October 2016.

It is fair to say we have our differences and even our public discords, but these are inherent characteristics of our inclusive transparent system of governance and democracy. That is what makes us strong. That is what makes us so unique.

There is no doubt that ICANN today is in a better place. We are on solid ground, and we are in good hands.

Our leadership succession was smooth and assured. Our Empowered Community and our multistakeholder model are functioning well. Our policies are being developed, and decisions are being taken. Our accountability, checks and balances, are getting stronger. Our technology and services are stable. And our community and our board continue to work together in a cooperative manner.

Of course, we will continue to have ups and downs; but we are in good shape and the future bodes well for us.

Now, turning to the week ahead, we have a packed agenda. And as always, we will work hard. By the end of the week, we will be exhausted and most of us will be delighted to be heading home. And some of us perhaps will be taking a well-deserved holiday here in Puerto Rico. But for the next few minutes, I invite you to lift your head up and look at the horizon.

Shortly we will begin working on our strategic plan for the next period from 2021 to 2025. This strategic plan will have three components: One, our vision; two, our mission; and, three, our strategic objectives.

It is unlikely that our vision for where ICANN is going to be in the year 2025 will be different from what is described today in our strategic plan.

The same applies to our mission. This also will not change in the new strategic plan because it's already engraved and written into our bylaws. Hence, our focus is going to be on our strategic objective, the third part of our strategic plan.

And to develop these objectives effectively, we must start by understanding and identifying the key trends and forces internal as well as external that could have an impact on our ability to meet our vision and deliver on our mission.

The Board and staff began thinking about these trends and have identified a preliminary list of ten of these trends which I would like to share with you and the main question in each one of them.

First on security, how will we tackle the increased risk and threat to security, both cyber and physical?

Number two, on the root service, how should we support the evolution of the root service system to ensure sustained resilience?

Number three, on the Domain Name System, how will the DNS evolve to encompass changes in the use of domain names and the impact of newer technology?

Number four, on ICANN financials, what must we do to ensure ICANN remains financially robust in the face of inevitable changes in the marketplace?

Number five, on our multistakeholder model, how do we continue to adapt it in order to support our multiple goals of inclusiveness and effectiveness?

Number six, on ICANN's international strategy, in what way ICANN's geographical presence should evolve in order to support our global community?

On diversity, how do we improve and sustain representation across all levels of the community, ICANN org, and the Board?

Number eight, on human rights, how do we honor our commitment to respect human rights core values in our business activities without expanding ICANN's mission?

Number nine, on volunteers and staff, how do we better harness, motivate, and renew our volunteers? And how do we handle ever-growing demands on our staff?

And, finally, number ten, on unforeseen trends, how do we maintain flexibility in our new strategic plan to address future unforeseen economical, technological, and political challenges?

The Board does not believe that this is an exhaustive list of trends, and we look forward to the contribution across the community. This list should, therefore, be seen as a starting point so that our collaborative efforts are most fruitful as we begin working together here in Puerto Rico and in Panama on the new ICANN strategic plan.

It is not going to be easy, however, to craft a realistic strategy. We will have to limit some of our ambitions. We will have to set limits on what we are trying to accomplish, and we have to be sure we can afford it. In other words, a new strategic plan without corresponding financials will be no more than a dream. It is important this time round that we develop a fully costed five-year plan that sets out clearly not only how but how much and at what cost we will implement our chosen new strategy.

Something I hasten to say we have not done so in the past.

We have in the past been less concerned about the affordability of our strategic plan. Until now, our focus has always been on a 12-months budget as funding consistently increased year on year.

This short-term view of our financials is no longer sufficient as funding is appearing to stabilize for the foreseeable future, while our expenses have increased on average by 16% per year over the past ten years. Yes, we are not-for-profit but we are also not-for-loss.

I do not wish to create panic or needless anxiety as ICANN continues to be funded solidly. But going forward, our expenses must be carefully managed so that we continue to live according to our means.

This will necessitate change. It will necessitate that we extend our financial projections from one year to five years; that all of us become more selective and prudent in our spending. And when I say "all of us," it starts with the Board and with the community and with ICANN org. Change begins at the top.

"Affordability" and "trade-offs" are, therefore, two terms I would encourage us to adopt in our lexicon. This will not be easy and naturally will create discomfort in areas where budgets are being reduced. That said, with regards specifically to the FY19 draft budget, I want you to know that the Board is

cognizant of concerns around the proposed budget cuts to various community programs and request mechanisms.

The Board considers the comment period that just ended to be valuable in ensuring the community has an opportunity to weigh in on priorities. In finalizing the FY19 budget, all -- and I repeat, all public comments will be considered. Our collective aim is to strike the right balance between fiscal responsibility and ensuring our community of mostly volunteers are able to participate effectively in ICANN.

And now I want to say a few words about our governance model.

Even if we are equipped with the most realistic strategic plan and the most solid financial management, we still need our governance model to work effectively so that we continue to develop policies and make decisions in the global public interest and in a manner consistent with our mission.

Since our inception 20 years ago, we have embodied multistakeholderism. This model of governance is ideally suited to ICANN. It has evolved over the years; and with the transition, it has been enshrined in great detail into our bylaws.

Prior to the transition, the bylaws were 50 pages long. And now they are 250 pages long and much more comprehensive. A great

achievement and a job well done. We must not, however, rest on our laurels. The transition in my view was the beginning of a new phase in ICANN's evolution and not an endpoint in itself.

Our challenge for the coming years would be to ensure that we implement our governance model in a manner that balances the increasing needs of inclusivity, accountability, and transparency while at the same time we must ensure that our work gets done, our policies get developed in an effective and timely manner and with the efficient utilization of ICANN's resources.

As you can see, there are tough challenges ahead. Our ability to meet those challenges depend greatly on the Board, ICANN org, and the community working together as a team. We are all inextricably bound together by our shared obligation to steward ICANN's mission of ensuring the secure and stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. That is our *raison d'etre*.

The Board understands this obligation and is committed to serving the community as a reliable and trusted partner. To meet this commitment, the Board will endeavor to align its priorities with those of the community; execute its responsibilities in an efficient and consistent manner; three, engage openly and transparently and ensure that ICANN org serves our community with the best possible way.

Furthermore, the Board will endeavor to provide the appropriate level of leadership to the community. The Board that you have elected and that you have entrusted is sometimes in a unique position to see a broader picture and should not shy away from making decisions, offering guidance, expressing opinions, and working to resolve impasses when the circumstances warrant. In so doing, the Board must respect and facilitate the bottom-up multistakeholder process.

And last, but not least, the Board is committed to acting at all times in the collective interest of all stakeholders and not the single interest of a single stakeholder.

The Board is also cognizant of ICANN's role in the larger Internet ecosystem. Although ICANN plays a critical role, it is clearly not at the center of that universe. And it would serve us well to work in partnership with other key actors.

In closing, I believe that together we will rise to the challenges ahead. We have a strong and collaborative community, an ideal model of governance, a responsible and committed board, and the unwavering support of a first-class CEO and his dedicated team. We shall, therefore, be able to shape ICANN's future strategy with confidence and strength of purpose. Thank you all for being here, for listening, and for participating in ICANN. Muchas gracias.

[Applause]

And now it is my honor and pleasure to introduce our new speaker Goran Marby, President and CEO of ICANN org.

[Applause]

MR. GORAN MARBY: The Governor has arrived.

Thanks, Cherine.

And thank you for your kind words. Sort of took me off guard. And it's not easy to make me be silent. So here we are again in the morning. I still haven't been able to convince you that we should move the opening session to the gala so we can have the opening session of the gala together in the afternoon and I don't have to make speeches in the morning. Does anyone disagree with that? I promise you, I can make even shorter speeches if we move it to the afternoon.

[Laughter]

I think this is a top thing to discuss during this meeting. We can probably also save some money, okay?

[Applause]

This is my first time in Puerto Rico. And if you ever meet my wife, tell her it's raining here all the time.

[Laughter]

I'm very happy to be here. This is what has been on my personal bucket list. I want to emphasize the work that has been done and the commitment from my team, from the people here to make this meeting happening.

I have over the last couple of weeks and months received many calls from you who asked me if I have been confident if there is no problem. And I've said "no problem at all."

[Applause]

And the reason I have been very calm is I have an enormous, fantastic team who does this work for us. We don't see them. They're always silent. They're always in the background. But without the meetings team of ICANN, this wouldn't have happened -- would not have happened. So thanks again.

[Applause]

This is also a little bit special for me because it was two years ago I attended my first ICANN meeting in Marrakech. Do you remember? I introduced Swenglish. You were not laughing then.

[Laughter]

This was a time when we talked about the upcoming transition where you as a community came together and formed something that was very unique.

I thought it was easy compared to the questions we're having now. It was sort of the good old days now when we talk about GDPR and budget.

But one thing that I carry with me from that time is actually that -- all that friendship, knowledge you shared with me already at the first meeting. And it taught me something about the multistakeholder model was going to be close to my heart. And also to emphasize what our dear friend Cherine just said, it's sometimes a tough process but you have the ability to come together. And one of them is actually the GDPR.

When I stood on stage six months ago and we started talking about GDPR, this is a discussion about WHOIS that has been going around since, I think, 1804 or something in the famous meeting in Lulea. You were there, I suppose. And it's been a very tough question because how do you -- how do you balance the right to privacy with a need for information for the secured Internet?

In six months, you have done an amazing job of coming across one of the most hardest questions in the world, to do something about it. But the (indiscernible) of you, last week we delivered over as a proposal to the DPAs of Europe something that we think is compliant with the law and taken also into account the balancing the policies set by the community. We are also to the DPAs have all the unanswered questions that you raised to us so they can look at them.

We reached a point where it's time for the member states in Europe, together with the DPAs, to come up with a firm answer so we know what's going to happen at the end of May. Because unfortunately so, that if we don't know how the law is going to be -- how the law is going to be used after the end of May, our ability as ICANN org's enforcement possibilities for the contracted parties will be diminished. And that I think will have an effect on the WHOIS system itself. So I'm waiting eagerly for cooperations from the member states and their DPAs. And we have a very good relationship with the data protection authorities of Europe. And I'm very grateful for the cooperation we have of the Article 29 group in this very, very important issue for us.

But, again, we didn't have anything six months ago. So I really bow my head through all the discussions and everything you have done for the last six months. We didn't even have a process

for how ICANN org can be compliant to such an important law. You helped me create that process. You helped me with all those interactions. And you're still sending me letters every day, which I'm very happy for. It's not easy. How do you balance those two things? I would say that you are the first one who really takes that discussion on a broader scale.

Cherine talked about fiscal responsibility. Yes. We are now in a budget process, and it's in a slightly -- it's a slightly unusual budget process in that sense. But for the first time, we see that the funding into ICANN has stabilized. When I say "stabilized," it actually means that it's not a big difference. But as Cherine said, our cost base has evolved over many years.

This is where I'm supposed to do one thing, and that is actually to throw the first stone. I'm assigned to come up with a proposal for the budget for you to criticize. We're going to take those criticisms into account. We're going to look into what we can do, and we're going to do our best we can to listen and also adopt what you're saying, as Cherine said.

It is an important thing because in the end, it is the community who takes the final decisions of the budget, also for the Empowered Community settings after the Board has decided on. So your input is valid in this process. I'm the one who has to throw -- really throw the first stone.

But ICANN sometimes is also amazing when it comes to start looking at things. Over the last couple of days, I engaged in some very good discussions, for instance, about timing of reviews. We always take the opportunity to do better. And I'm looking forward to talk about those things, both from a financial perspective but also more importantly from the community perspective when it comes to the fatigue you will see -- the faces I will see when I say that in the budget right now, there are nine reviews for next year. You feel excited about that? It may leave you some time for some policy work as well. You never know.

I am a strong believer in ICANN. ICANN is not the Internet, but we provide the user interface to the Internet for the Domain Name System. That's an obligation. That's fun. And we do it together. The multistakeholder model shows, as I always says, we will not let any government, any company, or any organization or private person take control or hijack what we do. What we do is much more important than that.

You have created a system that today is used by 3 1/2 to 4 billion users around the world. Now we have to go for the next billion users. We are very grateful for everything you do in IDNs and local scripts because that's needed.

But, remember, the most important task for this meeting is to make sure that we can move the opening sessions -- (laughter) --

so you don't have to listen to me in the mornings and I don't have to listen to myself.

Now enough from me, welcome very much. And I welcome on stage Governor Ricardo Rosello.

[Applause]

GOV. RICARDO ROSELLO: How can I top that? Well, good morning, everybody. Thank you for being here in Puerto Rico.

And before I get started, in case you were wondering, no, I am not the junior staffer of the Governor. I am actually the Governor of Puerto Rico.

[Applause]

It is -- it is very exciting to have you all here. You know, this -- this has been a long road for many stakeholders in Puerto Rico wanting to bring ICANN over here. It started way back in 2012. And they have been making their argument ever -- ever since.

Finally, we have the opportunity. But then as in with other occasions, natural occurrence happened as you may have heard. The most devastating storm in the repeat history -- in recent modern history hit Puerto Rico.

We were concerned at that moment that as had happened in previous occasions the event might not happen. But I want to take the opportunity and thank the leadership of ICANN because even at the face of peril, they trusted in our team. They believed in the people of Puerto Rico, and they knew that we could do a world-class event over here. So on behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, thank you for your leadership and thank you for your support.

[Applause]

This is very cool, by the way.

I have never spoken with subtitles before.

[Laughter]

ICANN is -- it is really exciting for me to have ICANN over here. It's -- aside from being the governing body for naming domains in the world and in the Internet, it is a global community that is empowered by innovation, forward thinking, collaboration, and getting things right down to policy and execution.

I think it's clear that the Internet would not be what it is today without -- without ICANN. And the reason is because there exists this global community of folks that are looking for better ideas, are listening to each other, are examining standards and best practices, and are finding ways to make those practices happen.

As I said and mentioned in my earlier statements, over here in Puerto Rico we had a catastrophic event. And I would be remiss if I didn't use this opportunity to solicit your help for the people of Puerto Rico.

You know, before the storm, we had been in the administration for about eight months. And our view was that any economic development and socioeconomic development model had to include very explicitly science, innovation, and transparency as a critical component.

Now after the storm and as we rebuild, those pillars are even more important than ever before. We're looking to find ways to rebound from the disaster but more so to use this catastrophic event as an opportunity to leapfrog into the future. Puerto Rico was carrying the burdens of immobile government and lackluster infrastructure.

Now we have the opportunity to change that, but it is a small window of opportunity. And in order to do so, we need the very best. We need the very brightest. We need all your support to see if we can create a collaboration similar to ICANN so that we can draw a path forward for a new Puerto Rico.

I can tell you that we are fully committed to treating this as a blank canvas so that we can innovate and test standards over here so that we can show how innovation can really change a

jurisdiction and can change the lives of the people here in Puerto Rico.

It is my commitment to work with you, and it is our team's commitment to work with you. It is so evident that we want to do this that we've named a chief innovation officer in Puerto Rico and a chief information officer as well. We have them both working together so that we can isolate all those critical areas in the rebuilding process so that we can have a better and stronger Puerto Rico.

Now here's -- here's what I envision. I envision that as we move on from these trying times, in the next five years we'll be able to rebuild and innovate and be a model in our region; that we'll be able to have an energy grid that's modern and effective and mostly renewables; that we'll be able to change a government that has a huge set of regulations that don't allow it to move and to make it slimmer, better, more effective for the people of Puerto Rico; to have a reform on education and on health care so that we can have access to the folks here in Puerto Rico to better health.

Those are the things that are aligned with rebuilding the infrastructure, and I feel that we can get there. But we can only get there if we implement some of the same principles that you have implemented over here. So I'm asking you as Governor for

your help, for your collaboration. Our team will be here the next couple of days. They will be talking to you to see how we can extract that knowledge and how we can implement that in Puerto Rico, to see how we can foster the best practices and standards, and make sure that we have a playing field over here that can show results.

And at the risk of overusing a pun, you know, there are many people that think that this is not going to happen in Puerto Rico, that the challenges are too steep, that we're not going to get too far because of the devastation.

My expectation is that with your collaboration, with your help, with the commitment of our government, we will have the people of Puerto Rico saying "Yes, I can." Thank you very much. God bless.

[Applause]

MR. GORAN MARBY:

Thank you, Governor Rosello.

I'm -- I actually asked to do the next introduction, which is probably breaking any diplomatic protocol ever made up, but that's me. And the reason I want to do that is because I want to introduce the new head of NTIA, or as it's said, the new

Administrator of the National Telecommunications Information Administration, David Redl.

The reason I want to do that is because he's actually, and you should know that, we don't talk about it that much, but he was instrumental in the transition. He's one of the unsung heroes which have made this happen.

So when he comes on stage, welcome him here as the head of NTIA, but also thank him for the contribution he did for something which is so important for all of us, the transition from the U.S. government.

Thank you.

Welcome, David.

[Applause]

DAVID REDL:

Thank you, Goran, for that -- Cherine, for having me here, and a special thanks for Governor Rosello for taking time to join us today.

And thanks to our host, NIC.PR, for organizing this ICANN meeting and for bringing us of all to beautiful Puerto Rico.

I think ICANN and the attendees here really deserve a round of applause for supporting Puerto Rico and representing the first

major conference to take place in San Juan since the devastating hurricane last year.

[Applause]

Two years ago I attended the March ICANN meeting in Marrakech at a pivotal moment for the ICANN community and the multistakeholder model. At that time, I was watching as an advisor to the U.S. Congress, and I'm happy to now be addressing you as the administrator of NTIA, an organization that has led the U.S. government in advocating for, participating in, and supporting the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

Let me be clear at the outset, the Trump Administration has and will continue to strongly advocate for the multistakeholder approach to Internet governance and policy development. Our belief in this approach is grounded in the principle that the Internet policy issues are best addressed through the contributions of diverse stakeholders that work to make decisions in a bottom-up, consensus-based fashion.

The United States believes that the continued growth of the Internet and the services it enables is dependent upon the ability of stakeholders to drive policy decision-making, and ICANN today remains one of the best examples of multistakeholder governance in policy development. That's why

I'd like to commend Cherine for his focus on ICANN's strategic vision and financial security. This community, including the world's governments, has placed faith and responsibility in ICANN, and ensuring its long-term viability is a welcome discussion.

That being said, I'd like to use the remainder of my remarks to talk about policy.

The United States continues to see opportunities in which ICANN can improve its policy development process and bring greater predictability and transparency into its processes and actions.

A good example is ensuring that ICANN remains committed to its accountability mechanisms and lets those mechanisms be driven by the community without undue influence from ICANN.

I was surprised by the actions taken by the ICANN Board last year pertaining to the Security and Stability Review Team. While I look forward to see this important work restart, I think this case provides an opportunity for the community and ICANN to clearly identify its expectations when it comes to ICANN accountability, the mechanisms for such accountability particularly around special reviews, and articulating what role ICANN org and the ICANN Board should have in those processes.

The community spent an impressive amount of time and effort to strengthen ICANN as a multistakeholder body that is accountable, and its imperative that the community and ICANN continue to build off this success.

As we look ahead, one of the top policy priorities for the United States in ICANN is the preservation of the WHOIS service. As all of you are aware, the WHOIS service is an incredibly valuable tool for governments, businesses, intellectual property rights holders and individual Internet users around the world.

I'm pleased to see that ICANN and the community have committed to find a solution that maintains the WHOIS service to the greatest extent possible in the face of data protection and privacy regulations such as GDPR.

The United States and other governments in the GAC have stated their commitment to maintaining a WHOIS service that is quickly accessible for legitimate purposes. With respect to the recently published interim model, we're pleased that ICANN was able to pull from so many different interests and needs expressed by the community. That being said, the United States would encourage revisions to the model to permit access to the most information possible within the law. We think there is more that can be done to achieve this.

Additionally, the United States remains concerned with the uncertainty around how access to WHOIS information for legitimate purposes will be maintained in the period between now -- excuse me, between the date of GDPR enforcement, May 25th, and the time when the community is able to develop and agree to a formal accreditation process.

Plans need to be put in place that ensure that users behind the already-defined legitimate purposes -- law enforcement, intellectual property enforcement, and cybersecurity -- are not stymied in their efforts to serve the public interests.

Moreover, as Goran noted, there remains great uncertainty as to how these proposed solutions will be received by the governments that established the GDPR. At this critical time, the ICANN community would benefit greatly from clarity and guidance from our European colleagues and their DPAs.

The United States will not accept a situation in which WHOIS information is not available or is so difficult to gain access to that it becomes useless for the legitimate purposes that are critical to the ongoing stability and security of the Internet. We look forward to continuing to work with ICANN and the community to see this through. Other NTIA priorities under my leadership are consistent with longstanding U.S. goals. NTIA continues to be focused on protecting and promoting an open

and interoperable Internet, advocating for the free flow of information and strengthening the global marketplace for digital products and services. Our proactive international agenda includes working with international partners to develop a common view on the technologies and trends that will fuel the Internet-enabled economy.

This includes a commitment from me that NTIA will remain a strong participant in the ICANN model as the United States government representative to the GAC.

In closing, I'd like to say that I'm personally inspired by the work that all of you do. I'm going to go off script for a minute. As I said, before, in my prior role, it continues to be amazing to me that so many people are so dedicated to giving so much of their personal time to these issues. The Internet works because so many of us are willing to give our personal time and give of ourselves to see these policies through and make sure that ICANN remains viable. And so my hat goes off to all of you.

[Applause]

The democratic principles at the heart of the multistakeholder model demand that no stakeholder's voice is more important than any others, and by working through consensus we achieve our best results. And when that consensus reflects a diversity of

viewpoints, we build durable, lasting policies that scale at the speed of the Internet.

I look forward to working with all of you to strengthen our collective work on these vital issues.

Thank you.

[Applause]

CHRIS MONDINI: Thank you very much, David.

As many of you know, the second "N" in ICANN stands for....

MULTIPLE VOICES: Numbers.

CHRIS MONDINI: No one can deny the importance of the numbers community and of the Regional Internet Registries who develop numbers-related Internet address policies. And so it is a great pleasure for me to introduce our chairman from the Number Resource Organization, Mr. Paul Wilson.

[Applause]

PAUL WILSON: Thank you. Thank you very much, Chris. Governor Rosello; Assistant Secretary Redl, good morning.

Cherine and Goran, thank you, and greetings to you all. Buenos dias.

As Chris said, I'm here representing the numbers community, the second "N" in ICANN. And as I said about three years ago at ICANN49 in Singapore, I think ICANN is about 99% names and 1% numbers. Maybe that's changing. I was -- I was impressed by the chorus that followed the question just now.

But at that time back in -- back in Singapore there was a conversation going on about how the names side of this community could get to know more about the numbers. And one idea was that we have a speaking slide here at the opening sessions of these meetings, which was a very generous allocation by ICANN and by you all, and it's one that we appreciate as an effective way, we hope, to reach out to you all with a few updates, which I hope you'll find interesting.

I speak about the 1% in ICANN but it doesn't mean that the number community is small. We actually -- we actually comprise over 50,000 different autonomous networks around the world that comprise the Internet, and most of these are members of one or other of the five Regional Internet Registries, the RIRs.

And like the DNS community here, the numbers community has got a lot of work that we need to do. The thing is that work happens mostly outside of ICANN. So we have our own meetings. We have two meetings per RIR per year, that's ten meetings around the world each year, attracting probably the same participation in total as ICANN does, roughly. And those meetings involve networking, capacity building, information sharing, and also policy development. So in a normal year of RIR meetings, we have, I'd say, between 20 and 40 different policy proposals which pass through the bottom-up, consensus-based PDPs, policy development processes, of the RIRs in each region. So that's a fair amount of work that passes through those meetings and which most of you, I think, don't get to hear about unless you come along. You're always welcome, of course.

At the global level, it's the NRO, the Number Resource Organization, which coordinates the registry side of IP numbering. That's the five RIRs. We have an MOU with ICANN that was signed in 2004 and that established that the NRO would serve as the ASO defined under the ICANN bylaws. So that's how it's been for 15 years. Last year we completed the five-year -- the latest five-year review of the ASO, and that was one of the normal review processes that goes on with ICANN supporting organizations.

That review flagged a kind of ongoing confusion between the ASO and the NRO and its components, Executive Council, Address Council, et cetera, et cetera. So if you haven't noticed that, we certainly have. And it -- the review recommended, among other things, that the RIRs should hold community consultations across our regions on how to improve the structure of the ASO in the first place to help to resolve the confusion in the structure.

So that's one update for you that the implementation of the ASO review has started with these consultations, which will continue during this year at the RIR meetings. And after that, I expect, I hope, we'll come back to you, to ICANN, to report on any agreed improvements that have been agreed for the ASO.

The second subject I want to talk to you today about is the ITHI, identifier technology health indicators project, which we're working on in coordination with ICANN and this actually relates to the comments we just heard from David Redl about WHOIS, because the RIRs do provide registry information services via WHOIS, the familiar WHOIS service, I think we are all aware of it, and also via the registration data access protocol. And that information we provide through those services is critical to the health of the Internet because it allows IP address holders to be identified for the purpose of tracking technical problems and network abuse, and so on, that might be going on. The RIR IP

WHOIS is really the first point of call in that attribution and diagnostic process.

So like many in the ICANN community, the RIRs are also working together with each other to ensure that our registration services are comprehensive and correct and current. We'll be reporting on that both this week and ongoing.

Now, I'm sure you all know that the point of a domain name is to resolve to a public IP address, a number, where some Internet service can be found. And these IP addresses come in two flavors, IPv4 and IPv6.

We probably also know that there are not very many IPv4 addresses left. Today we have rationing policies, more or less, in place across all RIRs, and there's also an active transfer market in most parts of the world that ensures an ongoing access to the remaining supply of IPv4. But those are stop-gap measures because IPv4 is -- is almost exhausted, and the next generation is IPv6.

So to update you about IPv6, the good news is that v6 is accelerating very rapidly around the world now. At the beginning of this year we reached around 18% of total Internet users having IPv6 capability on their computers, on their devices, and that's a huge number. And it also -- importantly, that increased from around 7% just a year before that. So that's

-- that's great, great news, and it should give confidence to you, to the names community, that it really is now time for DNS registries and registrars to be providing IPv6 resolution services in the near future if you don't already. And I think if you don't make that move, then in a competitive environment you do risk being left behind.

Just to conclude, then, I'd like to echo what Chris Mondini said about the resilience of the Internet and efforts to keep it running during emergencies, such as when the hurricanes and when Maria hit the Caribbean last year. The RIRs work in our regions on the specific needs of our communities, but all over the world, our members are the ones who actually build the Internet and who are directly affected by the disasters that happen. So our communities are very aware of the need to be prepared and also to recover quickly when disasters happen. And I can say that all RIRs have needed at different times in recent years to respond to emergencies in our regions. We've contributed local technical capacity, we've given financial consideration to members who are under distress, we've supported the operational communities, the network operator groups who share really critical information about how the Internet can be maintained according to today's best practices, and that includes resiliency and recovery, of course. And also we collaborate with public safety communities where we can.

So like ICANN, the RIRs will continue to support the cooperation and the coordination that characterize the Internet ecosystem, and that occurs never more so than in times of need.

As Cherine said, no one is the center of this universe. We all need to work together.

So thanks again to ICANN for the chance to give you this very brief update. Thanks to you all for your attention.

Gracias.

[Applause]

CHRIS MONDINI:

Thanks. As you've heard a number of times, we've been very, very fortunate to have an excellent host in NIC.PR. It's been an inspiration to work with them. I want to also salute their generosity. They are one of the sponsors, along with the tourism -- local tourism office, of the gala tonight, and if you want tickets for the gala, please visit the .PR booth in the exhibition area.

I also want to thank personally for the generosity the president of NIC.PR, Oscar Moreno de Ayala, who is our next speaker.

Please, Oscar.

[Applause]

OSCAR MORENO DE AYALA: Sorry, I'm a little bit nervous. Hello, and welcome to our distinguished guests, dignitaries, and Governor Rossello to ICANN's 61st meeting and welcome to the island of enchantment.

This meeting, being held today after facing many challenges, would not be possible were it not for all the groups that worked tirelessly to get off the ground. I would like to take a moment to address them. I'll start by formally thanking ICANN and staff for holding their meeting on our beautiful island; the ICANN Board for their support along this road to celebrate ICANN61 in San Juan. Even after being hit by one of the most destructive natural disasters of our recent history, they placed their trust in our staff and our government and believed that we could do our job and deliver this meeting successfully here in San Juan. For trusting us and working diligently with us side by side on behalf of Puerto Rico's Internet community, we thank you.

To Governor Rosello and his hard-working staff, I want to express my gratitude for his support, tireless efforts and leadership in rebuilding the telecommunications and technology sectors as a whole, knowing his commitment and continued support to develop competitive Internet technologies for Puerto Rico. Especially we would like to thank the Secretary

of State, Luis Rivera Marin, the Chief Information Officer, Luis Arocho, the Secretary of Education, Julia Keleher, and last but not least, our co-sponsor, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company for their continuous and outstanding support.

Thanks to the global Internet community who throughout the catastrophic disaster were committed to coming to Puerto Rico and contributing to the aid of the island. By getting the necessary support to hold this meeting, we were able to set a mark and maintain the quality in merits. Thanks to the Internet society chapter in Puerto Rico for their support along this course.

A lot has happened in the Internet world since the previous ICANN meeting in Puerto Rico in 2007. It's been 11 years since that rewarding week. The ICANN community and its developments of Internet technology in Puerto Rico as a whole have evolved greatly since then. I want to mention two particular developments on which I am very proud of.

The .PR domain name has been adopted and accepted by local Internet community. Through our education programs, we have brought the advancement to stimulate the growth and provide the tools needed for ongoing evolution that is the Internet. We have attracted more local registrants by giving them access to

domain names and all the tools to create a web presence. Thus, the community has created its own identity.

The active Internet community in Puerto Rico has grown exponentially and has been adopted by small businesses, not-for-profits, government agencies, and private organizations. As a result, it has created a growth sprout in the development of the local economy via the Internet.

We have also provided local entrepreneurs with the tools to develop eCommerce, embracing their identity with a .PR domain name.

We managed to implement Internet technologies for the education sector. In collaboration with NASA and with the support of the Department of Education and Dr. Keleher, we have trained a little over 600 school teachers on web safety, web development, providing them with the necessary tools to enhance the educational skills of the faculty; therefore, within their classrooms. We provided products and services that serve as tools that empower teachers to update their teaching techniques and not to compete with but, instead, to work side by side with Internet technologies.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite any other Puerto Rican educational professional, small business owners and the

local Internet community to identify yourself with .PR as it is Puerto Rico's Internet community.

Having that said, nevertheless, expressing our gratitude to one of our own is also imperative to us. Many of you know him and have come to love him in this community. We all recognize how essential he has been organizing this meeting. This is the second time he has done it. For your tireless work in organizing this meeting, for your years of participating actively in the ICANN community and being an example, let's express our gratitude and hard work by giving a round of applause to our vice president, Pablo Rodriguez.

[Applause]

We all know all the hard work this takes.

Lastly, we formally and warmly welcome you.

Now, to represent our beautiful culture, we will have one of the more outstanding artistic performances by local dancers, musicians, and singers. Please welcome the Folkloric Ballet of Puerto Rico.

[Applause]

[Music]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Welcome to Puerto Rico. We are the Folkloric Ballet, and today we are going to share with you some of our African heritage dances. La Bomba, Puertorriqueña.

[Music]

[Applause]

[Music]

[Cheers and applause]

BRAD WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, let's again thank Folklorico for bringing the ICANN61 Opening session to a close.

There will be a -- We're running a little behind so there will be a 15-minute delay for the next session in this room.

Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]