Transcription ICANN61 San Juan
Constituency Day: NCUC meeting Part 2
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Elsa Saade: All right. Thank you everyone for joining us today. We're going to be starting the meeting now. The recording can start.

So right now we're going to be discussing more administrative issues. And we will start firstly with the financial committee, represented by Thato Mfikwe. And then Ayden Ferdeline will be continuing with the budget and operations plan for FY19. And then Farell Folly will be discussing the policy committee actions for this year and what they're up to.

After that, Renata will make a small input about the EC and her position as a chair and about what NCUC's plans are going forward. We will have small updates by some EC members who will be here.

And then thank you for joining us Farzaneh now and hopefully soon Tatiana will be joining us so that they could be presenting some issues like jurisdiction and domain abuse as focal points.

My name is Elsa Saade. I'm the NCUC AP Representative and the Ex-Com. And I'll be happy to be chairing this session alongside Michael and Bruna Santos, the ex-com on that.

So we will be starting without further ado with Thato. Can you hear us?

Thato Mfikwe: You can hear me?

Elsa Saade: All right. The floor is yours. Please be brief. We have ten minutes.

Thato Mfikwe: Okay. Thanks very much. And hi, everyone. My name is Thato Mfikwe from South Africa. And I'm the (unintelligible) financial delegative for the (unintelligible) stakeholder group.

So my presentation I will be taking through my background with (Unintelligible) with ICANN and also talking briefly about the financial committee itself.

Just to give a little background, it was the subsequent speaking of ICANN during ICANN 57. And although being (unintelligible) experienced a little bit of challenges in terms of understanding how I can cooperate easily for the wages. And then I had (issues) also with (PD) people (unintelligible) ICANN. But I used to watch them online (unintelligible) tie-in that understanding of what (unintelligible) you see and noncommercial stakeholder as the group.

So the working groups and online meetings, I just wandered into the internet governance meeting committee and the NCUC office that was held in (unintelligible) in 2015 which gave me a better understanding in terms of what is involved in NCUC, NCSG, and ICANN as a whole.

So just going straight to the (unintelligible) group financial committee and looking at how it's constituted and what it does -- basically according to the NCSG charter, the finance committee is (unintelligible) to establish some

position for NCSG and for regional NCSG funds, which is the (unintelligible) committee does (unintelligible) imposed by ICANN.

So our office has to ability to include amongst other things fundraising, (unintelligible), and also determining procedures of the division of funds and common interests, among other things.

So as the finance committee, we went through with the ICANN stuff and finance stuff to determine support levels for the particular group and its constituency. And so basically, this process position needs the participation of the wider community within the noncommercial stakeholder group.

Now, in terms of how we (are constituted) this as the finance committee, we've called one (unintelligible) constituency. We've got (MSM) (unintelligible). And I'm (unintelligible) the NCUC within the committee. And the chair is also part of the committee who has full routine rights and is also involved with the (vote

So all the other members that are part of the finance committee, they are basically observers who are able to comment and discuss on anything that has been stated by (unintelligible) within the finance committee. Maybe next slide. I don't know if you're (unintelligible) the next Slide.

Where are they talking about the finances that are kept by ICANN and how they are governed. Basically, ICANN has got two different types of funds. They've got (unintelligible).

Elsa Saade: Thato I'm just going to interrupt you for one second so that we actually have the presentation up there. There has been a small technical issue. All right?

Thato Mfikwe: Okay.

Elsa Saade: Just one moment. No, that's not it. All right. Thato if you can present without reference to the presentation, maybe that would be easier. So please go ahead. Did you get it, Ariel? Okay, thank you. Okay. It's up there, Thato. Thank you. Go ahead. Sorry for the interruption.

Thato Mfikwe: Okay. So on the second slide, I was talking about basically the finances that are kept by ICANN and how they are governed. There's two types of finances. We call determinant funds, which consist of the operating funds and also the reserve funds. And these are governed under the ICANN investment policy. And then we've got the temporary funds, which constitute of the new GTLD application fees and the new GTLD proceeds. And both these are governed under the GTLD investment policy.

So in regard to permanent funds, (mainly) operational funds. This fund has also been referred to as the rate inhibitor of ICANN and it's because it provides the (unintelligible) and supports through ICANN operations. And it the fund that is also known as the rainy-day fund, and it's governed under the ICANN investment policy. This fund has got a target level of 12 months of operational expenses and is mainly used to cover (unintelligible) transition costs and to address annual budget shortages and underestimates under the approval of the board.

So when we're looking deeper into the temporary funds of ICANN because the main GLTD application fees and this is old and spent money remaining from the fees that were collected from the new GLTD application. It was the trust.

And then a proposal this particular fund is to continue to cover the costs of the application processing until the program is through itself. And then it also (unintelligible) fund as applicants from time to time might be withdrawn from the new GTLD. And then to cover applicant expenses that are hard to predict. So example, like your potential legal (unintelligible) of course.

And then lastly, we record the auction proceeds. And the auction proceeds, this is the one that is collated as large auctions as a last alternative held by ICANN for the resolution of a string of contention sets of competing applicants the (GLTD) approve. The next slide. Are we there?

Elsa Saade: Yes, Thato. Go on.

Thato Mfikwe: Okay. And then we've been looking at the annual operational projects and the additional budget requests. This is some of the work that I've been busy with ever since I joined the finance committee, so I've been trying to do a little bit of research in terms of the (unintelligible) of ICANN in regards to budget requests and also in terms of how they set the annual budget.

So in regard to it, basically the budget request process sets aside specific requests for community for activities that are not necessarily included in the recurring annual ICANN budget. These budget requests start (because) they usually start around late during the year and then they end around (80) the following year.

And then the budget requests (unintelligible) for the ICANN process. And in terms of procurement, investment, and travel, the goal (unintelligible) that ICANN works with to report and execute those. So this is how they will manage the budget in terms of how they roll out for additional budget.

Looking at the (unintelligible) in terms of other purchases that are involved with the (ABR) process, which is not budget, but the core finance team receives processes, (ABRs), and they conduct all applicative review, discussions, and assessments. And then ICANN board will choose the reviews, consider and make special requests, decisions with consultation in (ATV) which is recorded at the beginning of the year. And up (unintelligible) are done and made adjusted for the meeting around those. And then the financial end (unintelligible) around June every year.

And then according to what I have shown on that table, that is basically an outline of the (unintelligible) that have been made within the GNSO. Also within the stakeholder groups themselves. So there are a lot of opportunities to work in finance, from annual allocation adjustment, alignment of plans with ICANN operational plans because the GNSO and its stakeholder groups end in finance constituency. They've been allocated more than 51% of the annual project requests during 2018.

((Crosstalk))

Elsa Saade: Thato we will be - Thato I'm sorry to interrupt again, but we will be also discussing this in detail with Ayden in a bit. So if you can focus mostly for the newcomers as well on the financial committee and so that they can ask you questions. I want them to have that time. We already have three comments down. So I'd like to ask you to kindly wrap up, please. Thank you so much, Thato for being with us on the line. I know you have connectivity issues. Thank you.

Thato Mfikwe: Okay. I think you can last slides. That talks about what our options are moving forward as the finance committee. Basically, (unintelligible) that was being engaged or some still is engaging same (unintelligible) how to we stratify? Depends moving forward (unintelligible) we want to break down in common experiences. That help them to see and recover by NCSG and the community itself.

And once also start managing the top base so that we can start (unintelligible) contributions diverse from members who are within the stakeholder group itself, assessment of budget allocations by ICANN for constituents because there has not been so much guarantee in the budget allocations at annual budget phase, not necessarily at the additional budget request level.

So that's the end of my presentation. I'm ready to receive some questions.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Thato. So at first, we have Renata who sent a question, and then we will have a comment from Bruna and then Ayden. Does anyone else have a question to Thato that I can put them on the queue? All right. So I'm going to start with - okay, great Stephanie. Okay.

So Renata's question is hi, Thato. Great to hear from you. I would like to know if you have been following the news of the budget discussion on ICANN 62? There are sessions we can send comments on the budget. Are you planning to follow these sessions? And can you tell us if you will send any comments? Thank you. So go ahead, Thato. And brief, please. Thank you.

Thato Mfikwe: Yes. Basically the comment that I had for the financial budget of 2019 is some of the things that Ayden has managed to articulate in the community comment on the document, especially in regard to the (unintelligible) expense, which seems to be a little bit too high. And then the problem with the call, but that has been cut off without any consultation. So it was basically to just (345) as well.

But I don't think that in regard to the spending that has been helping -- especially for (unintelligible) you find that most of ICANN offices are located in Europe and (unintelligible). That results in a lot of traveling expenses, but if - because I know one of the specific goals of ICANN is to ensure that the functions of ICANN are regionalized.

So establishment of those offices, regional offices, would cut down some of those costs and would make ICANN more (unintelligible) in terms of engaging with local governments. They could ask businesses to (unintelligible).

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Thato. Okay, next on the line is Bruna. Okay. Ayden, would you like to comment or ask a question? Okay, Stephanie.

Stephanie Perrin: And apologies for coming in late. I'm really curious about item 5.2. This is Stephanie Perrin for the record, by the way. The database management of member organizations for fundraising purposes. What exactly is that? Because it rings alarm bells in my head about conflict of interest.

And we don't do fundraising here. We don't accept financial contributions. You know, I'm curious.

Thato Mfikwe: Thanks for the question, Stephanie. Specifically when I went through the NCSG charter, I looked at the rules and responsibilities. So that is where I am taking queue from. But as a fact, that was still going to communicate within the finance committee. (Unintelligible) and how to prioritize in terms of the rules and responsibilities of the finance committee itself. So I hope that answers the question. Thanks.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Do we have any comments or questions before we can read the statement of Sam Lanfranco? Yes, go ahead Ayden.

Ayden Ferdeline: Thanks. Ayden Ferdeline for the record. I just wanted to add a response to Renata's comments. Renata was asking if Thato would be making comments on behalf of the NCUC on the budget. And I don't think at this meeting, I don't think that would be appropriate because we don't have a common position on the budget at the NCUC level. We have as the NCSG submitted a comment, but the NCUC has not.

So someone could submit comments in their personal capacity, but I just wanted to be very clear that we could not present that as the NCUC position. Thanks.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Ayden. That's a very important point and we will make sure to coordinate hopefully soon. Any other questions or comments before we can move to reading the statement of Sam Lanfranco? All right. Seeing none - do have you any question, Farzaneh?

Farzaneh Badiei: I'm going to follow up on this with Thato. So 5.5, exploring with NCSG, the activities can be activated in the next 12 months. I would like more information on that as the NCSG chair. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Yes Bruna, do you have any comment?

Bruna Santos: I was just highlighting that (Tato's) (N2C) representative at the financial committee of the NCSG. So whatever - I do believe his opinions should be on the side of NCUC and not speaking on behalf of the whole NCSG. So I would just like to stress that.

Elsa Saade: Yes. Okay Thato, any last final comments before we move to the next point? All right. Seeing none, thank you so much for joining us.

So there is a report from the NCSG finance committee submitted by Sam Lanfranco March 1, 2018. He shared it with us and I will be reading it. And it's right in front of us.

So the NCUC charter envisioned a much larger role for the NCSG finance committee -- excuse me -- than has occurred since the charter was approved. For at least the past four years, the finance committee has not operated. It was resurrected by (Ed Morris) in 2017 and met briefly in 2017 to assess future options.

The finance committee has no reviews, manages no expenditures, and performs no audits or due diligence on NCSG, NCUC, and (NPOC) financial matters. The finance committee looks to the NCSG executive committee to review the finance committee's remit and to suggest a work agenda within that remit.

The NCSG finance committee remit is set down in section 2.3 of the NCSG charter with operational details set out in section 2.6. There is a quick review

of the charter content in appendix A. And he provides a link, which we can visit later.

Appendix A, review of the NCSG charter content - he did, actually. As for section 2.3 NCSG finance committee, the NCSG finance committee is responsible for establishing a firm financial footing for the NCSG and administrating NSCG funds within a defined framework that meets relevant legal requirements as well as requirements imposed by ICANN. The NCSG FC responsibilities include fundraising, setting voluntary contribution levels for members, determining procedures for the distribution of funds, and formalizing the utilization of funds.

The NCSG FC will also be responsible for the treasurer function. Formation of the NCSG FC, its composition and duties within the NCSG FC are set out in section 2.6 which details considerable activities for the financial committee.

As per 2.6.1 NCSG FC composition, the finance committee consists of one representative from each constituency. The NCSG chair participates as an ex-official member and is included in consensus process and votes. The FC may invite other members as needed and each constituency may appoint an observer.

As per 2.6.2 NCSG FC decision making, decisions are made by rough consensus, meaning that while all need not to agree and that no single member can veto a decision. Minority views must be recorded.

And finally, as per 2.6.3 NCSG FC leadership, a chair is elected by a two-thirds vote of the FC membership and is required to exercise any necessary treasurer functions for the NCSG. The NCSG chair may not serve as finance committee chair.

Two-point six point four refers to work process. Two-point six point five refers to mailing list. And 2.6.6 refers to committee observers.

So that was the statement of Sam Lanfranco. So if you have any comments or questions, we can write them down and make sure to send them to Sam and then send you back the answers since he couldn't make it with us. Farzaneh and Ayden. Farzaneh.

Farzaneh Badiei: Thank you. I have numerous times pointed out to Sam that NCSG finance committee does not have anything to do with the financial matters of its constituencies. They are independent. We do not carry out any kind of due diligence.

Unless Sam can show me in the charter that there is language that says that, we do not take any action for due diligence to get a due diligence for the constituency. They are independent. They do what they want -- of course diligently. And they have their own mechanism to carry that out.

Also, (unintelligible) the statement about - actually did Sam make any kind of changes to this or did he just copy paste from the charter? Copy paste. So he does not suggest any. And so yes, NCSG FC has not been active so I suggest that we come up with a plan and start doing things. But without contribution of its members, it's not going to start doing things. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Farzaneh. Ayden?

Ayden Ferdeline: Thanks for that. Ayden Ferdeline for the record. And I'm going to essentially echo what Farzaneh just said. There is something of a logical fallacy in this in that the letter begins by noting that the finance committee has no responsibilities, no revenue and so forth, and then the charter is extracted.

It does have responsibilities, but the current finance committee has never exercised them. And the author of this letter has been a member of the finance committee since its inception. I think if you review public mailing list and review the correspondence, this could be the first piece of

correspondence there is from this person. However, they have been a member since inception.

Again, this is a recurring theme. These points have been raised at the intercessional this year and last year by the same member who has never actually, despite being the longest serving member of the finance committee, has never actually contributed to the finance committee. And I think that's important to note. Thanks.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Ayden. Just so we have a positive note going forward, is there an action item that you'd like us to put down so that we can send it also to Sam and so that we can see something materialize after this? Yes, Farzaneh.

Farzaneh Badiei: Farzaneh speaking. Actually, Sam is the impart representative to NCSG. So an action item for Sam on behalf of NCUC but if Sam wants to start doing something, then let's come up with a workplan within next month for the NCSG finance committee responsibility and actions to be taken. That could be an action item.

Elsa Saade: Yes, that's a great point Farzaneh. Thank you for raising it. Stephanie?

Stephanie Perrin: I just wanted to -- Stephanie Perrin for the record -- I just wanted to note my concern and alarm. I've got my risk management hat on here. We are intervening very actively at the GNSO level and the ICANN budget and we're trying to have an influence there. And we're talking due diligence and we're talking fiscal prudence and we're talking living within a time of shrinking resources, et cetera. And I'm total with everyone in their desire to get more members coming to meetings. We need money.

However, and nothing prevents the organizations themselves -- whoever we are representing -- doing their fundraising and sponsoring their members to come to represent them at an ICANN meeting. But I just think that management of funds at ICANN at the constituency level is fraught with peril.

I would be willing to bet that setting up the accountability mechanism so that we all don't look really bad when we're discussing the main budget, setting up those accountability members, managing the oversight of our members when we have no power to manage the actions of our members can't even encourage our members or force them to live within the travel guidelines. We have no control over - I'm just using that as a nice, handy thing.

Anybody who has ever run an organization knows you manage your travel budget centrally and you make it last. That's not how we live at ICANN. So I'm just wondering how on Earth - and why am I concerned? Because I can't as a counselor preach (COSO) compliance models and risk management and human rights and all of these things within an ICANN overall framework and have no means of doing that at the constituency and stakeholder group level.

So I'm just putting that on the table. We don't have the mechanisms and if you want to spend the next five years developing them, God bless you. But it won't be me helping you because I think this is a real can of worms. I'm being extremely explicit in interest of being frank and open and honest with your time. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Stephanie. These are really important points and they give you a preview of how things happen in these constituencies and how we debate together. But just to make sure that this is clear, that the presentation is simply to let you know who is behind every single aspect of administration in NCUC generally.

So it's Sam, as we read his statement and as we commented on his statement and it's Thato before him. And now, I have the pleasure to introduce Ayden Ferdeline, who will be discussing the FY19 budget. Thank you to Thato and thank you to Sam for sending the document. Can we go back to the agenda please, (Rio)?

Ayden Ferdeline: And thank you very much for that, Elsa. Hi everyone. Ayden Ferdeline for the record.

So one of the most important public comment opportunities that we have every year is our chance to submit a comment on ICANN's budget and operating plan for the fiscal year ahead. And this is our chance as representatives of the noncommercial community to ask for different spending priorities to be made, to question aspects of ICANN's operations, and to express our views on the functioning of ICANN the organization.

The comment period ended last week on March 8th and we submitted a five-page comment. I am not a member of the finance committee. The finance committee did not contribute to the development of reviewing the ICANN budget or, you know, reviewing any of the associated documents to understand how the projects might influence us.

However, the policy committee took that responsibility on because it was very important that we do make a submission.

So within our comment, we structured it around a few trains of thought. One of them was what are our responsibilities now that we're a part of the empowered community? Theoretically at least we could reject the budget if we wanted to do so. Now, we're not proposing to do that this year, of course. But we certainly took that responsibility very seriously and we went through the budget line by line to understand where resources were being allocated.

It was difficult for us to approximate the levels of financial support that ICANN provides either directly or indirectly to each of the stakeholder groups - sorry, NCSG stakeholder groups supporting organizations' advisory committees.

And that was a piece of feedback that we shared in our comment -- that we really need a bit more granularity moving forward. And we also want to have

an executive summary that says at a glance what's in and what's out of the budget.

We prepared our comment also at the council level as part of the council standing committee on budget and operations. So while we submitted an independent comment, which goes into more detail, we engaged in this cross-community committee to understand what red flags other parts of the GNSO had raised so that we could have our antennas up in case there was something that would also impact us. So a lot of work went into that.

In terms of the specific comments that we made, we of course observed the fact that ICANN is having a revenue stagnating. We happen to believe that it will continue to stagnate or decline in the future.

And in terms of specific comments, we focused on where the bulk of the organization's resources were being allocated and we said that the small sliver of the budget that is allocated to the NCSG should not be - or rather, the small sliver of the budget that is allocated to community support in general should not be the first to be cut.

As it is, this was as the NCUC chair said, to quote her verbatim, "A very cruel budget." And I think that's a fair assessment because what we saw was the additional budgetary request envelope, which we use to fund all of our capacity building programs -- our policy course this week, for instance -- that has been slashed by two-thirds. CROP, which we use to conduct our regional outreach, was entirely eliminated with no prior notification to us.

And that troubled us on a procedural front because CROP)was a part of the core budget. And so then we had to look very diligently across the entire budget to understand what other core projects that we have come to rely on have disappeared in the middle of the night.

We looked at the bulk of the organizations spend, 73%, is spent on personnel cost or professional services. And so we understand that a lot of that is because of a request that the community makes, that we want support in developing this area.

But we did want, and we did ask for (purview) granularity in terms of what constitutes professional services. We think it means legal advice, maybe transcription services, maybe consultants. But we would like to know a bit better as to what does that actually entail.

And we also sought to understand in terms of personnel costs how do they vary by location. Is it for instance more expensive because of 401(k) contributions, et cetera to have someone based in the United States versus another region? So we sought to get some more clarity there, just wanting some more information about ICANN compensation structure broken down by office location. That's a request that we've made and we're hopeful we will get some more information there.

We also expressed our concern that we could not locate in the budget any funds for GDPR implementation work in 2019. As you probably heard this week, GDPR is a topic of concern to our - a topic that we track very closely. And so we do not believe that this is going to be all wrapped up this fiscal year and we happen to have the suspicion that there might be a need for resources to be found for that next year.

We also were quite realistic in saying that we should not be immune from cuts as the NCSG. We just want cuts to be made fairly across the entire organization. No one should be unfairly penalized.

And we hope to identify a few areas where we thought, you know, perhaps that we could be reasonable here. And one of them, for instance, was to do with translation interpretation. So we separate clearly that we support a multilingual internet, but for instance for our meeting in Panama City where

we usually request translation, maybe we only need it in two languages that are likely to be used -- for instance, Spanish -- and maybe we don't need it into all UN languages for some of the high interest sessions.

So that was a suggestion that we put forward in terms of where we thought we might be able to save some resources.

We also spoke about the reserve fund. This is something that the NCSG has been quite active in saying that given the important role that ICANN plays in managing this global public resource -- the internet's domain name system -- the reserve fund should be able to support the organization's operating expenses. At the moment, it's essentially empty. It covers around four months of operating expenses, which we think is inadequate. And the organization also seems to believe that because as of about a week ago, a public consultation has now opened, inviting us to comment further on that.

We also - I might wrap up my comments there. But essentially the main theme going through our comment on the budget is that we just want to be involved more. We are realistic. We are pragmatic. We understand that revenue is stagnating. We want to help identify where cuts should be. We don't simply want to be on the receiving end of cuts because we know. I think most of us have seen areas where we think we don't need that resource.

But to hear that two of the resources that we hold most dearly to us -- CROP and the additional budgetary request envelope -- that those two were cut, that was problematic for us. We can name other things instead.

Thanks. Happy to take any questions on the comment.

Elsa Saade: Very briefly Ayden did you get any feedback on the public comment that was put up?

Ayden Ferdeline: I might just comment briefly on how we developed it first. And then I will say the organization has responded. So we developed it in a bottom-up manner as a community. I wrote the first draft. We shared it on our main discussion list and we received a few comments from members.

It was also shared amongst the policy committee, where there was a significant amount of wordsmithing and further investigation into find additional points. And we also engaged with the GNSO council standing committee on budget and operations to get an idea for what we might have missed that other communities might have identified.

And then we submitted our comment in the (OEQO). We have not received any formal comment from ICANN org at this stage. But informally, we've certainly received confirmation that it's been received and an understanding of we've engaged in some discussions around how do you analyze public comments. Because we understand there's not a referendum.

The fact that we submit a comment or that 20 people submit a comment or 40 people submit a comment saying preserve this should not necessarily mean it is preserved. There does need to be some level of evaluation.

And so we engaged in this conversation to understand how are you going to be prioritizing the comments that come back in. What is the process there?

And the feedback we've received so far is certainly that people have read our comment. And they've expressed opinions about certain parts of it -- which is positive feedback, I think.

Elsa Saade: Excellent. Thank you so much, Ayden. Any questions in the room to Ayden before we move onto - yes, okay Arsene and anyone else? There's a question. Can we read the remote question first, please? Thank you, Ria.

Maria Otanes: Shahul asked, is there any discussions or meetings happening in ICANN 61 on the ICANN 51 - I'm sorry, FY19 budget and operations plan?

Ayden Ferdeline: Yes. As we speak, there is one happening. However, this is not - the purpose of the meeting that is happening as we speak is more an informal consultation. So the formal consultation process has now ended. It is no longer possible to submit a comment on the budget.

However, the purpose of the meeting happening now is that those who submitted comments already but where ICANN org might have clarifying questions around what was submitted can be raised there.

However, I have a suspicion that they will also have an open mike and so that others would be free to continue to share their thoughts.

Elsa Saade: Thank you Ayden. Okay, Arsene.

Arsene Tungali: Thank you very much for that. Arsene Tungali for the record. I think I have a few comments and a question. And allow me to go back to the just a few comments on the finance committee and then the question will be on the budget maybe.

((Crosstalk))

Elsa Saade: Arsene, you might not get a reply…

Arsene Tungali: Yes.

Elsa Saade: …from them.

Arsene Tungali: Just comment, yes.

Elsa Saade: I'm not sure if Thato is still with us.

Arsene Tungali: It's not like question but…

((Crosstalk))

Arsene Tungali: …a few comments.

Elsa Saade: Okay, great Thato.

Arsene Tungali: And these are personal opinions. I may be wrong. But I have the impression that from the discussion we just had like many people kind of don't like the finance committee. And I'm saying this is a personal opinion. And one of the reasons may be because they have done quite nothing since their inception in the past. That's one.

The second comment is now that you've managed to bring it back, can we agree on their plan as it was presented just by Thato and help them do the job that is press created for them in the chatter.

So and the question would be we said that they were not much involved in the comments that was drafted for this FY19. And I was wondering maybe it's because they were just started. And my question is now what do we think will be their role in the next FY I mean the FY20? Are we leaving the job of drafting the comments to the (EC) or are we handing it back to the finance committee? That would be the question.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Thank you, Arsene. We will now open the conversation much about the (FC) anymore, but I will give the floor to Rafik for a very brief comment and then Ayden to answer the question.

Rafik Dammak: Okay, thanks. This is Rafik speaking. So just to clarify the questions we have, some statements here. First, I don't think anybody is saying that we don't like the financial committee. For some historical reason, they were not active. So

it happens with many committees, so it's not a problem. And it's fine that they are starting I think if we are getting the momentum.

Regarding the public comment, it's not the policy commenting trusting. We don't trust. We review. We encourage people to draft and we get volunteers. The financial committee, they can draft any comments, but by our charter is the policy committee which would any position for NCSG and that we have to endorse and review it. So they can work on that. And then when it comes to the time of submission, they have to go through the policy committee. So we have that separation.

And in term of what they need to do, I mean I've heard this many times. They just have to look at the NCSG charter. It's clear and the different tasks and what is expected from the finance committee. So they don't have to reinvent the wheel. They have just to go through that and wield the action plan.

Elsa Saade: Thank you very much, Rafik for being brief. You will get a cookie after this meeting. Ayden? Okay. No comment. Okay.

So I will give the floor right now to - do you have a question?

Woman: Yes.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Last one, please. Go ahead, (Sherri).

(Sherri): I'm (Sherri), a fellow. Just a (unintelligible) question to clarify my understanding. Is there a regular fund for long-term planning? Is there a reason for this?

Man: A long-term - just so that I understand the question correctly, a long-term fund for - a fund for long-term planning within the NCUC, or is ICANN organization or?

(Sherri):   NCUC.

Man: To my knowledge, no.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Thank you, (Sherri) for the question.

Man: One more question.

Elsa Saade: Is there? Okay. Quick please because we need to get to this next point. Yes, (Anna), go ahead.

(Anna):   Not a comment - not a question, more like a comment. So you were suggesting cross cutting when it comes to translation services. While that makes sense in a place like Panama or Spain, the (unintelligible) to that would be that you eliminate the UN languages when you go to regions that don't fall under those UN languages and have local language translations as well.

                  But that is not something that has been done by ICANN in any of the places that don't fall under that system. So would we be moving to a place where you have more local language translations in that case, like for India where I don't know, Hindi is common or South Africa where there are 14 official languages?

Ayden Ferdeline: Thanks for the question. Ayden Ferdeline for the record. So that is a decision that ICANN org makes as to how they do translation. So I know in the budget, for instance, for the meeting in Japan they do have Japanese translation. So I'm actually not sure how the determination is made as to when they go outside of the framework of the UN languages, the (unintelligible) languages. But I know that the provision is sometimes made. But I think that's an ICANN org decision.

Elsa Saade: Stephanie?

Stephanie Perrin: If memory serves, the hosting country - because remember, the hosting country puts up a lot of money to host. This isn't all covered by ICANN. And if they want local translation, they pay for it. That, older members please correct me if I'm wrong, but that's my understanding.

So ICANN only has money for the UN languages. And I would beg to differ with my worthy colleague to my left -- the revenues are not just stagnating. They're shrinking. So the question that is being raised is - and you might not have heard that very clearly from our chief executive officer, but it's bad. We are not expecting the money to expand, and the question is can we even afford this UN superstructure with the translation services when they're not really being utilized. So that's a question.

Elsa Saade: Thank you very much, Stephanie. Okay. Thank you for the questions. And we're going next to Farell, who is a policy committee representative. You have five minutes, Farell to present. Go ahead.

Farell Folly: Thank you, Elsa. Farell Folly for the record. And the care of the (FC) policy committee here, so I will not talk too much on what we do and how we do it. But for the newcomers, I will just say that the policy committee is responsible for planning and organizing policy, all policy related issue for NCSG.

And as an NCUC representative to the NCSG, my role is principally to act as liaison between the NCSG policy committee and the NCUC. As so, we try to identify what key point or what key policy related issue are a priority for us within NCUC and then try to call for volunteers so that they can comment, write, public command. And within the policy committee we have to discuss them and plan how we are going to submit them. So that's mainly what's my task within.

And recently, the most important thing we have been commenting on are the GDPR and response to the GAC and the budget thing that Ayden just talk

about. And there are many people working hard like Stephanie, who I presume she didn't sleep yesterday very early. But the GDPR theft and those kind of thing that we care about and share within the NCUC recess so that people can comment and give what they think about so that we organize our self to be present in all working groups that deal about the policies.

And that's it. I would rather wait for questions. I will not take more time to talk about that. But the main role is to act as a liaison between the NCSG policy committee and the NCUC. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Thanks, Farell. Any questions to Farell? Okay. Comment from Renata. Farell, you also participated on policy course. Do you feel it contributed to your PC activity? Actually, that was a question. Yes, thank you Renata.

Farell Folly: Yes, of course. Farell Folly for the record. Thanks Renata for this question. I guess do not want to be long, but of course after these two days of policy writing policy (unintelligible), what came up is now we can agree upon a commonly accepted template to write policy. Because so far, each individual who act as a penholder has his or her own style of writing policy. So sometimes it's very difficult to edit or to make suggestion to public comment being drafted.

So following discussions, it gives us the idea to make a preestablished template that from now onwards we can now use to write policy and it should be very easy for people who want to comment or make a suggestion to go okay. This is the structure and we know exactly what has been put where and we can edit or make suggestion accordingly.

So yes, it was a great cause and I (unintelligible) an NCSG or NCUC committee to plan to conduct it again if possible. Thank you very much.

Elsa Saade: Thank for, Farell. And Bruna?

Bruna Santos: Just a little explanation on what was the policy course for this before. Not understanding. It was such a good opportunity that we applied for last year and then we go the chance to sit down for the other half to learn some tips and introductions to good policy writing techniques. It was facilitated by (Jean Pengrove) and we spent the past two days doing this, so.

Elsa Saade: Thank you. Yes Claudio. Go ahead.

((Crosstalk))

Claudio Lucena: On the policy course also (unintelligible) was listening and Farzaneh with the initiative, took the initiative that made this happen. And it was really a very interesting experience. We learned strategies, in fact. There are in fact templates as Farell says, but (Jim) is a very experienced guy so we know different problems will demand different approaches.

But at least having a template and being able to exercise it over two days -- as we did with outputs -- in group alone as a penholder, as a collaborator, very interesting exercise.

I think the experience was very valuable. I've been following (Stephan) concern about the (unintelligible) and everything. I follow. This is something we should be very careful not to certify or declare something that did not happen, absolutely. It is not the case here because we have it. We have the experience. We have the records. But I do acknowledge that there is this concern.

Mainly if the experience escalates and it is offered again. It was a very profitable and useful activity. Thanks, Elsa.

Elsa Saade: Thank you so much, Claudio. (Efren) you have?

(Efren):   Yes. (Efren) here.

((Crosstalk))

(Efren):   Are you going to make those templates available for everyone? For those of us who didn't attend the course, how will we be able to look at those templates to help us?

Bruna Santos: The templates were in previous public comments that both entities have made it so we went through Ayden's comment on the budget. We also went through a previous comment by Robin I guess from 2009.

                    So we took some of the comments that the stakeholder groups submitted before and studied based on them, so.

Elsa Saade: Yes, Farell did you want to say anything? And then Stephanie, we will entertain the question. Go ahead, Farell.

Farell Folly: Furthermore, the idea is to have a template material that will be present on our weekly (case). So whenever anybody wants to draft or write a public command, they can just go download this document and start from there. And it help anybody to comment easier. That's actually the idea. So it will be published once it's ready.

Elsa Saade: Okay, Stephanie and then Rafik.

Stephanie Perrin: Just Stephanie Perrin for the record. Just to say I think this is a terrific idea. We did try it before. When you're rushed and you're trying to pump out comments, it's really easy to forget the sort of tombstone data at the beginning.

                    And if you look at the website and try and decipher what people are commenting on, if the things go astray from there they're parked on the website -- we had a little bit of a discussion about how bad the website is

earlier this morning -- but you know, date, name of the, you know, link to the report you're commenting on, all of those basic things, it's easy to forget that. And we should have some discipline I think and do it that way.

And we had a little sidebar conversation after the discussion this morning that we really want our human rights impact assessment template to be kind of standard appendix attached to all of our PDPs because, you know, we might wait a while for ICANN to implement that, but we can implement it in our comments.

So, terrific idea. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Extremely important point raised by Stephanie and Farell. Rafik?

Rafik Dammak: Thanks. Thanks, Farell. In fact, the idea of a template was discussed before for many times at the policy committee, but I think if we have a sample -- I discussed with you Farell about that a few days ago -- that will be helpful so we can agree on some format. So, I have a starting point.

I mean, I think other group are doing that. The example I have in mind, the business constituency. Yes. Okay. Business constituency template, yes.

So just in term of so we will wait for the template as an example. We can work on that in the NCSG policy committee. And we put - when we (unintelligible) we can just really put that in the Google Docs so people can use it directly.

Elsa Saade: Great. So last two comments -- one from remote and one from Farzaneh. Shahul Hameed, Farell, the idea of hosting a template in our Wiki page is great. Would really help newcomers like me who wanted to contribute to policy writing but couldn't make it for the course.

All right. Farzaneh last comment.

Farzaneh Badiei: Yes. So, Farzaneh Badiei speaking. I just want to tell those people that are sitting in the back, we are going to talk about really interesting stuff -- about issue-specific -- from now on. So please stay and don't get dissuaded.

Elsa Saade: Stealing the highlight. Stealing the spotlight, Farzaneh. No cookie for you at the end of the session.

All right. So now without further ado, we're going to go to the next point on the agenda, which is regional briefings. And I have the pleasure to have Renata on the line with us, the Chair of NCUC, who will be giving us a brief.

And then we will go forward with EC colleagues here from the NCUC to give also briefs or a small comment after Renata's comment. Renata, are you with us?

Renata Ribeiro: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me?

Elsa Saade: Great. Yes, we can hear you, Renata. Go ahead. Great to have you.

Renata Ribeiro: Okay. Yes. First, I think the first regional briefing obviously that we have to focus is a lot of thanks. We did a lot at ICANN 61 and it's great to see how they are meeting.

And for those who are members, you may have already received much of this from the regional lists, but most importantly the idea of the NCSG helped optimize our in reach. So you can count on the (EC) team to help you engage if you need to answer questions.

So I just wanted to give this big thanks to all of them. And please ask them to tell them who they are. They represent themselves. And that they are available to talk. Thanks.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Renata. All right. So without further ado, I'd like to introduce Bruna, who also was a chair of a session in the first part of this meeting. She is the LAC representative at the executive committee of NCUC. So go ahead for a small brief.

Bruna Santos: Really quick, as I don't want to steal the time from (unintelligible) and do…

((Crosstalk))

Elsa Saade: Of course.

Bruna Santos: …a discussion. Just a quick update -- we had approved recently our CROP. We submitted a CROP request for a member of ours, (Roxanne), to attend LACNIC, which is one of the (RRR's) meeting. LACNIC 29 will take place in Panama. We will be joining some sessions there. I'll be working with (Roxanne) from (Nal) one just so her representation and participation at the program and both LACNIC is done properly.

                So me and Renata will be working with her with regards to her preparation. So that's it.

Elsa Saade: Great. Okay. So Michael was here but he left the room. This is just an opportunity to let you guys know that you can reach out to us on our regional list, on our emails, even by Skype to let us know if you have any questions or if you need to do anything related to the (PDP), if you need a focal point, which leads me to - actually, let me mention the names of the EC.

                We have Ines Hfaiedh for Africa. We have Michael Karnicolas for North America. We have Louise Marie Hurel representing EU. Bruna and myself, Elsa, representing Asia Pacific. So please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us because there are no borders when it comes to support.

So without further ado, I'd like to have Farzaneh and Tatiana go ahead being our focal points on jurisdiction and domain abuse. We're going to start with Farzaneh Badiei, who's the NCSG chair currently. Go ahead, Farzaneh.

Farzaneh Badiei: Thank you very much. So jurisdiction group is kind of like subgroup of the accountability work stream. So in the first work stream we had the accountability of ICANN in general. And then there were some issues that they decided to discuss in a second work stream, and jurisdiction was one of them.

The jurisdiction of ICANN is really important because it might have consequences for ICANN function. So when the groups started discussing the scope of the jurisdiction hub, we decided that it came to consensus that we are not going to talk about moving the ICANN from the US to another place, but what we are going to talk about is the consequences of the US jurisdiction on ICANN function.

How much time do I have? So I can go on. Okay. Then we talked about the consequences. I'm just only going to mention some of the recommendations that we agreed and are in the report.

There was a problem that was reported three years ago, that domain registrants would get their domain name confiscated because the registrar would argue that you're based in a sanctioned country, a US-sanctioned country, and I cannot extend your domain name although they were not even based in the US.

So one of the impressions was that because the registrars thought that they have a contact with ICANN so they have to follow ICANN US jurisdiction. I have to apply US law, so they did not want to extend the domain name of the people residing in sanctioned countries. And when I say sanctioned countries, I mean Iran and a couple of other places.

But so, we came up with (cocreator) combinations in the jurisdiction group to resolve this issue, but also resolve the issue of because you want to do business with ICANN, if you want to be a registry, if you want to be a registrar you need to get a waiver from the US government that ICANN allow you to do business. And that waiver takes a long time. It's like a license. It takes a long time to do. But although ICANN has been doing it, it was not very transparent in the process. And also it said that it is not obliged to pursue such a license.

So we recommended that they remove the sentence that says it's not obliged to pursue such a license so that ICANN for sure looks into this issue and pursue a license for the sanctioned countries. But also, we suggested that they should look for a more permanent position, a more permanent solution which is an OFAC general license -- which is - gosh, I said OFAC. I didn't want to say that word. OFAC is the Office of US Treasury. O-F-A-C. So it's a US regulatory that looks after the sanction regulations.

So we actually recommended looking to getting a general license that would apply to everyone when they want to deal with ICANN because ICANN is a transnational, global organization that specifically takes access to DNS. If it cannot carry out this function, then it has breached its mission, which is in the bylaws.

So we came up with these recommendations. And you know, there's a really interesting story behind this, especially for people that want to get involved. I am from Iran. And people, entrepreneurs would come to me and say our domain names get confiscated and they had the impression that it was because of the ICANN US jurisdiction.

And we managed to kind of get this group to come up with these recommendations that might help with the situation and access to domain names and DNS I sanctioned countries. So, that was a success story and hopefully the board will adopt it.

So, that was a success story and hopefully the board will adopt it. We had an interesting conversation today with the board and their comments were not very positive, but they also said that their only concern is really the budget and how they are going to implement these recommendations.

And I think that's about it. And we suggested, we recommended that the jurisdiction issue should be discussed furthermore to resolve some of the matters that we could not resolve. And that is - we don't know. It has not gotten enough traction among the community. We don't know if that is going to happen. But there might be a chance to talk thoroughly about this later on and look at other issues. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Thank you very much, Farzaneh for the work you do and for your presentation and for being with us. So any questions about jurisdictions to Farzaneh? Please go ahead. Okay. So there's a question from Shahul. Would you like to read it, Ria?

Maria Otanes: Shahul asked what is the rationale of GAC members who oppose the S2 report? Is it true they want to move ICANN to Geneva?

Farzaneh Badiei: I think they want to move ICANN to Ibiza. There's no rationale other than politics. So what they wanted, the didn't want - we actually talked to Brazilian government a lot about this. They said they like the recommendations. They want to support them. But unfortunately, the process did not allow them to support it partially. So in order to - they had to object to the whole report.

However, our governments feel that we did not discuss some matters that they want discussed -- for example, getting partial immunity for ICANN so that US laws do not apply. And there is a big discussion in the community, because some part of the community says that well, we came up with all of this accountability which are based on California law. And now if we get immunity for ICANN, then we are not going to hold these guys accountable. So this is one part of the discussion.

And then the other side says that well, I want partial immunity or maybe we can come up with other ICANN (unintelligible). Which is - but the rationale is mainly politics and also, they wanted to discuss the immunity part. And they just want to I think they want to be forceful in continuing the discussion. Yes.

And by the way, government of Iran also objected to the report.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Thank you, Farzaneh. We have another question. Would you like to read it, Ria? From Tomslin.

Maria Otanes: From Tomslin on the jurisdiction recommendations, are there any timelines as to when the board should act or consider them?

Farzaneh Badiei: That is a very good question. We actually on purpose put in, recommended in the recommendation that the board after approving the recommendation should not delay the implementation more than six months. So we wanted to get the board to comment to us.

Woman: I heard rumors of an implementation team. Have you heard those rumors?

Farzaneh Badiei: I would like to know about this team.

Elsa Saade: Yes, Tatiana. Go ahead.

Tatiana Tropina: There's no - so the implementation, we don't - we go - that's another phase. So at the moment, we are still at the approval level. We are not even at the - we are at the second reading. Now it has to go to public comment and then go to board for approval. And then we think about implementation.

Elsa Saade: Yes, Tatiana and one last comment from Robin after Tatiana. Go ahead.

Tatiana Tropina: I think the implementation team is not going to be every work stream too, right? Because some of them require more implementation from the community, the effort, some of them less. I'm not aware about the implementation team on jurisdiction. No. Human rights, maybe but definitely not in jurisdiction. Am I right, Robin?

Robin Gross: Hi. This is Robin Gross for the record. And I am NCSG's representative to the overall CCWG accountability. And we met on Friday. And they did talk about on Friday sort of the creation of an implementation team to implement the work stream to recommendations. But it really isn't like a separate thing.

What we're talking about are the rapporteurs of the different work streams would sort of make sure that their recommendations get implemented properly. So that was what they were talking about with this implementation team. Pardon me?

Man: Random oversight.

Robin Gross: Exactly, oversight to make sure that what we recommended ultimately gets adopted, that it doesn't get changed somewhere along the way as has happened in the past. So that's why we needed to be sure that we could provide some oversight on the implementation of these recommendations.

Elsa Saade: Okay, great. Thank you so much Robin for the information. So without further ado, I think we can move a bit out of this and go more into domain abuse. And Farzaneh is always around so we can always ask her questions as a focal point. So Tatiana the floor is yours. Thank you, Farzaneh.

Tatiana Tropina: Thank you very much. Tatiana Tropina for the record. And just a disclaimer -- you can also ask Farzaneh about domain abuse. So why (unintelligible) over the domain name abuse? Well apparently, it isn't the ICANN mission to provide security and stability of the internet identifiers and it isn't the core of the ICANN mission to take care of this.

And here we ran into the wall concerning what the main abuse is, what are the threats ICANN actually is capable and empowered to tackle within its mission. Because if you think about security crime, there are different type of threats -- some of them purely technical, some of them tackle the core of security and stability of the internet.

This is where we believe ICANN should step in and address these threats. But what we are facing currently, there are certain groups at ICANN who want ICANN to address the problem -- for example, of illegal content, copyright, child online protection. So not technical threats, which tackle security and stability of the internet. Not DNS attacks, for example. But pure content threats.

And it's not only the notion of the content threat, right? It is what is illegal and to what degree because if you are thinking about like heavy crime and sometimes they want ICANN to address just IP infringements to identify and take down content which is just infringed copyright or intellectual property right in some sense.

And that's where we are stepping in because there are some, how do I say, contractions between the ICANN mission and previous public interest commitments that ICANN made. And registries and registrars' agreement which was drafted before the transition from the US oversight and before ICANN community agreed on the new ICANN narrowed mission.

So we have different ways to circumvent ICANN mission and say no, it's not only pure technical threats. Registries and registrars also have to tackle or report illegal content. And what is interesting, there are, how do I say? If you think about ICANN organization and ICANN community, in a way registries and registrars can do whatever they want with what they have. They can establish whatever rules.

If they don't want to have any information about apples on their website, they can say no apples. If they want to tackle copyright infringements, they can say yes, we are going to do this and they can enforce by contract.

And it's not like I'm personally fine with these, but we have to be. What we are trying to do is to prevent ICANN to become a regulator of these. We want to prevent ICANN from establishing any rules for registries and registrars in either way -- be it prohibiting them from establishing their rules for regulation content or drafting some rules and enforcing them.

So recently for example, there was this domain abuse report initiative which came up at ICANN and we had a session in Abu Dhabi concerning the reporting of the domain name abuse. But interestingly, once you start talking about reporting, you've got a whole bunch of IP lawyers -- intellectual property lawyers -- influx and law enforcement influx saying why do you even need to collect data about abuse? If you are collecting data, you have to do something. You have to check what is going on and you have to make registries and registrars act upon these.

So we are trying to develop for our self an early warning system to see how registries and registrars and IP lawyers are trying to circumvent the ICANN mission because they do have some loopholes in what we have now, like registries and registrar's agreement I mentioned or domain abuse reporting system.

And we are trying to say that apart from content regulation -- which ICANN cannot do -- there are valid arguments against ICANN intervening anyhow and forcing registries and registrars to do something.

Well first of all, it is a pure domain of law enforcement to fight this type of abuse. ICANN is not a police. Registries and registrars are not a police. And by taking the content down, you're still not addressing the problem of crime.

You have to catch the guys. So ICANN is not, you know, in the position -- nor are registries or registrars -- to really address this problem.

And there is also, as we always point out, there is a big, gray, large, huge area between collecting statistics and having the action. Because you can't just simply say if ICANN has statistics, we can, ICANN, can force registries and registrars to act upon these because there should be mechanisms of verification that should be redressed system. So there should be due process.

And I will close it here. And if you have any questions here or later, you can just approach me and we can try to figure out where your interest is. Thank you.

Elsa Saade: Thank you so much, (Tanya). Any questions? Yes, Claudio go ahead. Any other question before so that we put them down? We'll give a chance for three questions.

Man: Right.

Elsa Saade: Anyone in the back? No? Okay. Is Thato with us?

Thato Mfikwe: Yes.

Elsa Saade: Okay. We will take your question right after Claudio. Go ahead, Claudio.

Claudio Lucena: All right. Okay. Claudio Lucena here. I would like Tatiana to know if the early warning system that you talked about what's the stage of…

((Crosstalk))

Tatiana Tropina: No. Early warning system is what we are trying to do. Farzaneh, me, (Milton Miller), some other guys, we are trying to see what kind of things are going on with intellectual property constituency…

Claudio Lucena: All right.

Tatiana Tropina: …with cross community working sessions. What kind of debate is going on to…

Claudio Lucena: Yes. But is…

Tatiana Tropina: …raise a red flag for ourselves…

Claudio Lucena: Is instruction for that…

((Crosstalk))

Tatiana Tropina: No, we are just…

Claudio Lucena: No?

Tatiana Tropina: …we are collaborating on like for example, Stephanie Perrin can tell us hey look what is going on here or someone else, you know, and we just okay.

Claudio Lucena: It's general monitoring.

Tatiana Tropina: Yes.

Claudio Lucena: Okay.

Tatiana Tropina: It's general monitoring we are doing of this issue.

So I had the beautiful task of identifying all the DNS abuse sessions with the GAC and (DAR) and many of them. And I tried to attend them to see how they explain what abuse is, what they tell GAC.

Tatiana Tropina: So we know that if we intervene too late, it might be really too late because the debate will go into the weeds already too far and it would be too late for us to step in and really voice our position. But up to now, we have been successful.

And we also are trying because you know, I have to say law enforcement have legitimate demands. They do. And we are trying to separate legitimate demands from the demands which in our opinion might be legitimate but not related to ICANN mission.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, (Tanya). Okay. Thato would you like to ask your question?

Thato Mfikwe: Yes. My question to Farzaneh. Thanks for the information around jurisdiction. So basically my question is what I posted to the chat. It's regarding the jurisdiction challenges that are polled by US and ICANN relations to see whether are there any financial consequences to this challenges that we're talking about. Because you mentioned issues of complications of domains. Maybe if (unintelligible) because it might affect the financial prospects of ICANN based on the continent size to really achieve what you recommend. Thanks.

Farzaneh Badiei: I'm sorry, dude. Audio is a bit muffled. And if Thato can you please just in one sentence repeat your question.

Thato Mfikwe: My question is around two restriction challenges that are opposed by the US ICANN relations. What is the financial impact that this has on ICANN financially?

Farzaneh Badiei: The US restriction, what are the financial implications? I don't know. Well, they do think is that they cannot accept applications from the TLD applicants, for example, and that could be a problem that they won't get money. Go ahead.

Claudio Lucena: It's just Claudio here speaking, just I think the injury report had data on research that didn't go to financial impact, but they listed cases. So that might be a way for him to go further information. I remember that there were not financial implication information but there was reference to amount of cases -- four I think.

Tatiana Tropina: So if you mean the issues that jurisdiction reports I actually mentioned, those issues are we came up with the issues. So yes, we wrote those issues. So basically, but the financial thing is that one of the thing that we mentioned in the group -- I don't know if it's in the report or not. Claudio, you can tell us -- but the financial - for example, if you want to wire money from a sanctioned country to ICANN, you cannot because you are financially sanctioned.

So they have to kind of like go through a third party. It cost them money. And this would be the financial implication on the other party, not ICANN.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Thank you very much for your questions. Since we actually didn't have time to go through WS2, we're going to be going through it next with Rafik Dammak, who's the co-rapporteur for the diversity subgroup. Thank you so much for your questions so far. And Rafik, the floor is yours.

Rafik Dammak: Okay. Thanks. I don't think it will take that much time because there weren't several update. So maybe just since we have some newcomer, since people had a lot of fun work stream one, they said okay let's have work stream two. So, the second season. But like any TV series, we should stop after the first or second.

Okay. So basically the work stream two covered I think what was not possible to do during the work stream one. And we have I think eight subgroups with participation from the NCSG. And we even have several of our members as co-rapporteur, which means they are taking the lead on drafting and getting input from subgroup members.

So we have first like the staff accountability. We also have the optimal office jurisdiction. That was introduced by Farzaneh. We also have the supporting organization and addressing the community accountability. And I think also Farzaneh was the co-rapporteur, if I'm not mistaken. And I think this is maybe one of interest for us.

We have also the human rights group that was led by Niels. And then the transparency by Michael. And the good faith conduct, and the final one is diversity. That I was one of the co-rapporteur.

So basically in terms of process, all of the subgroup delivered their recommendation and they were approved by what we call the second reading last Friday. So technically now, all subgroups finished. What will happen is the consolidation of all these recommendation in one report to see if there is any inconsistency, if there is any overlap and trying to fix that.

And then we will have a public comment. So I think the expectation from public comment that we are not going to request big change recommendation, but just to see - I mean to offer an opportunity for the community to comment. And we have expectation to get approval by the charter organization. So kind of the deadline that we drove all subgroups to deliver their work on time because we have that budget limit, that even after we get extension, we cannot get over that.

So we are on time. All subgroups delivered their comments. So everything looks okay, looks bright. So we're really just wait for the charter organization to approve and for the final report and then the board.

So I guess now the discussion about - I mean, by discussion by the board, they are saying that they are not going to oppose but it's all about the budget, the cost. And this is maybe the kind of not fight but something we have to monitor is the implementation of this recommendation. So I guess the discussion is how would we do that so there is oversight from the group on how implementation will be done.

Usually the implementation is tasked to the ICANN organization and the staff. But by experience as Robin read, we had issue before regarding GNSO position. But I think things are improving. And even for the work stream one and (unintelligible) we - having that oversight I think the oversight team that they did a good job and they're still working.

So we did I think the first phase. Now it's the implement -- how long it will take, do we think it will be done in time. That remains a question.

So I think the conclusion is that as a group, we did a good job.by participating in the different subgroups. That was challenging because it was never really planned like three, four years ago that something that happened. We then (unintelligible) transition but we could cope with that. And we could advocate for several of our position like jurisdiction, diversity, human rights, and so on.

Are we happy with everything? No. We cannot get everything. And that's why I think that maybe the drawback here is we got the time limit and there was like the pushback. If you are recommending this, are you sure that we can implement it budget-wise and so on. There was some resistance.

But generally, I think we did a good job. So now the question is everything going to be implemented in time or not. Okay. I mean, I think that's it. But since we have some core opportunity, maybe they can add some thought. We heard about transparency, I think. We heard about jurisdiction. But maybe from other subgroups if needed. So, yes.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Rafik. Anyone who wants to add anything to - (Tanya) did you want to add anything to? No?

Tatiana Tropina: No, I think Rafik covered the second one actually.

Elsa Saade: Okay. Great. Thank you so much, Rafik. Any questions on the floor? From the back as well. You're more than welcome to ask questions.

((Crosstalk))

Elsa Saade: Yes, great. (Ramon).

Woman: Renata asked, what do you expect implementation of diversity?

Rafik Dammak: The question was expectations from diversity. Okay. I mean, that's a good question because when we talk about diversity, there is always some pushback in term, you know, different groups say that we're not size fit all in term of their requirements.

                  But at least I think we set the foundation for improving things in term like we are defining exactly different elements of diversity. It's not just regional or gender, but we went further like I think seven or eight elements of diversity. And we I think are also creating the idea that every group needs to set goals and objectives and strategies. So they have to do work. It's not just kind of fluffy words.

                  And also to have that assessment (unintelligible), to have that regular assessment of what they are doing. And so we are creating this situation that we will have metrics and measure, not just talk -- that we are doing something about diversity. And moving from the idea of, you know, they can give you some anecdotes. We have someone from this country. But, (we

don't), But, can you show us more, more numbers. And so we are creating situations.

Could we do better? Of course we could. But it's hard, you know. It's kind of changing the situation. In term of implementation, we will see how things will be implemented because I think in the subgroup, we took into consideration all this idea that we cannot go further in the implementation specifics. We have to be careful about the budget and cost. So we had that in mind. And just we focus on how we can change the whole context about diversity.

So yes, we expect what will be proposed in term of implementation, so.

Elsa Saade: All right. Thank you. Just out of curiosity, how many of us in the room have heard of these groups that we mentioned already? Can we show hands? Show of hands.

Rafik Dammak: Yes, I think…

Elsa Saade: Yes. You think so, Rafik? Okay. Just out of curiosity. Okay. Yes, go ahead.

Woman: Renata asked the group had captioning interpretation. Did it help?

Rafik Dammak: Okay. I don't think we need an assessment of that. It helps. I think the captioning helps because even for me when I was chairing the calls and if I missed something, I could double check. And it can be useful to be sure what was said or to get the wording.

For interpretation, I think it's more mixed feelings because even though we get requests by people and push…

Woman: Okay, thank you.

Rafik Dammak: …we get - but I mean, requests and so for people to want. But I don't think we had enough users of that service that really justify the request, so. But, maybe it helped some people. I cannot state it was helpful or not. But in general, I think the captioning was clearly something that will be helpful for any group because even if you are an English speaker or speak the language, you can check or double-check what was said exactly.

So I think it's much more as a service that can be helpful for everyone than just like the interpretation that can be hardly justified sometimes if there is not enough people using it.

Elsa Saade: Thank you, Rafik. I was just informed that we are way over time. I just wanted to give a chance to Michael to give a small brief about EC North America since he was here. He was actually - yes, go ahead. You can actually brief yourself.

Michael Karanicolas: Quickly? I can't do this quickly. There's so much to discuss. Yes, so just as the EC North America rep, we've been doing - we've got a few outreach activities coming. Most notably at Rights Con where we're going to be doing a session with some NCUC members, including Jeremy Malcolm and potentially ICANN staff, people from the GAC and people from the business constituency.

I'll talk about the multi stakeholder model, so that's going to be a very interesting assessment. We're also going to have a booth. If anybody is going to be at Rights Con, please come and let me know and it would be great to have more people on the booth. And yes, we're also going to be doing outreach at the INTA, which is a trademark intellectual property event.

Elsa Saade: Great. Thank you so much, Michael. Also good to note that our (AF) (ECs) on the booth upstairs. So if you want to meet (Terri), you can speak to her upstairs. And Louise wanted to join us and say a comment and give you a

brief but she couldn't as her plane just departed. So make sure to get in touch with her.

And yes, thank you so much. I also would like to thank (Maria), (Julie) (Kevin), and (Jose) for your support on this call and every single speaker here. Thank you so much.

END