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ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: We are going to start with our agenda. I am going to tell you about the history or the background of this session, where it comes from. This is the first time we hold this kind of session at an ICANN meeting. Of course, it is really due to the regional strategy that has been recently reviewed. Since Abu Dhabi, we have a new regional strategies and one of the issues which evolves with this regional strategy is the outreach and engagement efforts we have carried out.

As a matter of fact, we have worked very well by attracting new people from the region into ICANN. We have grown in the number of participants, but we believe there is an area of opportunity to improve in quality terms, and when we talk about quality, we talk about the depth into which we dive into the different issues participating in the various interest stakeholder groups in ICANN. I don't know if we have the PowerPoint presentation with our regional strategy.

The regional strategy, as you know, includes four areas of interest. The first one, which we call, [inaudible] geographic balance carries all these efforts – outreach efforts – inviting

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more people to participate in ICANN but with a more focused view. Now we want to identify where the gaps are, where we miss people, whether from the private sector in some countries. Maybe we should focus our tools and resources in trying to get these people to fill in the gaps from Latin America and the Caribbean, which are not fully participating at ICA NN. And within the same goal, we want to use the tools to find these people, this project, this session.

The second one is policy focused. We want to achieve meaningful participation. What do we want to achieve? Well, we want to do the following, even if people don't want to participate in any stakeholder group, we want them to participate in the various PDP processes.

You will see that most of ICANN is, on one hand, a discussion for [inaudible] but also an operational platform. This is a key role, too, the one we have here, on the screen. ICANN has many processes which deliver results, policies in this case – policies focusing on different areas. There are policies, PDPs, that take many years such as the PDP related to the new gTLDs. Eight years we're taking to discuss this program, but at the beginning, it was a policy and policies have many elements in common. They have a similar process, which includes the interaction amongst several stakeholder groups in ICANN and with the

members At-Large. And after the transition, we believe ICANN needs to expand their diversity in the products and what we do.

Our region has been really active in certain processes for ICANN and for our communities. It's very important that this organization works properly, that it's transparent, accountable, and we have been focusing on that as a community for many years and it's really great that we are doing this. We, people from Latin America and the Caribbean, have been actively involved in those processes. We believe that now after a transition, of course, without neglecting as a community these new powers the community has. We believe we should focus our efforts on policy development. That is what ICANN does. This is what is what it was created for, so this is the goal of our session.

Now, there are many sessions which deal with the development of policies. There are sessions held before the ICANN meetings. There are sessions during ICANN meetings, and there are sessions where reports are submitted. This one, well, we want it to be a regional meeting so that we can discuss openly in a more intimate environment, so that we can meet the people from our region who participate or who have participated in PDPs so that they can share their experience with us and to learn our PDPs that have already made quite a bit of progress that may be more complex because of the issues they deal with.

When we talk about the issues, well, there are many projects we will have in this area of interest, so that the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean will be more representative. So, we have our agenda, the first one – well, first, we will give the floor to Daniel Fink who will share with us some housekeeping rules. After that, we will give the floor to members of our community who will talk about their experience participating in PDPs.

Finally, as this is the first session of this kind, my colleague Emily from the policy department is here with us and she will talk about how a PDP is carried out, how it is started, what steps are involved and she will highlight some of them, which she will talk about some PDPs which are taking place right now. She will also show to us where we may find out about the progress of each PDP. So, thank you very much for being here. Now, I will give the floor to Daniel who will share with us some housekeeping rules.

DANIEL FINK: Good to see you all here. As Rodrigo said in the beginning, for those who join a few minutes before, we have interpretation in Portuguese and Spanish. Please feel free to use your headsets.

Finally, for [inaudible] the time, Rodrigo Saucedo will be helping the speakers to inform you with this flags about the remaining time. Okay, thank you very much. Enjoy.

One more thing. We are sending this form for you to sign, your attendance. Okay. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: So, we'll give the floor to the three members of the community, and first we will have Rubens Kuhl who will talk about his experience and participation in PDPs.

RUBENS KUHL: Warning for those going for headsets that are speaking Portuguese, taking advantage of the rare opportunity of having Portuguese interpretation at ICANN meeting. So, thanks for that this time.

I am Rubens Kuhl. I work at NICBR. That is both a register for country codes, ccTLDs, and registry for IP addresses and gTLDs. So, we are spread in all pillars of ICANN. My task in NICBR are the policies for gTLDs policies.

My mission, when as to the policies of new gTLDs, the policies were ready. We had the Applicant Guidebook and everything was ready to be launched. So, I had to participate in this round based on what was developed beforehand. And during that time, I thought that we could do some things differently, so afterwards I decided to put my money where I had put my mouth, as we say in Portuguese. I should help to improve this

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process for the next round, so I decided to invest in policy development to continue the new gTLDs.

I'd like to focus on two points that highlight the importance of participating in this policy development, especially for us in Latin America. One of the points was the gTLDs geo-names. This was very close to our hearts for us in Latin America because two companies from outside of Latin America requested names that many of us inside Latin America, like dot-amazon and dot-patagonia, and dot-amazon is still not defined yet, but dot-patagonia, the registrant gave up.

So, one of the issues of the PDP is geo-names, so we have work track five that discusses precisely that. Another issue that's being discussed is vertical integration that has the registrant can directly – the registers … This is very important for us in a region where few countries have ICANN accredited registrars, including Brazil. We have 200 million inhabitants who don't have a single registrant accredited by ICANN.

So, we depend on the large retails. Sorry, the wholesales of registers. And we have very little access. Dot-lat is facing this problem and this is being discussed in the PDPs.

I wanted to tell you that often you wanted to participate in the PDP, saying this can be improved; it's not very good. So, there's a good reason to participate in the PDP.

PDPs are really important for us in Latin America. We have needs that are very specific, are unique, for us and if we don't participate, nobody will remember these issues or take them into account.

I haven't seen anyone from Latin America, except me, in PDP. I just participate in one or two and I have met other people from Latin America there. So, I believe it is very important for other Latin American and Caribbean people to participate in the PDPs.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Bartlett Morgan, please?

BARTLETT MORGAN: Hello, everybody. Thanks to the GSE for inviting me here. I am Bartlett Morgan. I am from the Caribbean and I've been involved with ICANN just for a little bit of time now. I really just wanted to very briefly today share my experiences so far in the policy development process.

I often say to people, as regards to ICANN, they can stop and take away all the fluff. We are all here when we run up and down at these meetings is do one thing, which is ultimately to further the policy development agenda of ICANN.

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Now, as it regards my own introduction into that process, by way of background, I'm a lawyer. I've always been in interested in technology policy, law and policy. I was curious about finding a practical avenue to give life to that.

By chance, some years ago, an existing community member mentioned to me that ICANN might be a good fit for persons with my interests and my background. My background is also in information technology.

So, I did my own research and came across the GNSO and the work they were doing there. I reached out to them about joining one of their working group. This was the IRTP Part D. In this context, the details don't really matter, but long and short, basically, the process by which when you have a domain name and you want to transfer it from one registrar to another. That's really the essence of the whole thing and the policies that are involved in that process. So, I got involved in that process.

What I think was important for me, beyond just being dragged along and learning all these new terms and acronyms you've never heard before was the fact that based on how ICANN operated and operates, I was made to feel a welcome and equal participant at the table. And this was both from staff and the community as well.

One of the things that was important for a newcomer to the policy development process is support when you don't understand things – people who can guide you. And people who can help you to frame what you're doing at a larger context. That was very important for me. There are a lot of community members I could point to. I see some of them here around the place who sort of helped me, sort of held my hand in the initial years, just to help me have a sense of what I was doing and the importance of it.

That was the initial introduction, and over time I've sort of switched hats because I'm now a part of the At-Large community. I'm now on the At-Large Advisory Committee. In that capacity, we also do positive development, but from a slightly different angle in that we're now concerned with end user interests and ensuring that's protected in the policy development processes in ICANN.

In another way, when policies are developed in the different SOs and ACs and it comes before us, it then presents an opportunity for us to have input on behalf of end users, from Latin America and the Caribbean included into those processes. That's a large part of what I do now.

Time is running out and I think I've made some of the big points. Truthfully, nowadays, what I ideally want to see is more of us

from Latin America and the Caribbean jumping in, instead of just observing from a distance. It's important to jump in.

Very often, I've heard from persons who say, "I'd like to, but I just don't have the time." But, I have news for you. There's still a way to jump in if you don't have the time. It's to simply observe the processes. That's one of the options available. You can simply join a mailing list, for example, and not be an active participant but simply observe. Even though you're not doing anything actively, there's a lot of knowledge that's being transferred still and it creates the groundwork for some point in the future when you may be better able to actively contribute. My time is up, so I'll stop there.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Bartlett. Now we give the floor to Martin Silva.Martin Silva?

MARTIN SILVA: Hello. I'm going to use the timer because I want to behave today. I am Martin Silva. I am from Argentina. I'm going to speak Spanish for once. [inaudible] am a GNSO councilor. That means I am a manager. I am part of the group of managers, people who manage these PDPs, these processes related to generic names. That is the rules relating the names which are not dot-country.

Those that are ccs are within the GNSO and I am part of a group that manages those processes.

Being a manager means participating in those processes. I decided to work in the rights protection review mechanisms. I work for that group and I've chosen it because of my training. I am a lawyer by training, so in trademarks and in the weights and balances, I was interested in the way brands are protected and I wanted to participate in this process to understand how the balance was achieved, how the multi-stakeholder system would reach consensus, taking into account all of the different [inaudible]. I was a fellow first and that's when I found a house among the non-commercial stakeholders group. I am focused in protection of brand rights. These are mechanisms that protect brands from a non-commercial point of view. It's a group where there are plenty of lawyers working in IP area. I represent the other side of IP, the interest of users of having a domain name with his or her name or an NGO who wants to have a domain with an acronym. Those names that are not protected the way brands are protected.

This process started in 2016 or late 2015 and there are two steps. Step one is related to rights protection mechanisms that are useful in new domain names. For example, the Trademark Clearinghouse or the URS rapid suspension mechanism created because of the large number of new domain names that were

coming in. The second phase is a mechanism which we know the UDRP system which we use in Latin America to protect our brand names when we talk about generic names.

So, we have all these mechanisms. We are now in phase one. We are reviewing protection mechanisms for the new domain names. Right now, we are going through the URS, the rapid suspension mechanism, and when we come to the end of this, we would start in theory with phase two which is the review of these basic processes. That is the generic rules, which we have been using for ten years now. It is a very important review, because first it will have an impact on the next round of new gTLDs. Secondly, because it hasn't been updated for ten years.

So, from an economic point of view, an importance point of view, for the DNS system, it is key. That is who may dispute a right for a name, which is like the registry rules. It's a second stage once you have registered a domain name.

Although the group in itself is rather difficult to follow because at times discussions are too specific, particularly in relation to new domain names, I encourage you to join it because, although it looks complicated, if anyone explains terminologies, etc., it is manageable and it is extremely functional in the sense that people work to progress. My time is over, so here I am for any

question you have on this PDP or any other one. This is mine because I'm a councilor but I can help you with others.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Martin. Thank you to all of you three. As you can realize, there is substantive engagement of Latin American and Caribbean in these processes. Certainly has to be enhanced and increased in number and the invitation is open, so thank you Bartlett, Ruben, and Martin for your presentations.

Now let's get familiarized with the policy development process, the steps, who can participate, how you can join. For that, I have my friend, Emily Barabas, who is from the GNSO Policy Development Support. She will have two parts in her presentation. The first will be on the PDPs and the second is going to make a special focus on one very interesting and active PDP at this meeting. If you have any interest, perhaps it could be a good chance to participate. Emily, you have the floor.

EMILY BARABAS: Thank you, Rodrigo. I'm going to be speaking in English, so anyone who needs headphones for that, please go ahead and put them on.

My name is Emily Barabas. I'm on the Policy Support Team, as Rodrigo said. The role of our team is to help policy development

process working groups be successful. So, we draft documents, we do research, we do logistical support, and we help out at events like this to reach out to new people and share information about the work of these working groups and how to get involved.

Maybe I'll start with a couple of questions. I'd like this to be as interactive as possible, so it's helpful for me to know a little bit about all of you. Who has been involved at all with policy in ICANN policy development processes? A few people. And how many of you interact with ICANN in a different way? For example, as a contracted party in a more operational sense? Anyone? And who is from the business community, intellectual property owners, something like that? Civil society? A couple. Contracted parties, registries and registrars? There's still a lot of you in this room. Who is left. Governments? Of course. A few. What am I missing? ISPs, fellows. ccNSO. Perfect. ccTLDs. Cool. Thanks. That's really helpful. I'm going to control my own slides, if that's okay. Okay, great.

We're going to talk a little bit about what a policy development process is, since most of you are not yet involved in policy development processes. Then we'll just talk about some highlights. I'm going to focus on one PDP in particular and touch on a couple of others. Martin had spoken to one of those

already. What I'll try to do is highlight some opportunities for engagement.

As we've just mentioned, it's kind of a big commitment to really dive into a PDP, especially the ones that have been going on for quite a long time, but there are ways that you can engage in a more targeted way if you haven't been involved in them in the long term and we'll talk a little bit about those opportunities.

First, and this might just be review for a lot of you, but the ICANN community has these different sections. There's supporting organizations and advisory committees. The supporting organizations, so the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, the Generic Names Supporting Organization, and the Address Supporting Organization are the ones that make consensus policies. So, policies – and we'll talk about what that actually means. But, they have a special role and they go through these processes to make certain kinds of decisions about the sort of rules of how the DNS works.

Then, there's advisory committees. There's At-Large, the GAC (Government Advisory Committee), the SSAC (Security and Stability Advisory Committee), and the Root Server System Advisory Committee. They play more of an advisory role in policy development. Again, we'll talk a little bit more about what that looks like.

But, just to orient, we're going to talk right now about the GNSO or the Generic Names Supporting Organization and policies developed there.

What is the GNSO PDP? The ICANN bylaws gives the GNSO a specific role and that role is for the GNSO to be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains.

So, specifically – and Martin was talking about how he's on the GNSO Council and the GNSO Council's role is to manage that process and sort of help to coordinate the work and act as a liaison to other parts of the ICANN organization and the ICANN board. The working groups are these bottom-up processes, open processes that can develop these policies that are then passed on to the Council. Any questions so far? Great. And you can put questions in the chat as well, if that's easier.

So, what is this process? You can see that it's quite long. There are a lot of steps. The type is really small. But, the main thing is that there's a specific process that's used and the purpose of that is to get as broad input as possible from different parts of the community on a particular issue area.

So, how does this happen? The first thing that happens is an issue report is requested and that basically scopes out the problem that's trying to be solved by this process. So, the GNSO

Council can request an issue report. Advisory Committees can request an issue report or the ICANN board can do that.

As you can see here, there's little people and they keep appearing in this process. Each of those is an opportunity for the broader community to provide input.

When I talked about places where you can get involved, public comment is really essential. It's actually quite easy to do. There's a website. You can write something really short. You can write something much more extensive. But, the first opportunity for you in this process to get involved is to add a public comment to that issue report and give your feedback about the scope of the issue itself and your experience with it in the work that you do.

That initial report is then revised based on the public comment period and then the GNSO Council can initiate a policy development process. Now we're kind of going into this orange area in the Z. That's the actual work of the working group. A working group is formed. The working group does outreach to different parts of the community to get input on the issue areas within its scope. It does a lot of deliberating.

PDPs are open by nature. Anyone can join. You can be part of a stakeholder group and constituency within the GNSO. You don't have to be. You can be a member of the GAC. You can be a

member of the ccNSO. You can just be a person who is interested and is not affiliated with any ICANN structure at all and you can still get involved. The only requirement is that you fill out a statement of interest, which basically says what your interest is in the issues and that's just for transparency purposes. "I work for this company. I'm representing them," so forth and so on.

And, of course, if you're joining a PDP late, there is also the request that you get up to speed and get yourself informed about what's happened so far, so that you're ready to dive into the conversation.

But, that's basically it. Anyone is allowed to get involved. There's deliberations that take place on the issue or set of issues. Decisions are made by consensus and there are specific definitions of what consensus means in this context.

Eventually, often after years as some people have already said, this process is pretty slow and [inaudible] by design, an initial report is produced. That's the first output.

That goes through a public comment period. The report is revised. A final report is produced. It goes to the GNSO Council. The GNSO Council will vote on that report and then the GNSO Council will make a recommendation to the ICANN board.

There's additional public comment and the board ultimately votes.

If the recommendation are approved by the board, the recommendations will then go into an implementation phase, which will eventually become operationalized.

Does anyone have questions about that general process?

I think the key thing here is really it's a bottom-up process. There's a lot of people involved. The idea is to get as broad input as possible from the different parts of the community and that's done both through the structure of the working groups, but also through thee opportunities for public comment so that anyone, even those not involved in the process, can then provide their input and have that incorporated into the outputs.

Questions, please?

[MARK]: [inaudible], Business Constituency. My question is actually about the very, very beginning because I understand the whole process, but what I never understood is the very first step of a PDP. Where does the drive come from? Who is the driver of something before it's a public comment at all? Who drives from the stage of this is an idea? Is it staff? Where does that come from?

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EMILY BARABAS: That's a really good question. I think I touched on this briefly. It can be the GNSO Council that can request an issue report. It can be an advisory committee. It can be the ICANN board. It sort of depends on the issue, but often there's some existing practice or policy that's not working. There's something that's not working quite right or there's a gap. There's a system or existing policy that isn't quite working in the right way. And through review of that, it's been identified as an issue that might need an updated policy, a brand new policy, something like that.

It's often about looking at how it's working in practice. The technology world changes over time and you can see something like RDS, WHOIS, where it might have worked in the beginning, but obviously needs change over time, and so there's a need to then review and develop something new. That's sort of where it comes from in terms of the genesis of the issue report. Does that make sense?

I'm going to touch briefly on what consensus policy is, because we talk a little bit about policy and within the GNSO and elsewhere in the ICANN community, there are a lot of different kinds of groups, right? There's cross-community working groups. There's groups that work on best practices or developing recommendations for different issue areas. But, the

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term consensus policy means something pretty specific in the ICANN world.

All ICANN accredited registrars and registries have contracts with ICANN and there are specific binding legal obligations within those contracts. The idea is that consensus policy is policy that can change those contracts. It's developed by the community and ultimately it can have an impact on those contracts that registrars and registries have with ICANN. Does that make sense so far?

There's a lot of legal language in here, but I'm going to just touch on this at a really high level. In those contracts with ICANN, registries and registrars basically agree that they will comply with these consensus policies that have been developed under certain specific conditions.

You might hear this term "picket fence" thrown around. The general idea is that there are specific areas that can be influenced by consensus policy that consensus policy can cover within those contracts and only those within the picket fence can be a subject of consensus policy.

Basically, the most important takeaway here is there are just very specific issue areas that are impacted by a policy when we talk about consensus policy, policy development. And the PDP process, this very complicated process with many specific steps,

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has been developed and you have to follow the PDP in order to make policy that will then influence the contracts of registries and registrars. So, it's sort of a deal that's been made between the contracted parties and ICANN that only through these processes can certain changes be made.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: I'm going to make a comment in Spanish. I think it is relevant to make a clarification here. As you see, the PDP here only involves the GNSO and has the rationale as Emily explained. There is a reason behind. The registries and the registrars have a contractor relationship of a binding nature with ICANN, so you may wonder here about the two missing sides of the equation.

One is the country codes, the ccNSO, which somehow they also have global policies, but typically the operational policies of the ccTLD registries are developed within each ccTLD in an independent manner. That is not a reason not to say why the ccTLDs are not here. We will afterwards talk about however the ccTLD policies work.

However, they also participate of the policy developed at the GNSO because they may be impacting the DNS system. The same happens with the ALAC and the GAC and the others and the SSAC. They all have a role under their mandates.

The other missing part, or the other part that is outside this PDP process, is the numbers portion. Numbers [inaudible] also develop their policies at a regional level. In history, there have been only five or six global policies which actually they were like a sort of coordination agreed at an RIR level. They do not follow the PDP platform. We have some people here [inaudible] might tell us something about it later, but they are somewhat outside this. I just wanted to make this minor clarification.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks. That was really helpful. Just to do a quick time check. What are we targeting to end here?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: 15 minutes.

EMILY BARABAS: Perfect. Great. Let me just talk a little bit about participation. One of the ways that you can participate is to become a working group member and we'll talk about some of the working groups that you can join. But, like I said, that's definitely a time commitment. It requires often weekly calls, preparation, reading documents. You can also …

Obviously, if you have a personal stake or a real interest in an issue area, it's a great way to get involved. Another way to do this sort of engagement that I think was mentioned a little bit earlier is to become an observer. That basically means that you follow the mailing list, but you're not an active contributor, so you don't attend the meetings, for example, but you can still follow along.

All of the deliberations of all of these working groups are completely public. So, even if you're not an observer, even if you're not signed up at all, you can access all the materials for a working group including recordings, transcripts, documentation and so forth.

So, if you're just interested in learning or want to follow along, you can do that without any obligation at all. And participation does remain open throughout the life cycle, but as I mentioned, if a working group has been going on for two years and you join, it's really hard to catch up. So, it's often a great idea to join either in the beginning or take advantage of some of the other engagement opportunities that I'll touch on in a second.

ICANN meetings. We're all here today. ICANN meetings are great. They're really helpful. A lot of the work, though, happens remotely throughout the year which is great. It means that if you can't attend ICANN meetings, you can still be a really active

participant in this work. We have a number of tools that are really helpful, like Adobe Connect here that we use for remote participation. So, don't let that be a barrier if you can't attend ICANN meetings. It really is something that's going on all the time. Any questions about that?

Actually, before I dive into some particulars, I'm just going to touch on a couple of other things. One is public comment period. I mentioned that public comments are great. They're a huge opportunity for you to talk about your own experiences with some of these issue areas. You can just speak to one very specific problem or topic that is of interest to you. Or, you can comment on an entire report and really go into a lot of depth.

How many of you have ever contributed to a public comment at ICANN? If we have time at the end, I'd love for you to talk to your experiences with that, too. It's really an important way for everyone to get involved. It is taken into account in all of the reports and things like that. There's a whole process for making sure that that feedback is part of the process.

I would say that that's actually – if you're thinking of how can I get involved with policy, public comment I would say is really number one in terms of getting started.

I'm going to just talk a little bit about one of the PDPs. We have Rubens here and he's actually one of the … He didn't really say

this, but he's one of the coleaders of this working group. So, at any time, Rubens, please feel free to leap in and talk about some of the specific areas as well.

One of the working groups that I support is the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group. This working group is about looking at the 2012 round of the new gTLD program and thinking about what worked, what didn't work, what should happen differently in the future for this program. It's an incredibly broad set of topics that are included with that.

And because there are so many topics, it's been broken down into a series of work tracks or subteams. Each one looks at a different area. One is looking at overall process support and outreach. One is looking at legal and regulatory issues, another one is looking at string contention objections and disputes.

Work track four is the one that Rubens leads or co-leads looking at IDNs and technical and operational issues. The fifth one, which Rubens mentioned, is focused on geographic names.

The reason I'm highlighting this working group, besides the fact that it's one of the ones I support, is it's reaching a pretty big milestone. The initial report is expected to be published next month and that's a huge opportunity for public input and public

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comment. So, if you're interested in new gTLD policy, this is a place where you can dive in.

Here are all the topics that are included within this working group. There's something for everyone in here. I'm not going to go into all of them, but I'm going to highlight three issue areas in this PDP that might be of interest and are often hot topics of discussion within the ICANN community.

The first one is community applications. In the 2012 round of the new gTLD program, applicants had the option of applying as a community based TLD. So, what does that mean?

If there was no contention involved in that application, it was taken at face value that this was in fact a community or application that represented a community entity.

I'll mention here that that term wasn't really specifically defined in the program. One of the questions going forward is what is a community? What does that really mean? Should there be a priority for communities? I'll get into that in a second.

If this particular application was in contention with another application, the community based application went through an evaluation process and the outcome of that determined whether that application should receive priority for that particular string.

The evaluation looks at a couple of questions such as how [inaudible] the community. How closely is it connected to the string? The actual characters and the word that they represented. What are the proposed registration policies? Is there endorsement from this particular community that the application is said to represent.

There are a number of questions about whether this was effective in the way that it was implemented, and now one of the questions that this PDP is looking at is sort of is this concept useful? What should it look like in the future? And should the evaluation criteria be changed? Does anyone have questions about that?

Another topic area is about applicant support. In the 2012 round, there was a program to develop support for applicants from developing economies that included a fee reduction program for those who qualified and a service directory to help applicants connect with consultants or service providers who could help them with their applications. But, the program was quite underutilized. It wasn't used very much at all. So, now, the question that's being asked is what needs to change in the future for this program to make it effective and to meet the goals of the program? Questions about that?

This is one where we really need input and especially from the region. It's fine for a bunch of people from the US to sit in a room together and speculate about what worked and what didn't work, but this is one of the topic areas where it's incredibly important to have feedback from people who could've used the program and didn't or considered using the program or might consider it in the future. This is a really huge program area where there's still a lot of room to develop recommendations. So, during the public comment period, input is absolutely welcomed. Rubens had something to say about that.

RUBENS KUHL: Just a comment that this is one of the many aspects where someone has suggested favoring underserved regions, and while that would be really interesting to level up the playing field, every time someone suggests that, someone out there thinks of a way to [inaudible] it, like establishing a corporate presence in an underserved region in a poor country and benefitting from that without really being someone from that.

While I would like to have this kind of mechanisms for underserved regions, we might want to look into underserved markets or underserved verticals. Those usually fit our description because that will also be the case of most Latin American countries, but that could also be the case of

community or a niche or a very specific sector that doesn't have financial means and could also have support.

For instance, I mentioned that there are cities in the US that are poor enough to also be benefit by such programs. So, if you try to look with that angle, we avoid the gaming problem and we also address other financial inequities, not only the regional ones.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: I would like to say it's through the PDPs that all these rules are reviewed. All the learnings achieved through the last round are being discussed in the new PDPs. This is very important for our region. I don't know if you remember, but there used to be a fee, $195,000 for everybody and in this program, it was brought down to $45,000 but it was not used. It was not communicated well enough.

So, if we participate in these PDPs, you may influence or give us ideas as Rubens was saying about what you think should happen with these [inaudible].

This is a bottom-up approach, the bottom-up spirit of ICANN. This is where you can influence the issues and you don't need to be a member of any working group. Of course, you may participate in one stakeholder group, but you may also be

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involved in a PDP directly because this issue is interesting for you or maybe you know of organizations in the region that have been interested in using this or apply for a new gTLD in the past. Maybe now they could get involved. We should wait for rules to be enacted or passed to ask for support. Right now is the time to have some influence on this.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Rodrigo. I'm just going to touch on one other topic area and this is one that Rubens also mentioned. Thank you.

Geographic names. I'm just going to give a little background on that topic area, because it's also one of very broad interest.

In the 2012 round, specific strings were reserved. That means they couldn't be delegated as TLDs. An example of that is the name of a country. So, no one was able to apply for that.

The reason for that was there were a lot of different perspectives about what exactly should happen with geographic names. It's a really sensitive issue. There was a set of policies that were developed by the GNSO and over time, through different discussions with different parts of the community, the implementation ended up looking quite different from the policies that were originally developed.

For certain types of strings, it was determined that ultimately for this particular round, they simply wouldn't be delegated at all. But, that could change in future rounds. That's an open issue now for future rounds of gTLD rounds or windows.

Other types of geographic names were included in the reserved names list. So, country and territory names were an example of something that was not available at all. But, for other types of geographic names, support or non-objection from governments was required. An example of that would be capital city names.

Then, there were other types of strings, such as those mentioned by Rubens, that didn't have specific restrictions and there were differing perspectives on what should happen with those. Patagonia and Amazon are two really prominent examples. There are still really different perspectives within the community about how this should be handled.

Work track five was recently established. They've pretty much just started their work in an effort to make this as diverse a group of people and as representative as possible in terms of the discussion. There's a joint leadership model with ALAC, ccNSO, GNSO, and GAC. This is a pretty unique thing that they're trying to try to get people from as many parts of the community as possible to feel comfortable in this setting coming in and talking about their perspectives on this issue.

This is one where it's not too late at all to get involved. The conversations are just getting started. If you have an interest in this issue, you can still join the group. You don't have to be involved with the working group as a whole. You can just join this work track and just focus on this issue if that's something that interests you.

Some of the questions that they're looking at are what types of strings should be considered geographic names for the purposes of the new gTLD program? For some people, that should be really narrow. It should just be, for example, country and territory names, the names of cities. For other people, it's a much broader category of geographic things. For example, the names of mountains, the names of culturally significant features that are related to geography and so forth. That's still a conversation within the group, about what should be considered a geographic name.

Then, when they have that list of what should be considered a geographic name, they'll also be discussing how should those be treated in future rounds? Should they continue to be reserved or should other additional names be reserved? Should government support or non-objection be needed? Should another treatment be appropriate?

So, these are really big questions and for people who are interested in them, there's still an opportunity to get involved and share your views on the working group. Does anyone have questions about that?

So, those are just three areas within the PDP. There are many more, but these are particularly really hot topics. There's two sessions at ICANN about this PDP. One happened yesterday. If you're interested in the recording or the transcripts, you can follow that link there – I think the slides will be shared – and catch up on that. That covered most of the topic areas, except geographic names. Then, there's a session devoted to geographic names later this week on Wednesday and everyone is welcome to join that.

If you're interested in this working group and want to learn more, there's a link here to the Wiki and that includes all of the materials that the working group ahs been working on and you can learn more.

I'm actually not going to talk about this very much because Martin talked about his participation. Oh, sorry, RDS. Yes, I will talk about this one.

This is the question about the future of WHOIS. There's been a lot of conversations about GDPR this week and recently, so the

European Data Protection Regulation. That's very much interconnected with this particular PDP.

Who knows what WHOIS is? Some people, some people not.

WHOIS is a system of information about the registration of TLDs. So, when you registrar a website, your information as a registrant and information about the registration of that website goes into a system of information, and that information is publicly available at this time and there are currently questions about whether that current system makes sense, whether it should be designed differently, who should have access to that information, how it should be displayed, how it should be managed.

This PDP is looking at some really broad questions about how that system should exist from the bottom-up.

Now, it doesn't exist in a vacuum. There are some short-term operational questions that are being addressed now related to GDPR, the General Data Protection Regulation. But, this working group is sort of looking broadly at these questions. It's been operating for about two years now. If you're interested in these types of issues, you can still get involved. Although, because deliberations have been ongoing for quite a long time, it is rather important to get caught up as much as possible before you dive in.

There are two sessions, one that took place yesterday and one on Wednesday if you're interested in these issues. Again, there's a working group Wiki link there that you can check out.

So, this is RPMs. This is the one that Martin was speaking about. I won't go into detail because he spoke very eloquently already about the work that they're doing. I'll highlight that there are four sessions happening at ICANN this week. Two have already taken place. One is just about to happen and one on Thursday.

If you're in intellectual property lawyer, if you are an intellectual property holder, this is a great working group to learn more about.

Again, it's been going on for a couple of years, so there's quite a lot of catching up to do, but an opportunity to engage coming up pretty soon is that there's going to be a survey released for those who have experience with some of the specific RPMs that were introduced in the 2012 round. So, look out for that survey, if that's an issue that interests you and you can share your experience and provide feedback for future policy development.

Oh, that's not supposed to be blank. This had a graphic and it was a graphic of all the other policy development processes that are ongoing, but you can't see that right now. But, there are a number of other PDPs happening as well as work that's in the

implementation phase which is focused more broadly on operationalizing the policy recommendation.

So, if you're interested in getting involved and these don't seem like exactly the right fit, but there are specific issues you're interested in, please come and talk to me and I'm happy to try to point you in the right direction because there's quite a lot of work to do and we're always happy to have people who are excited to do the heavy lifting of that work.

So, I'm happy to take any questions about any of this, if anyone has questions. If not, I'll hand it back to Rodrigo. Thanks.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you very much, Emily, for this excellent presentation. I'm going to continue in Spanish. I hope you have reached the goal of creating interest and making it quite clear that we may change from being reactive to what has been done to become proactive and try to influence the processes as they are developed, depending on the needs of the organization and the region. We have opportunities there.

Something else, which is of interest, which Emily mentioned in her final slide is that once a PDP has been completed, when it is submitted to the board by way of recommendation, sometimes this becomes into an implementation stage. Implementation is

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the directions received by ICANN or by the staff from the community to do what the PDP says has to be done. [inaudible].

This is, for example, what we saw with the program of new gTLDs. This program is a result of the discussion of the community which tells the staff you have to deploy and implement this program with these timeframes and these rules.

We still have ten minutes left. I don't know if you have questions or comments. If our colleagues from the ccNSO would like to say something about the PDPs within the ccNSO or if Oscar from LACNIC would like to share his experience with the RIRs, we still have ten minutes.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Or maybe not. Perhaps for the next session what we could do is to give you an invitation in advance, and if you are so kind to prepare a presentation and we will contact you intersessions to promote engagement in regional PDPs and capacity building opportunities, because even though we understand the process, when we delve into the issues, we might be confused.

She made a question about the WHOIS and perhaps we can have a session on WHOIS because the WHOIS is impacting [inaudible] is therefore very relevant not only for the operational point of view, but also to influence.

For us, as a regional Latin American team, it is useful to understand which group in the region might be interested, which might not be here at present.

I imagine that the prosecution authorities or the district attorney authorities might be interested in the WHOIS is [inaudible], the law enforcement agencies [inaudible]. So, I will let him speak a little bit about the RIRs and the PDPs.

OSCAR ROBLES: I'm Oscar Robles. I'm not prepared. I'm the executive director of LACNIC and this is a portion of ICANN that you might not be well aware of because most of its discussion happens regionally. We, the regional IP registries, hold our deliberations within the region and it's only in ICANN that we have global policy discussions.

As Rodrigo said, there have been only four cases in the history of global policies [inaudible] and that is when they are brought to this remit.

However, you are invited to join the discussions, regional discussions, which are also open and participatory. Unlike ICANN, we do not label the various communities as either civil society, governments, or providers, or technical community, just participation is open to whoever wants to participate. It's not a

requirement to be a member of LACNIC to be engaged. Anyone can participate. It is not necessary either to travel as it happens in ICANN. Most of the discussions are held through mailing lists. And there is significant policy analysis before our events. The next one will be held in [Panama] and there are several policies discussed before each event. Though they are highly technical discussions, actually any person, anyone, is welcome to participate and provide your input. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Oscar. I apologize for having brought you to the spotlight. Rubens?

RUBENS KUHL: We do not have much time, but I'd like to comment on some of the very important features of PDPs you will need to assess before getting to a PDP. We have [inaudible] PDPs. When it's a small one, the other one is immense. We [inaudible] very much focused PDPs. They are very specific, such as procedures or conflicts, settlements for international domains.

For example, [inaudible] very specific. Or, on the other hand, we have enormous PDPs, WHOIS, RDS PDPs, intellectual property, protection mechanisms, new gTLDs.

And when you get into a large PDP, it is transformed into various small PDPs. You have conference call every week or every fortnight, and in these PDPs what we have is they are subdivided into working groups or draft teams.

So, at some point, these large PDPs will increase in size. You'll be interested in more than one of them, so beware.

Firstly, you need to evaluate these enormous PDPs which may then become or turn into very small and many draft teams and working groups, etc. It's just a caveat I wanted to mention here.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks. I wanted to mention something that Rubens reminded me of which is that for those of you who are interested in understanding more about some of these sub-components and topic areas within much larger PDPs, one of the great ways to stay informed are newsletters. So, there are regional newsletters which touch a little bit on policy.

A lot of the working groups are also now developing newsletters where they regularly provide updates about the work that's going on. So, if you want to get a general sense of what's going on, what the latest developments are, what people are deliberating on, that's a great way to do it without having to dive into many, many working group calls.

Another great way to get up-to-date is there are webinars before each ICANN meeting, as well as briefing documents. Rodrigo is nodding, so maybe some of you know about this already.

These are also great ways to just get little bits of information about some of the things that are being covered and what's happening in each of these PDPs. Those are available through the ICANN website and they can be really helpful for getting up to speed on some of the different issue areas that are available.

The last thing is that there are also sometimes webinars on specific issue areas that are not before ICANN meetings. So, if there's a topic that's particularly interesting to a wide group of people in the community, there might be a webinar on that topic where you can have an opportunity to hear about the topic and also ask questions.

So, I really encourage people to take advantage of that. Those are things you don't need to travel to do. You can do them all remotely and it's a great way to follow along if you're not ready to dive in and devote a lot of time. You can definitely get information that way. Thanks.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Emily, for this highly useful information. One of the goals we wanted to achieve in this session is to get your

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feedback on how to facilitate the experience in PDP engagement.

We might let them know what is next in this PDP strategy. Some ideas are supplementary to Emily's remarks. Perhaps you can tell us what's next and certainly engage you to join in the next working groups with related projects.

RODRIGO SAUCEDO: Thank you, Rodrigo. As Rodrigo de la Parra was saying, in our regional strategy, we've divided it into various areas of interest, specifically this second area of interest. Well, the first is to do a general mapping of Latin American and Caribbean engagement within ICANN. Once we have identified this mapping, that will help us identify the needs for outreach, both in terms of sectors and countries. Then, we have several projects on how we will attract these new people to ICANN.

So, [inaudible] of interest related to policy and engage our community members and let them achieve a more significant participation has several goals.

First, to provide assistance and give them ongoing communication and information both before [inaudible] and after the meetings on everything related to policy. Then, we have projects such as this one. I don't remember how many

other projects we have, but all projects have to do or aim at allowing the community to engage more productively in policy development processes, which is actually ICANN's core business.

Then, we have a third objective, which is [inaudible] of tn. That is to say achieving a more effective participation, how we through the regional strategy projects can enable the community members to become engaged or land on various constituencies within ICANN.

So, this is basically the second area of interest with several projects. Unfortunately, I cannot give you the link now, but I will share it with you later on where you can download the strategy.

We've recently issued a call for volunteers to join the implementation committee [inaudible] regional strategy. We've received about 56 applications for registration. We are dividing them into various projects. For instance, for this session, we have a working group with seven people. We are working on the agenda. And this group will be responsible for developing a document describing the objectives, the scope and indicators. That is to say what we are seeking to attain with this session, how we can help our members with such session. That's basically it. Thank you.

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RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Rodrigo. Thank you, Emily, again, for being with us today. Your presentation has been highly useful to us. All of you, Rubens, Martin, and Bartlett, thank you for your generous sharing of experiences. I hope that this session has been of use to the rest of you and we expect to hold another one in Barcelona. Good afternoon and thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]