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ICANN75 | AGM – At-Large Operations Updates  
Sunday, September 18, 2022 – 10:30 to 12:00 KUL

YESIM SAGLAM:

Hello, and welcome to At-Large Operations Update. My name is Yesim Saglam, and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

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On-site participants may pick up their receiver and use their own headphones to listen to interpretation. However, please remember to take off your headsets when using the table microphones in order to avoid the interference. Virtual participants may access the interpretation via the Zoom toolbar.

With that, I will hand the floor over to Holly Raiche, Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group Chair. Thank you.

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HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Yesim. Could I have the first slide, just to announce what we're doing? And this is an operations update. Many of you will know that the ALAC has three areas of operation. One is the policy. That's the CPWG. That's every week, talking about important issues of policy, what the policy is, what it should be, what the ALAC perspective is, and then developing responses.

The next group is the Outreach and Engagement. All of you are also familiar with that: all of the processes that are put in place to facilitate communications between ALAC members, At-Large members, and the community.

This is perhaps the least known of the three areas. It's the operations. We deal with the operation issues and finance. What I'm talking about here ... The subtitle is the Operations, Budget, and Finance Working Group. We're the group that actually responds to budget. There are two of them, and I will talk about both.

The other areas will include the prioritization. And Cheryl has put her hand up, unwillingly or not—very willingly—to talk about the important work they're doing in terms of prioritization for the budget.

And Sebastien will be talking very briefly about the holistic review. For those of you who don't remember or didn't hear about

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it, the ATRT3 ... One of its recommendations was ... Have I just been cut off? No. One of its recommendations was, an organization, we should stand back and just say, “Wait a minute. Is this all working as well as it could be? Could we be structured differently?” That holistic review ... What the Board did was approve of a pilot to actually try to answer those questions. And Sebastien will be talking very briefly about the review. And comments are due. So one of the things as the OFB working group ... Sebastien will be leading a discussion for those who want to participate in how we as ALAC respond to it.

So that’s a kind of overview of where we sit.

I’m sorry, but this is not easy to read, so I’ll read it out to you: what we’re going to do today. The first part of this is—let me skip my slide up ... We’re first talking about the budgets. We’re talking about the schedule that ICANN Org and ICANN Finance actually go through in terms of planning for the two budgets and how we fit into that cycle.

The next thing is we’ll actually be talking about the budgets themselves. And we have Ricardo, who is our absolute budget specialist, who has responded for ALAC on both of those budgets, and he will talk about what we’ve said.

Marita also has done a lot of work with the multistakeholder model discussion, and she fashioned the ALAC response, which

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was included in the ICANN Org budget, which was included. She and Ricardo will also be dealing with the ICANN response to the ALAC budgets. And that's important because then we know whether we've been heard, we know whether we've been understood and perhaps how we can improve our comments.

The final third of this session, as part of the ICANN budget ... There are 15 operating initiatives. They are to support the strategic goals. When we respond to the ICANN budget, we try to include comments on the operating initiatives that are important to us and how the budget might include those sorts of things that are important to us. We as an operations group talked about and tried to identify the things of the initiatives which were important to us, but that was a small group. And one of the advantages of this group is we're going to take a poll on seeing what initiatives are important to all of you so that, when we make comments on the ICANN Org budget, we understand what's important to this constituency and can include those important initiatives in our response.

So that's today. That's 90 minutes.

Could I go to the next slide, please? Yesim, Could I go to the next slide? Thank you. Okay, this is a very ... When you think about what the budgets were talking about, this is absolutely and completely crude and not exact at all, but it's to say there's a huge

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chunk of money. It's divided really into ... Well, I'm going to divide it, first of all, into two parts. One is the ICANN budget. And that funds a lot of things. In that fund, you've got funds from the last round. You've got subsequent procedures. You have got money that is spent on us in terms of travel. You've got premise, staff, and so forth.

At the top, you have got a separate budget. That is the contract that is between ICANN ... And PTI is for us the finance the running of the IANA function. Now, the budgets for the PTI is really in two parts. You probably don't need to know this, but there's the part that ICANN funds to support the IANA function. So when we talk about two budgets, we're talking really about the PTI budget that ICANN Org funds but is managed by PTI. And then everything else is below the line.

One thing I want to point out, though, is that, for long-term funding, what the Board did back in 2021 was to say, "We're going to have a special fund for long-term projects of approximately \$20 million." All of that then is talking about how ICANN Org spends its money. And when Ricardo talks about the comments that we've made, he'll first talk about the PTI budget and our comments, which is largely just about budgets. But then when we get to the ICANN Org budget, Ricardo and Marita will say not only what we think about the numbers but how those numbers relate to ALAC. There is a schedule about how this works, and you'll find

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that the OFB Working Group has got its work cut out for it most of the year.

So could I have the next slide and just look at the ... This is the schedule that we ... Again, you can't read this, but ... And I'm going to move over here so I can read it. It starts with a strategic outlook. From the top left, it's the strategic outlook that's beginning in January to March. Then there's the strategic trends. Now, I don't know how many of you actually participated, but we as ALAC identified a lot of thing and strategic trends that we were interested in. And that is one of the reasons why I want to actually go back to all of you to think about the initiatives because a lot of interesting input came out of you in this strategic trends discussion that we as ALAC had.

July to November. We've got ICANN plans, but we've also got the beginning of the IANA budget. And for some of you, you will remember that we have been briefed, or at least a brief was available in August, about the IANA budget.

November-December. We move on to the ICANN budget draft plan.

And finally, by the time we get to December-February, we're back in the planning again.

So you can look at this chart. It's actually quite a complex process, a combination of strategic planning, looking at trends,

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developing budgets, listening to what the whole of the constituency has to say, adopting a budget. And the cycle goes on again.

Next slide, please. One thing I want to talk about—and, again, you can barely read this, but I commend the slide to you ... One of the things that happens in probably December/January is the period for additional budget requests, which many of you may have actually made. These are things that can be requested for additional expenditure by an ICANN that may be of importance to ALAC but fits into ICANN work.

One of the most—and these are the things that I wanted to stress ... If you fill out an ABR request, it must be directly and demonstrably related to current ICANN policy work. If you're talking about the development of capacity-building material, which is obviously important for outreach and engagement, development of that material has to be for material that can be used online. If you're making a request, it will be analyzed against available budget and staff to carry it out. And, finally, if your additional budget request is for travel, it has to relate to either travel for ICANN public meetings or ICANN-organized meetings.

Now, we have had some successful applications within ALAC. I suggest ... Actually, could I have the next slide, please? We have had some successful applications. One of them—and it was

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mentioned by Jonathan in the last session—was professional individual end-user polls to see what is it that is important to the At-Large community. And one of those polls being carried out has to do with IDNs and the importance of IDNs to a particular community. I would urge you, if you're going to make an application for ABRs, to look at—and there's a link on this page—the successful, as well as the unsuccessful, applications to see what sorts of things you can apply for to enhance, to enlarge, to facilitate what you're doing and what's likely to be [inaudible]. We have had discussions on this before within ALAC. I would just remind you to have another look before you apply. It's not that you will not get funding, but your best chances are if you actually look at the criteria and then look at some of the applications that have succeeded.

And with that, I would like to go over to the comments that we have made, first in relation to the IANA budget—well, overall budgets, the PTI budget, and then the IANA budget. So, Ricardo, do you want to start talking about the budgets? Could we go over to Ricardo, please?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Good morning, everyone. Hello, Holly. As Holly just mentioned, we have two sets of budgets where we as the OFB Working Group work on during the year. The first one usually in this time of the



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year was just released last week. There are plans for fiscal year '24. The one we are mentioning on the screen is for fiscal year '23. That leaves the one that just started back on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Sorry, I don't remember when.

So on this one, we made the comments back in October/November of last year—so barely one year ago. The comment we made there were related to the increase in the budget. There was a 27% increase in the budget. The total budget of PTI is between \$10-11 million a year. From there, the total budget of ICANN is around \$150 million. So for this core work—that is the PTI and the IANA; that's really the big thing in ICANN—it's about 7% of the total budget.

The other thing was, at that time, that we expected is that, by this time of the year, we commenced travel, as in fact you're doing there in Kuala Lumpur, but the budget for travel was fairly the same as with schedule '22. So we expected, this year, the commencing of the traveling.

And the last thing was that IANA and PTI was leaving the same amount of people or barely the same amount of FTEs or equivalent people, but in their budget, they didn't make clear if they needed more people or not. So we said, if they needed people, put it in the budget and not wait 18 more months to know

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if it's yes or no. There were [inaudible] last year for the PTI/IANA for fiscal year '23.

Can we go to the next slide, please? The second is the fiscal year '23-27 operating and financial plan. Usually, the way that ICANN Org gives us or the community the financial and budget plan is that is that they release—actual year, it means the next year (fiscal year '23 in this case). This was released a year ago, and we made the comments back in December/January—December '21/January '22. But also ICANN lets us know the plan for the next five years. So it is not only for fiscal year '23 but also for fiscal year '23 to '27. So we know in advance, more or less, how ICANN Org is planning to do not only for finance but also for plans in coming years.

For the whole five years, our comments were that we enthusiastically receive that they include us in the planning. The planning was commencing last year, and we were working with the finance team and the planning team on the strategic trends and a lot of things. So it was a very warm welcome for us.

The other thing is, for these five years, we didn't see a mention on inflation taken into account. And inflation, as you all see in your country, is increasing. At least in mine it's around 10%. And it's more or less the same all over the world, as I have seen.

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And the last comment was related to employees. There was some difference in the amount of employees. ICANN still has less than 400 employees. Or that was the last chart I saw. But in the plans, they were talking about 427 employees. So we didn't know the exact amount of people that ICANN Org would need.

Next slide, please. And for the fiscal year '23, we made some comments last year. One was related to the holistic review. The holistic review was not totally there, at least not from the financial point of view. Although this holistic review has been talked a lot about by now, at that time of the year, when the budget was released, the holistic review didn't have any budget related to it.

Some other comments were related to the reserve. As Holly mentioned, there is SFICR, but there is some other reserves that ICANN has. One is related to the brand of gTLDs. One is related to the strategic reserve. One is related to the operational reserve. So there are some reserves that ICANN has at hand. And one of them was increasing at a faster pace than the other ones. That was our question.

The other question was related to names still being or not released from the gTLD round from 2012 because there are still funds for this. There is some difference in the headcount, as I mentioned before.

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And at the end, one question we still have not only from fiscal year '23 but from fiscal year '22 is there are some increases in personnel, but they are not tightly related to the labor they do. Again, there's a minor relationship between the different years there for the personnel.

There were [barely comments that] we made. If you have any comments, I'll be in the chat looking for them.

Thank you, Holly.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Ricardo. And, again, I would commend the slides to you. Also, he made some very, very detailed comments, but on the PTI budget and the ICANN Org budget. We were doing the same, clearly, this coming year.

I would also remind you we will be commenting on the PTI budget. Again, it was the subject of our webinar in August. The comments are due on October 15. And if anybody is interested in commenting on the PTI budget, that is coming up, along with comments on the holistic review.

But, look, thank you, Ricardo. He is an absolutely critical member of the team and one of our best analysts on the budget.

I'd like now to pass it over to Marita Moll. One of the things we included in the ICANN budget was specific comments about how

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that budget relates to the top priorities certainly among ALAC, and that is the multistakeholder model. And the reason that we're talking about operating initiatives in the third part of this session will be to understand what else we should be talking about in terms of operating initiatives as they related to the budget and tying those two together. But Marita, go ahead, please, because your comments were particularly important in the comments we made for the ICANN Org budget. Go ahead, Marita.

MARITA MOLL:

Thank you, Holly. Good morning, everyone. Good morning on my side. I'm speaking to you from central Germany. I hope you can all hear central Germany at 4:30 in the morning.

My part of this is to talk about operating initiatives. Ricardo has been talking about budget, talking about the numbers, but obviously the numbers are there to support certain operating initiatives. And I'm going to talk about one of the five operating initiatives, which is the second part of the strategic plan: ICANN's multistakeholder model.

I'm going to start out by saying that ICANN's multistakeholder model is very unusual. If you haven't been around here for a long time and you haven't really studied multistakeholder models around, you may not know that it's a very rare decision-making model. Most multistakeholder models are more advice-giving,

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but this one has actually got the decision-making built into the model, which makes it really unusual. And it's a really, really important part of what ICANN does. And ICANN's mission in the world is to run its important strategic operations under this multistakeholder model.

Now, this model has been in place for about 20 years. It has undergone various adjustments over the years, but it's due for yet another adjustment as anything would need to be as what's working becomes more evident and what needs to be improved becomes more evident.

Back in 2019, the organization embarked on a community consultation to discover what the pressure points were around the multistakeholder model and what the community felt needed to be done for improvements. I guess it was about a year-long facilitated discussion. That brought out a number of issues. It started out with quite a few more than what you see here.

But at the end of the process, we ended up with eleven different issues that we really needed to concentrate on in order to improve the model, in order to move forward. And they're listed here: roles and responsibilities, which would require a review of how the entire operation is set up, how various roles and responsibilities are divvied up. Representativeness and inclusiveness: a really key part of how this model works.

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Obviously, if you're going to have a multistakeholder decision model, you want to make sure everyone is represented. And we're talking about the world. Recruitment and demographics: connected to representativeness. Consensus-building: how we come to decisions. Complexity: it's a big operation with an awful lot of different cogs in the wheels. Scoping: meaning how we describe the kinds of decisions that we need to make. Culture, trust, and silos: how the different groups work together. There has to be a certain element of trust in order for groups to come to decisions on important matters. And then there's costs and terms.

The color highlight you see here ... The red represents what At-Large has deemed as the highest priorities. The blue colors are the medium priorities, things we're going to be looking on for the long term. And the bottom two we feel are being addressed as we go along.

Let's go to the next slide. Thank you. In the last couple of years, what's going on in the evolution of the multistakeholder model, because there's a whole ... That is one of the five strategic priorities. The evolution of the multistakeholder model and what's going on with it in the operations part of the budget is what we're trying to address. And that appears in the budget part. At the bottom you'll see there 2.7.3. It's called: evolve and strengthen the multistakeholder model to facilitate diverse and

inclusive participation and decision-making. And another large section of the operating plan is called: evolve and strengthen the community's decision-making processes to ensure sufficient and effective policymaking.

And having seen those issues that I just showed you, you realize that a lot of those issues are kind of in there to be worked on as parts of those to large parts of the operating plan.

So we very carefully looked at what was being proposed in the operating plan in order to support the evolution of the multistakeholder model. And we focused this year on the idea that, if there's going to be an evolution, if we're going to work on the model, then we're going to have to know what's been done, and we're going to have to have a way of evaluating whether or not adequate work has been done on that, whether it has been successful. So we mostly focused on developing some kind of evaluation system and the need to do that in order to move ahead with the multistakeholder model.

So our responses in the budget included routine requests for qualitative data collection. We felt that just collecting numbers wasn't ... We really couldn't really tell the whole story of what was going on by only providing people some cold numbers to look at without some stories behind them. We were also looking for regular reports with rolling goals and expressed targets. Goals



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need to have targets so we know whether or not we're getting there. And facilitated discussions and community-led focus groups were something that we felt should be part of the evaluation process so that we're not just collecting numbers that don't necessarily hook onto to something that we can relate to.

Let's go on to the next slide. And this is what we saw ... There's a response to the budget input that comes from all the communities. And other people are asking for the same sort of things. So it's just to say that this is not a response totally only to what we said. And the response did indicate that ICANN is interested in developing a new evaluation system to track the kind of progress that we've identified. There is some recognition that additional staffing may be needed to realize some of the goals, especially as are currently, as you'll hear later, deeply involved in planning and prioritization processes. And in order to support that kind of activity, there would be additional staffing needed. ICANN was requesting community assistance to do progress measurement, partly in response to our request for qualitative measurement. We haven't yet really worked out, along with Org, how exactly we're going to do that and present those kinds of results. That's still a process that has to happen. Regular process reports to stakeholders, including a report on community contributions because sometimes, if we're just collecting numbers somewhere, it doesn't show that various

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communities and reporting on different multistakeholder model issues and resolving those issues by reaching out and speaking to the community ... So that kind of activity also needs to be reported. And recognition for the need of regular progress measurement and reports for the evolution of the MSM specifically ...

Now, as Ricardo said, we're just about ready to get into another budget process. We don't know exactly what's in there right now. Where do we go from here? We would continue to monitor and to analyze and comment on the work that other stakeholders are doing and what we'd like to see happen to make more adjustments. And it's a long-term process. This kind of thing is going to be going on, hopefully, for a long time, as long as ICANN can keep moving the evolution of this process forward. We hope to see improvements and more recognition that this is a really important way of doing business in a world-wide system that we call the Internet.

And I'll leave it at that. I'm open for questions. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Marita. That was a terrific presentation and some really valuable contribution that she made to our response to the budget. What we did and she did in particular was to try to tie things like the operating initiatives, particular the MSM, which is

what we focused on, with a budget and what we need to actually understand and measure whether we are achieving that. And so looking at the comments, looking at the evaluation system, what do we need? Do we need staffing? What kind of assurance do we need? What kind of reports back to do we need so we can actually look at the budget in terms of the objectives that we have identified as a community?

And with that, for the next part of this session, just touching on prioritization there, there's a subgroup of operations which Cheryl has been leading. And it's a group that ... I should actually let Cheryl talk to it in just a moment. But how do you prioritize all of these things that have been recommended to ICANN? I showed the total fund, but there's only so much money. There are only so many staff. So how to prioritize? And Cheryl is going to tell us. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Holly. And as you've heard, we have an awful lot of opportunity within the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group to really look at whatever level you're comfortable with, regardless of your experience. Whether you've been reading spreadsheets and doing budget and financial planning for middle-tier industry or whether you're just learning how to read a spreadsheet, there's an opportunity for you to join, and it is

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open for membership: the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group. Of course, being ICANN, we put letters to it, so it's just the OFB Working Group.

And within that, you've seen the expertise. You've seen the reporting and the leaders from the various areas of interest. But within that, we've got this specific little sub-team which are all members of the working group. But you can just join the sub-team. It by default makes you a member of the working group. But if you find looking at the balance between resourcing and requirements, between commitments and the ability to implement what excited you—or perhaps you have actual experience in it—the work we do in prioritization—that's where the seeking of expert and subject matter expert input, understanding why recommendations were made; in some cases, many years ago, by community action, by this multistakeholder model that we are so very, very proud of ... But they all stand in some sort of queue to get actually implemented.

Now, you can't wave a magic wand. The community, based on other community-led recommendations, such as out of the Accountability and Transparency Review Team, have taken the time to state that certain things need to be cleared out of the backlog.

And if I can have the next click—thank you kindly—we will see everything that’s supposed to ... There we go. If you’re interested in the history of our little prioritization sub-team and what we do—and if you click again; thank you—there’s live links on the slide. So the history is there, but it’ll actually take you to the wikis and spaces that we use.

If you’re not sure if this is the work you’re interested in becoming involved with, take a look at the wiki. Apart from anything else, it is an enormous repository of worthwhile information. All of the presentations that Holly has mentioned, all the material ... And I want to note Becky and Victoria at the table here. They are regular presenters for our little sub-team—well, not our sub-team, really; the working group. But that material is there. It’s a one-stop shop that you should be looking at.

And I’ll note that, as of today—and if I can have the next slide; thanks (the next click, I should say)—we also have the fact that our recent efforts of taking an absolutely huge list of recommendations that have been approved by the Board and working with other parts of the ICANN community to agree on a quadrant, which we’ve discussed before—and the link is in the slide to go and see that presentation if you want to ... But this part of the input into that annual cycle that you saw Holly introduce earlier on. This is the grease to the mill. This is knowing that, when our representatives go into the room and say, “We believe that,

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from the At-Large perspective, the most important thing out of this shopping list of things to do are these three things (or these five things). The urgency and the importance of them is measured,” it’s not just Jonathan’s good idea. It’s actually Jonathan’s good idea when he’s speaking to that based on all of your input. And so it’s vitally, vitally important that you come and join the team. It’s a sub-team, not a small team.

And I just want to recognize Bill Jouris. He joined the OFB Working Group one week and was deep up into his elbows in with us, shaking his head, going, “Why I have done this?” But he’s in there and he has contributed to our most recent drafting exercise very, very usefully that, of course, Sebastien will cover off in a moment.

Next click, please. And this is our last one from my little part of this exercise. So the message we want you to take away from looking at our sub-team update is that we meet, if necessary, up to weekly. We could do more than once a week as the need arises. But we’ll also stop and take a month or two off. It is a variable commitment. We do dig into the details. We do seek source material. It is a little bit research-oriented, but it’s a really exciting and rewarding activity should you wish to jump in. And we are in fact friendly and open and willing to help you along.

So with that, one of the things—

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JONATHAN ZUCK:                   Woooo!

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:       Yee-haw! That’s our incoming chair. I’m going to see we’re going to have a hoot with you in the next year, Jonathan.

Just as I hand over now to Sebastien, I just wanted to draw to everyone’s attention that Larisa’s team has provided some background material/slideshows. That’s on our wiki. Remember I said it was a really good resource? So dig into that. Have a good luck. One thing our sub-team has also done is some important drafting on a vitally important matter.

And the floor, Sebastien, is yours.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:       Thank you very much, Cheryl. The next topic is about the holistic review. As you may know, it was a recommendation from the Accountability and Transparency Review Team #3, and it was Recommendation 3.5. It went through the mill of the Board, and the Board accepted the recommendation, but ... And the “but” is a long list of, “You need to do that. You need to decide. You need to ensure (whatever).” And as we can’t do it yet as a regular review, you will do a pilot and, like that, we will see with the community if it works well. And if it works well, we will see if we will include that into the bylaws.

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Therefore, we, as the shepherd of ATRT3—Danielle, Vanda, Cheryl, and myself—were participating in the small team who worked with the Board members and staff to provide a proposal/terms of reference. And those terms of reference are now in the comments period within ICANN. And it's where we have committed a proposal for At-Large and ALAC as a comment. And we hope that the other part of the community will do their own work and that we will be able to have this review starting, I will say, as soon as possible. For the moment, the idea is still to start next year—this fiscal year for ICANN but next calendar year. We hope that it will not slip too much for too long.

You can click. I don't know how it ... But I already talked about this one. But we strongly endorse the principle of a regularized holistic review.

Next. I talk a bit [inaudible]. And it's important also to make the link to what Marita told us about the multistakeholder model.

Next. We suppose a process. Okay.

And next. Okay, you can go. We support the holistic review. We support the objective and deliverables as it was outlined. We hope that the timeframe will be kept as short as possible now. And one of the proposals is to have a non-voting, impartial chair to be appointed independently for any SO/AC direct representative role.



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Next. [inaudible]. Okay.

Next one. And as we experiment during the Accountability and Transparency Review Team #3, we have an experienced technical writer who supports the review team. And it was useful.

And some proposal—next—of the existing definition and acronym ...

Just to finish to make the link with some discussion, yes, it seems not to be included in the budget as the budget was discussed or decided by the Board in June. And the holistic review was not yet a priority of the community and needs to be included. And the other element is that it will be a multi-year project as it is an 18-month project, but we have to work before and then there's some work also after. Therefore, I hope that it will come somewhere in the budgeting. And maybe [svicker] is a good place to have this budget for this holistic review, but that's something staff will tell us. And I hope they will tell us as soon as possible. And like that, we will be able to start the work.

Thank you very much.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Sebastien. That was a really brief overview, but in the next meeting of the OFB Working Group, it'll be spending half its time actually looking at the PTI budget because the PTI budget

comments are due mid-October. But the comments on the holistic review with the ... If you go to the ICANN website and just type in “holistic review,” the terms of reference are there. They’re very extensive. They spell out all the issues. We need to talk about the holistic review [efforts].

Sebastien, thank you for just a quick overview. But we need to respond, and I think the response time is October as well. So we’re going to be very busy. But for those of you who find the holistic review as important as, I’d say, Sebastien and Cheryl and I and everybody else, I invite you to attend. The other, of course, will be the PTI budget, which maybe not as many of you find important. But I welcome all of the comments.

Now, the final section of today is really inviting discussion amongst all of you. And I’ll tell you where the background is. So could I have the next slide, please? Okay, you’ve done it. In the ICANN budget, part of the budget is the operating initiatives, which we’ve talked about. Marita mentioned the first one. The one that gets priority certainly with us is the multistakeholder model.

There are 15 operating initiatives that lead into the budget. Clearly, they are not of equal weight to the members around this table. But let me read them out because obviously you can’t read them out, or they’re not clear. And what we’re hoping to do is hear

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from all of you as to which are important to you because what we will aim to do in the comments on the next ICANN budget is to look at the budget in terms of initiatives and what are issues are important to us and therefore should be reflected in one way or another with the budget.

Now, the first: strengthening MSM. That's the multistakeholder model, and that's what Marita talked about. Number two is strengthening ICANN's community decision-making. Arguably that's part of MSM, but it may not be. It's certainly something that was considered important to many of you. Universal acceptance.

By the way, I listed these in order of the importance when we had a small poll that was just the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group from the OFB area. And the reason for this session is to say, "Well, we identified our priorities, but we need to actually understand if these are the community priorities." So I'm going to be taking a poll at the end of this brief discussion to see if we have your priorities right because, when we actually identify comments for the ICANN budget. It should be priorities that actually reflect this community.

Anyway, I'll keep talking. So MSM, I think we all agree ... Strengthening ICANN's community decision-making process was the second that we identified.

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Universal acceptance made number three. And I'm sure Satish is happy about that.

Planning at ICANN. And planning obviously is something that has become more important, certainly with ... If you look at the prioritization and the interest in that subgroup, you realize that has become important.

Another one: monitoring legislation, etc., that may impact. That's legislation in a range of countries. Clearly, the GDPR in the EU made a huge impact, but there have been other legislative arrangements in other countries. For instance, one of the things that the EU has done now is the Digital Markets Act, the Digital Services Act. And, again, you look at these pieces of legislation and you realize this is going to impact on ICANN. So, monitor legislation.

Facilitate the DNS ecosystem. Support the evaluation of the root server system. Is that important? Well, I don't know if you remember, either last ICANN or the ICANN before, that there was discussion about the root server system and the fact that, at the moment, it doesn't have a governance structure. Should it? And if so, who should manage that? Is it important? Is it important to us?

Formalize ICANN Org funding model. Is that important?

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Implement gTLD auction proceeds. Does anyone around this table care? Or no?

These are all serious questions. I'll go through the list again. I'm sorry that the print is so small. We were told by our fearless leader that we were to have one slide each, so we kowtowed and did it.

Evaluate, align, and facilitate improved engagement. I look at that and think, "Surely that's part of the multistakeholder model." I'm not sure why it's where it is, but it is where it is.

Root zone management. Is that part of the root zone management governance structure that was suggested?

Improve governmental and IGO engagement. Has that actually changed for anybody? Is that something we should be doing? Should that be part of what we talk about in the budget?

Finance and budget and competitive environment in the DNS. Is that something we want to talk about or not? I don't know.

14 was ICANN reserves. Now, I can think of a couple of people around this table, like Virginia and Becky, who are very interested in ICANN reserves, but I'm not sure if the rest of us are.

The final one, which I find really interesting at the bottom: develop internal and external ethics policies. I'm not sure what that means. And possibly the reason it's #15 is that nobody else is sure what that means.

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That’s the order in which this small group listed the initiatives. And the reason that I brought this up and thought we finally have an opportunity to listen to everybody is –and could I have the next slide, please?—when we did ... In March, we had a very interesting session on strategic trends. And I’ll bring this up. And what we found ... I was hearing some really interesting feedback from everybody just against some strategic trends.

One of the things that ... In DNS abuse ... Inability to develop and implement gTLD policy. And I thought, “Isn’t that interesting?” We’re worried about DNS abuse. Are we worried about DNS abuse? Are we worried about the fact that we’re still talking about DNS abuse?

For geopolitics, what was interesting was the role of ICANN in human rights. No, I didn’t see that on our list of 15. Should it be there? I don’t know.

One of the things that was talked about a lot was blockchain, the impact of blockchain under security.

Other things under security: GDPR and its impact on access to WHOIS data.

Another under security is end-user education. So should end-user education be amongst the initiatives? Should it be included? Don’t know.

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Governance, obviously: the fact that we take a little bit of time in ICANN coming to some policy decisions. I say no more.

Another issue for governance was simply the support for volunteers and the volunteer burnout, the fact that some people just get really tired of saying the same thing a lot.

Time zones. And I find this one particularly interesting. And I'm [inaudible] all of you are suffering great fatigue from coming to this side of the globe.

Processes taking too long is something else.

For geopolitics: the role of ICANN in human rights, which has recently actually taken up a lot of discussion. What should we do about some of the international incidents? Should we do anything? Is it the role of ICANN? I don't know.

Fragmentation of the Internet, which is a topic that will be discussed in this conference this week. It's something that occupies people's mind. Very interesting. Keep track of international events.

Train governments in the role and function of ICANN. So maybe that's something that ICANN Org can worry about.

Anyway, those were just a sampling of the thoughts that people had when we talked about strategic trends. And a lot of it has a resonance with many of you.

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So I'll open the floor and see if we want to talk about—and I'll go back to ... Or could we go back to the slide before, which is really hard to read? And I apologize. No, no. Just the list of strategic initiatives. Okay. Let me read them again. And I'd be interested to know how you rate them. So I'll just go through really, really quickly the 15. We're going to have a poll, and the poll could only take ten. So the ones that we left off and maybe shouldn't have left off are: develop the internal and external ethics policies, promote and sustain a competitive environment in the DNS, ICANN reserves, formalize ICANN Org funding model and improve the understanding of long-term DNS market drivers and implement new gTLD auction proceeds. Those were the things that I had to leave off that were the bottom five.

So here's the top ten that you'll be asked to choose from—and we do want to know where you put the numbers. Number one, strengthen MSM. And that's what we included in the last comment on the budget. That's what Marita talked about. The next nine: strengthen ICANN's community decision-making process. Where are you going to put that on the list? Universal acceptance. Satish is going to put that one as one, and he's hoping everyone else does. Planning at ICANN. Cheryl is going to put that one at one, maybe two. Number five, monitoring legislation. But it's not just legislation. It's what happens around the globe that impacts on ICANN's mission. Six, facilitate DNS



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ecosystem improvements. Should the evolution of the root server system be one of our priorities? That's number seven right now. Formalizing ICANN Org funding model. And improve the understanding of long-term domain name market drivers. Is that important to us? Is implementation of the new gTLD auction proceeds important to us? What about evaluate, align, and facilitate improved engagement? Is that a ten, and should it be?

So I'm open to any and all questions. If not, we can take a poll and we can discuss the results of the poll.

Sebastien?

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you very much, Holly. Just a question maybe to staff. But I guess I read somewhere that the new gTLD auction proceeds is now on its way that the Board have taken a decision on that, and it's [going good]. And in any case, my comment is that I hope that it will be started before the next round of TLDs because it will a little bit strange to come with a new round without starting with [spots that] could be useful for the community with these auction proceeds. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you, Sebastien. I trust that'll be your number one, maybe two. My understanding was ... And, Jonathan, you can correct me

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if I'm wrong. I did not think that they would be starting a new round before implementing the recommendations from the previous round. But I could be wrong.

Silence? Okay.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE: Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Holly. Holly, I'm hoping that, whilst I wholeheartedly support this conversation and looking at these very important and already community-reviewed operating initiatives, that this is a "temperature of this room in this meeting" exercise. And whilst we have had to prune off what I would argue are extremely important potential initiatives—it depends on one's passions and one's interest, as you've been outlining—it cannot be assured that what we will say is a "not limited to Zoom" polling but perhaps a Survey-Monkey-based activity. Asia-Pacific, as you realize, in the APRALO has recently done a review of a number of things for its region. And one section was dedicated to all 15 of these. So we can have absolute surety of what at least the indicators from one region is.

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So I wanted to say two things. We need to do an At-Large-wide opportunity to just rank these things from a personal perspective. And secondly, I would strongly encourage the regional leadership from the other RALOs to talk to Justine—she really was the powerhouse behind this activity—and look at, if not the whole survey that APRALO conducted, at least that section of the survey. For heaven’s sake, you can just steal that part of the Google Form and run it in your own language. And I think that will give you, Holly, very valuable, very real feedback. Thanks.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Cheryl. I’m just taking every opportunity I can to get feedback. And everybody is around the table, and it’s before lunch, and everybody is going to want to at least be excused. And I’m not excusing anybody until they’ve voted. So I’m going to take the temperature of the room now.

And then the other is, when the OFB Working Group has met before, we have specifically tried to weave in discussions about initiatives and what’s important to people. So any and all feedback is always welcome.

Any other questions before I take a poll?

Yeah?

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DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: I can see that, in number one and two ... Is it not possible to combine strengthen MSM and community decision-making process? Because MSM is already diverse and inclusive participation. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE: The probable answer is yes and no, which isn't an answer. I'm asking you to vote against the numbers as they're set, but please put in the chat—because I'll also be looking in the chat because any and all feedback is welcome—that this is what you would like to do because, when I look at the initiatives, some of them seem to overlap. Some of them seem to just be part of the same thing. Some of them don't necessarily sit there. So what I'm doing is seeking any feedback I get. And if you would like to do so, please put in the chat. It will be recorded. And then we can go through and deal with the comments. And what you're saying is really helpful. So any comment like that is absolutely welcome. I hope that answers your question.

Any other questions before I take a poll?

Alan?

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. It's not a question. It's a comment. On your previous slide, there was an item that says, "Processes take too long." How

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you evaluate things and what's important really depends on when it's going to happen. Auction proceeds, which is important to some people ... The process formally, not informally, started six years ago. The Board is now considering it. Then it'll have to be implemented, assuming it's accepted. We're talking perhaps eight years to use a huge pile of money that could be useful. Everything takes a long time in this organization right now. And there are some things for me personally that are important, but only if they get done before I die. Afterwards, I don't give a damn. And as we're evaluating these things, I think we have to remember that. And somehow, along the way, whether it's the holistic review or something else, we have to get off of the track we're on right now, where everything is so process-driven that it takes a decade. Otherwise, this is a futile exercise, I'm afraid. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Alan. Could I tell you that one of the first things that I was involved in when I joined about 1,700 years ago was the ATRT2? And so I look at the whole debate about ATRT now and go, "I recognize most of all of that," and I now am looking at the diagram, going, "Oh, there we are. Okay. Now we're going to do this again, only we're going to do it in light of the GDPR." And I can remember one of the sessions—and I have forgotten where—where, in fact, when we came to a discussion about whether what

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we said about ATRT2 was going to work, we came to this screeching halt when it came to what do you do about personal data. And we sat there. And I just thought, “Okay. I know pretty much this debate. And here we go again.” So you have my deepest sympathy and understanding. I don’t know how else to respond.

ALAN GREENBERG:

I wasn’t asking for a response. I was just saying, as people evaluate these things, just remember that, if we could have a list of instantaneous things that will be done quickly, the list would be in a very different order than based on the reality of how we are working right now. Just remember it.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Couldn’t agree more.

Any further comments before we put the poll up? Am I missing any—Jonathan?

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thank you. And for the record, I don’t have any idea when the new round will happen. So after implementation, I have no idea, so I can’t help with that.

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I just have one comment because sometimes there are bigger issues that are hidden inside of smaller ones. And so this notion about “promote and sustain a competition environment in the DNS” is an interesting one sitting at the bottom of our list. And as someone that was very involved in trying to assess the level of competition in the DNS some 1,700 years ago, one of the biggest challenges associated with that exercise was a lack of data. And so as we really try to explore what the operational objectives of the organization are, I think we have to find a way to take this abstraction of data and move it to the top of the list because we make so many decisions in the absence of data, on the assumptions of data, etc., instead of actually collecting it and ... So there are a number of places where we have issues that matter to us, but we don't have the information.

For example, in the transfer policy review on the policy side, one of the recommendations that came from our representatives was to make sure that resellers were part of those requirements in the transfer policy review. And the truth of the matter is we don't know anything about resellers. We really don't. They're just out there in high volume and are not subject to the same kind of rules as the registrars for whom they work.

And so I'd love to find some way to suggest that strengthening ICANN's community decision-making process—I'm picking that off the list at random ... Since we're trying to make a distinction

between that and diversity and inclusion in participation, strengthening that process, I think, by necessity involves the better collection, distribution, and use of data and metrics in the way that we measure our operational and policy objectives.

So I'm just putting in my, in our temperature-taking of the room—and I know that it's just the room, Cheryl—pitch for number two, keeping in mind that a big piece of that should be more data. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Jonathan, than you. Would you put that in the chat as well? And I just remind of the final slide of Marita's presentation, where what she was saying was about data and more data and reporting data and collecting of data and "Wouldn't it be nice if we can measure?" and other things like that? So we made that comment in the last budget, and what I'm hearing is we should continue to make those sorts of comments in the next budget and see what we can do for that.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

I don't know if anybody remembers the movie Shawshank Redemption. Is that something that's familiar around the world? It was a pretty big movie. The star of it was this prisoner, and he used to write to the governor every month to ask for books for a library. And he wrote every month for a number of years. And so

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finally, they wrote back and said, “Here are some books, and here’s a check for \$1,000. We trust that this issue is complete.” And at that point, he began to write every week. And that is the way that we need to address this issue as well. We’re constantly hearing from Org, from Goran, “You’re acting as though we’re doing, and that is not the case. The question has always got to be, “Are we doing enough?”” And we can concede that people are doing something and still believe that they’re not doing enough. And I think data is one of those areas that we’ll need to keep pressing on consistently.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you. And, again, I urge you to put that in the chat and just remind everybody that that was one of the comments we made.

So could I have the poll, please? Oh—

[CHERYL LANGDON-ORR]: [inaudible] Holly, can I—

HOLLY RAICHE: Hadia, yeah. After Hadia—I’m sorry—I would really seriously ... However incomplete the data, I would like to collect the data. So, Hadia, go ahead.

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HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you. And I also raised my hand to talk about the DNS environment. But I was going to speak to Point #6. So I totally support what Jonathan just said because, of course, the DNS competition directly affects end users.

And I raised my hand also to pitch for #6, which is: facilitate DNS ecosystem improvements. And I would argue that the DNS ecosystem is what keeps the DNS alive and also is what makes legislative bodies make the legislations or decisions that they make because I would guess that five is only monitoring. But if you actually want to do something about legislation before it's out, then it would be through 6.

So, yes, anything that has a DNS ecosystem or environment I would actually argue should be put at a higher priority level. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Hadia. I think I'm going to have to bring this to a close because I actually do want a poll. But for anyone who would like comment ... Sebastien/everybody use the chat function, please, to put in all of your comments because I want not just a vote but I want comments as well so that, when we actually respond to the [bunches], we can actually reflect, however imperfectly, additional input into the budget.

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So could I have the poll, please. Thank you. You can barely read this, but it should be up in your screen. I've got just the top ten, but if we're missing anything, for goodness sake, put it in. So would you vote, please?

Does anybody need more time?

Do we have a result? I can't read that chat. Oh. Ooh, wait a minute. Can somebody read the chat for me, please? The results of the poll. Because I can't read them from here.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Strengthen ICANN community decision-making process: 96%. Strengthen MSM diverse and inclusive participation: 84%. Universal acceptance: 60%. Facilitate DNS ecosystem improvement: 56%. And I guess that's all that are above half. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you. I didn't bring up the screen because I was reading from my own presentation. We've only got five minutes, and I think I'll give you ... Are there any further comments? Because that's going to really helpful in terms of—that and what's in the chat that I will look at when I can review this. But that's really ... No, I can't. I can't possibly read that right now. Let me just find this. Not happening. Never mind. That went big. Okay.

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ALAN GREENBERG: Holly, I'll point out that there are people remotely raising hands that are not being addressed. It has been going on for a while.

HOLLY RAICHE: Okay. Whose hand was up first? Do you want to go ahead, Hadia? Who else? Could you ... Okay. Marita? I can't ...

MARITA MOLL: I know it's hard to manage this stuff that's going on all over the place. Yes, I did have my hand up before because I wanted to note that, yeah, as I said in the chat, it looks a bit weird because it's coming out of the budget—this list—so we can't really say that it's less important to do root zone management. And then, as it is, if we do strengthen MSM ... I mean, all of these things are important, but what we're talking about is, what does our community want to focus on (I guess) out of this list?

And when I look at the poll responses, I see “strengthen MSM, strengthen community decision-making process.” Universal acceptance is there, but also, I see that “evaluate, align, and facilitate improved engagement.” Those are all MSM topics. And Dave has suggested, well, why aren't we putting these together? It's because this list came from somewhere else. But, yeah, they are all MSM. Those four are definitely MSM topics that would be

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addressed under that section of what we look at. So that was what I wanted to say.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you, Marita.

Look, Marita has made the comment that I've also made, and that is that there's overlapping priorities reflected in all of the initiatives. If you read them carefully, they seem to overlap. They don't necessarily say the same thing but say different things. So in doing the priorities, I also have a little bit of difficulty [thinking], "What do I put where?" What I'm hoping is, looking at the chat and looking the votes, that I'll have a better understanding of the priorities that you all have. And I acknowledge there are some inconsistencies or perhaps overlapping of initiatives. I didn't write them. I'm just asking for feedback, which I'm really appreciative of. And—

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Holly? I'm sorry. Excuse me. It's just a point of order. Ricardo has had his hand up in the Zoom room for a considerable amount of time. His irritation in chat is raising. I just wanted you to know he may wish to speak before you close.

HOLLY RAICHE: Ricardo, go ahead, please.

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RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Holly. I know that we're at time. I was trying to talk before the poll was made. On top of what Marita said, these 15 initiatives are coming in the budget. It's not us who made these initiatives. It's not us who made everything of it. It's ICANN Org who made these initiatives. And the poll was made for one main purpose. At the time of the budget, we need to know from the OFB Working Group, the people who will do the actual comments, what's the sense of ALAC of what is the importance of this for ALAC in order to have more time to dedicate to these initiatives so we comment on any of these initiatives instead of others because there are 15 and we don't have time to do comments for all 15 unless you all help. If you help, we can make comments for all of them. But usually it's two or three of us who make the comments, and we only have time for one, two, or three. So we to know which ones are the ones you sense are the priorities for us so we can take them and do the comments. Thank you very much. Sorry for the time.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you, Ricardo. I could not agree with you more.

And I'd like to say we need to end this session because the interpreters need lunch.

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But Satish, you are to be congratulated. You got third again.  
Thank you.

And thank you, everyone. This meeting is adjourned.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**