
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. Welcome to the Operations, Finance and Budget Subcommittee call on Monday the 18th of May 2020 at 19:30 UTC.

On the call today on the English channel, we have Ricardo Holmquist, Alan Greenberg, Alfredo Calderon, Bastiaan Goslings, Holly Raiche, Javier Rua-Jovet, Joana Kulesza, Judith Hellerstein, Maureen Hilyard, Nadira Alaraj, Seun Ojedeji, and Sébastien Bachollet. On the French channel, we have Michel Tchonang.

We have received apologies from Alberto Soto and Olivier Crépin Leblond.

Our interpreters for today on the Spanish channel are Veronica and Lilian, and on the French channel, we have Aurelie and Isabelle.

From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management.

We also have Harold Arcos who has just joined on the Spanish channel. And before we begin, I would like to remind everyone to please state their name before speaking for the transcription purposes and also so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels. And a friendly reminder to please keep your lines muted when not speaking to prevent any background noise. Thank you very much, and with this, I turn the call over to you, Ricardo.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you very much, Claudia. Welcome, everyone, to this Operations and Finance and Budget Subcommittee. I don't know if this is the last time it will be called like that. I see Alan is on the call. I understand Maureen and Alan had a conversation by e-mail about this group, and becoming from a subcommittee to a working group, leaving the Finance and Budget Subcommittee as it is. I don't think we have the final decision yet. We have to figure that out. If we're going to convert this in another working group as Consolidated Policy Working Group and work in parallel, or become the new subcommittee not just for finance and budget but also for operation.

That was the original idea, whether or not to create another working group and have only one. But one of the goals that we had in the revision in the ALAC revision was not to create more working groups, although we have found out that the Consolidated Policy Working Group is for that, is for policy, DNS-related policy, and there were other things in the middle that need to figure out where to put them, the operations, the [reserve,] the budget, the finance. Not just the ABRs that were the main intention of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee but also those things related to reviews, what to do with the reviews most of the times are not totally related to DNS.

So that's the idea. Although we have [inaudible] here, I would like to hear Maureen and Alan, their thoughts on this. And of course, everyone in the call is welcome to join. I understand that for the working group, we need the approval of ALAC of creating this working group and chartering it as our rules of procedure, the mandate of the rules of procedure.

So I welcome Maureen or Alan, whoever wants to talk here. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you very much. I don't think this is really a big issue, but details need to be worked out. My suggestion was to make it a working group because it really is comparable to the CPWG. A subcommittee is a particularly special beast within ALAC in that although it's not necessarily, it can be delegated responsibilities by the ALAC. So it was really an arm of the ALAC for taking specific actions, and the only major thing that the subcommittee has spent a lot of time on in the past are the budget requests and analyzing them and deciding what to put forward. And that, I believe, as a function still needs to go forward.

The subcommittee in the past has also looked at comments to public comments. Now, there are two aspects. Sometimes budget requests are not done through the budget request process but through comments, and that's specifically related to travel issues. But the bulk of the public comment on the budget is something that should be debated widely, just like things are within the CPWG. And I'm suggesting that anything related to that is not policy should be done as people have been describing under this new group.

But it really should be a working group because then you can have wide participation and no rules about formal members and who can vote and that kind of thing. So I think the working group model fits better for the overall discussion group, and a very narrow set of things to be looked at by the finance subcommittee. And the finance subcommittee, I think, would very strongly be advised to consult this group on anything related

to finance to make sure that we do have adequate debate and input into it.

So it's really just a matter of keeping our terminology consistent. In terms of what this group will be doing, it doesn't really change anything at all. Thank you. Anyway, that's how I see it, but Maureen's the boss here.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Alan. And now we have Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Alan, for acknowledging that. We just had a discussion yesterday, and it isn't important to go into too much depth here. What we do have to do—and Alan has actually raised some things—we do have a page set up that's still in the setting up stage. So once we've got that, all the information that we need on that page, the charter, how we appoint the chair, all those sorts of things which are important to Alan, it will go to the ALT Plus for further discussion and then we'll move it forward. It'd be good to get the discussion here. Probably not today, because we've got a really busy schedule today and I don't want to use up too much of Ricardo's time, but just to let you know that that sort of thing—there's a page. So we're working on making sure that everything that we need to have on that page is actually there.

You will notice on that page the members, the people who have actually been appointed by the RALOs for this year are there listed, but we're starting to accumulate people's names who have applied to become

participants. They filled in the GDPR form and all that kind of stuff. So their names will also go onto this. Back to you, Ricardo.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you, Maureen. I saw the hand of CLO. Cheryl, did you want to talk, or did you just hear what you want to hear from Maureen?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: [inaudible] I'll buy into the discussion later. [inaudible].

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you. Well, if that's all, let's begin with Holly and the real thing now.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you. Does someone have my presentation? Thank you. Okay. Alan, you're not allowed to answer this, but I'd like to as anybody who [was a ten elephant stars] could tell me what PTI stands for in chat.

I don't see any answers. Does anybody know, other than Alan? Yay. Terrific. Okay. Well, we've got a few people who have got [ten elephant stars,] which his terrific. Okay, Next slide, please.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: [inaudible] using a mobile app or anything that's not a PC, [inaudible].

HOLLY RAICHE: I can't hear what you're saying. Can you hear me?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I can hear you perfectly. I was just pointing out when you ask for responses in chat, if you're using something—for example I'm using my mobile because I'm about to have to chair another meeting—

HOLLY RAICHE: No, I was watching the chat.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: [inaudible] You cannot get to chat to respond. So just remember that not everyone can get to chat to respond unless they're using a laptop or [inaudible].

HOLLY RAICHE: It's okay. I've got loads of responses and I'm very pleased that people [remember.] Thank you, Cheryl.

Some of you, probably most of you, remember where PTI used to be post-transition, back in 2016, when in fact IANA moved from the NTIA—which is [inaudible] Department of Commerce in the United States—to ICANN.

Now it's Public technical Identifiers. The first question—and this is, by the way, we're looking at the PTI strategic plan that's out for public comment—they're expecting responses and my job will be to actually

gather their responses and come up with an [inaudible] of some sort with ALAC if ALAC wants to respond.

So the first real question in the strategic plan response is, well, what does the PTI actually do? And it's a little bit confusing if you read the document, because in the document, it does say, actually, PTI took over IANA functions. And the first thing you say is, well, what are the IANA functions that it allegedly took over?

There are three IANA functions. The first actually is the naming functions, looking at and carrying out the domain name system and all of the things that are involved in the naming function.

Another thing IANA did was the numbering, and the final was actually the protocols. Now, under the 2016 arrangement, what happened was IANA became in fact PTI—well, PTI was created post-transition is what it was called, and under contract with ICANN, PTI took over what's called the naming function. And that phrase is actually used in the contract.

The other functions, however, ICANN assumed responsibility for. It has an SLA with the RIRs so that another function of IANA is numbering, and that's now carried out through ICANN's SLA with the five RIRs.

The protocols are now implemented through an MoU that ICANN has with the IETF. So in fact, if you're going to ask the question, what does PTI do, it has a contract with ICANN to carry out the naming function. Next slide, please.

Okay. Root zone management. There are things that it does. Its management—and these are absolutely critical roles. If you're looking

at how the Internet works, the root zone is absolutely [inaudible] the important function. And management of the registration database of over 3000 different registries are what PTI does. And it manages the changes, these additions, transfers, deletions, etc. to the root zone. [Variation, publication] of the root zone, implementation of DNSSEC—and for those interested in security, DNSSEC is one of the security tools—implementation of IDNs, and finally, management of the INT top-level.

In a webinar that was held recently that was put on by PTI to help people understand what it is and does as part of the public process that's going on in terms of the strategic plan, I asked, well, do you have oversight? And the person from PTI who was on the webinar said, no, we do not do oversight. We do the naming function.

If you want further detail though, every month, the CSC—that's the—I can't even remember what it stands for and I'm a member of it. The CSC is the oversight mechanism for PTI, and every month, we get a report of all of the things that PTI does in terms of that management of the registries. Next slide, please.

Okay. And then what I have put in red are those things that stood out to me when reading the plan and thinking, what is it that we want to say in a future plan? And these are my suggestions. I'm clearly open to anybody else having thoughts. And indeed, if we're going to have an ALAC response, we do need responses from other people to make sure that in fact we said everything as ALAC.

One of the first things that is pointed out in—[this is the] draft strategic plan, by the way—is the PTI’s strategic plan and budget are for four years. Now, that’s part of its contract. So it has to be four years. But given the interdependency between ICANN and PTI, it does not make sense for one organization to have four-year budget strategic plan cycles and another organization to have five-year budget and financial cycles.

So one of the recommendations—and this is one of the questions in the strategic plan itself—align the two as much as possible. It’s certainly something I would support, because given the PTI is dependent on ICANN for funding, and PTI’s carrying out the naming function under contract with ICANN, it makes sense for there to be a close alignment between the strategic plans and budgets of both organizations. Next slide, please.

What I'm doing is there are five objectives listed in the strategic plan, and there's a category missing about their implementation, but I thought I would point out the goal, how the draft strategic plan suggests the goal will be achieved, and then they list the risks.

Now, I have reworded things so it’s not as wordy as the strategic plan, but what I'm trying to point out is the things that stuck out for me as things that need to be said.

Okay, the objective one, clearly the maintenance of stakeholder trust that IANA is [the proper] [inaudible] for enabling global interoperability.

The plan says this goal will be achieved obviously by working closely with ICANN as partners, and building on engagement efforts with all of the major players which should be RIRs, CSC, and the SOs and ACs.

I think that's actually important. I think it's important first of all because not everyone knows what PTI is and does. But because the PTI function is so critical to the Internet itself and the policies of ICANN are so critical to PTI, there should be more involvement with the RIRs, which is one of the things that—not the strategic plan but ICANN does with the SLAs with the RIRs. Obviously, the CSC is totally engaged with PTI because every month, PTI reports to us on its performance. And obviously, the SOs and ACs.

The risks—and it's interesting that one of the two risks that the strategic plan lists is the privacy regulation. And the fact that privacy legislation—for that, you can read the GDPR—has an effect that it may impact on the level of transparency for IANA registries. So in fact, when we as ALAC are looking at the GDPR, the EPDP that's going on, one of the things in the back of our mind [inaudible] in fact what happens with the EPDP is going to affect all of the registries, and therefore also PTI.

It's something I hadn't thought about, but suddenly realized, in fact—so when I was attending the webinar on the strategic plan, I asked the narrator, are you guys involved at all with the discussions on EPDP? Because this is what happens and it's so critical to you. And the response was, well, we're following it. And I thought, well, maybe you need to do something [inaudible] follow it. Maybe you should be able to get more engaged. Next slide, please.

Okay. The next objective is about monitoring and adapting to security threats and obviously ensuring resilient and secure IANA operations which is critical for the Internet.

The risks, obviously, first, inability to deliver on [inaudible] demands related to KSK rollovers. In fact, the last rollover that occurred with all of the people who were supposed to be present was in February, and that was, let's just say, an interesting KSK rollover. This KSK rollover will happen, but not with all the people there that should be, because of COVID-19.

Another risk, security, but one that, interesting, they list as a risk, insufficient resources to review and implement security measures. It struck me that one of the things we should put in a response is some ability to have [inaudible] discussions on budgets, and this goes back to the need for some kind of a much closer alignment between the PTI budget and ICANN's budget. Next slide, please.

Okay, this objective to continue to drive the implementation of operational initiatives to enhance the delivery of services based on the needs of the IANA customer. And remember, there are over 3000 registries, so there are a few of the IANA customers. Basically, the contractual obligations they have are with ICANN. some of the other things you'd suggest or think about if you are thinking about what a strategic plan clearly [inaudible] workflow, ensuring operational readiness.

Another risk that stood out for me, obviously lack of sufficient development resources, and this goes back into the budget. But no

community policies that can trigger a significant increase in workload. And what stood out for me from that was they are not involved in discussions on the development of policies. And given the fact that [new community] policies could impact them, you have to say,, should they be playing some kind of role?

Now, when I raised that question in the webinar, they said, well, actually, we do consult. And their contract with ICANN says, well, they take policies. But it ought to be important that they have some kind of say in the actual policy development so that anything that's going to impact them, they have had some kind of place at the table to make the sorts of points so that the policies that are developed that impact them, they have had some kind of input on. Okay, Next slide, please.

The delivery and performance of the IANA functions. This is where there's a bit of confusion. They don't do all of the IANA functions. They do the naming function under contract. And again, if you go back to the actual use of the words, I would like some clarity about what it is they do, because you only find out, [to me,] by reading the strategic plan, what they do. There has to be a statement up front.

Okay, objective four, obviously, they achieve their performance by [inaudible] regular monitoring, working on the processes, the culture, the indicators. But again, in the risks, what comes out is one of the risks is simply not having the spare resources due to the dependency on ICANN funds. So again, one of the issues—what role do they have in the development of the ICANN budget, what kind of process should they be involved in so that their needs in managing the 3000 names are accommodated? Next slide, please.

This is the final objective, and these are the words that in fact should be familiar to everyone. This is obviously what ICANN is and does all about, which is openness, inclusivity, accountability and transparency. The risks—and it's interesting, one of the risks was there would be no buy-in to align PTI and ICANN planning processes. I find that an interesting one because right up front, there's an argument that there should be alignment, and it's certainly something that I saw as needed. But there is another risk that PTI operates in a silo, that is, people are not clear about what it does, about its actual remit under its contract with ICANN. And one of the things that I think needs to be up front is to say this is who we are, this is what we do. Clarity. And instead of saying, "We took over IANA functions," saying, "We took over the naming function of ICANN, and together with the RIRs and the IETF, those three functions are performed. We're one of the three, we're not the whole [inaudible]."

Okay, the final slide, I think. So thinking about the things that struck me as important to say in a response to the strategic plan. First of all, there does need to be an alignment between both ICANN and the PTI strategic plans and budgets, because PTI is dependent on ICANN for its resources, and in fact, both of them should be doing the same thing. There should be alignment with what they do.

Obviously, sufficient funding. And given that the policies that are developed absolutely impact on what PTI is and does, there should be engagement. Now, how that happens is going to be something that will be consistent with PTI's contract, but PTI needs to be there at the table, to be at some table to say, "What you're doing is going to impact the way we manage domains," and while recognizing that PTI is a policy

taker, find a way to actually have input into policies. Particularly, you think about what's happening in the EPDP and the SubPro working groups, everything that's decided in EPDP and SubPro has potential impact on PTI.

And the final things that I didn't put but obviously should be up front for me, there needs to be very clear explanation, right up front, what PTI is and does, to emphasize what its tasks are, what importance is to the smooth working of the Internet.

So, what have I missed? What should be aligned? I absolutely want to hear from anybody, because this is ALAC's response, not mine. Thank you. And over to questions. And if you are not looking at a screen and [can look at] chat, just interrupt. Just speak up.

Okay, any questions, comments? They're all welcome. Alan.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you. Two comments. Can we go back to the previous slide, please? All right. I don't understand the second to last bullet. "PTI operates in a silo due to the lack of clarity about organization's remit." I don't think there's any lack of clarity on what PTI is doing for its customers. That is, for ICANN, the IETF and the RIRs. And I don't think there's any lack of clarity for what PTI does from the TLDs that interact with it to keep the DNS current.

So there may well be a lack of clarity from those outside of the operational parts, but that's not PTI operating in a silo. PTI operates, I

think, with full clarity on what they should be doing and understanding by their customers. That's my comment number one.

Comment number two goes back to the last slide. And that's—again, I don't understand your second to last bullet about the EPDP. The EPDP is related to WHOIS implementation. That is, the WHOIS on DNS for gTLDs. There's virtually no interaction between that and IANA.

Now, there clearly are privacy implications and GDPR implications on IANA, but that's not EPDP. And similarly, SubPro, the only real intersection is the number of new TLDs that may be added. And just like we have to worry about the DNS being overloaded, IANA has to be able to handle it, so they need to know what's going on and buy in on it. But that's a very tiny part of SubPro, and my understanding is there is involvement at that level. So again, I'm a little bit confused. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Alan. First of all, could we go back to the previous slide? This is their wording, Alan. This is what they're saying is a risk, and they are referring to not the people inside PTI or people who are familiar with their remit. They're talking about the fact that for others, what PTI does is not necessarily clear. And I have to say the way that this strategic plan is developed, unless you know what PTI does, you could understand that yes, there may be a lack of clarity about what it is and does for those who aren't familiar with PTI and the structure.

So you're absolutely right: this is aimed at a lot of people who may not know about PTI and its remit. Next slide, please. Okay. You may be right, EPDP has nothing to do with what they do. They certainly—I hadn't

realized about the impact of any privacy implications. But one of the risks they saw was regulations about privacy that may impact on their functioning. So it may not be EPDP, but it's certainly something that they highlighted that I thought, my goodness, this is going to impact on them.

SubPro working groups, you're right, there's a small impact. But because of the fact that the management of that many names, the number of names and the policy surrounding it has a potential impact. Now, they do not participate in working groups. I asked and I was told they don't. But because there's an impact, I would suggest that in fact at some point, they need to be monitoring what happens in the working groups for impact, and have the ability to say this is how business is going to be impacted if policies are implemented.

So yes, Alan, good points. Thank you. Maureen, thank you. Reading just from—and because I want to make the slides very clear, I didn't spell everything out, but just to read the text for objective five, no buy-in to align PTI and ICANN's planning processes due to competing priorities, inability to streamline [inaudible] agreements, PTI operates in a silo, and unsuccessful delivery of IANA functions undermines ability.

So what they're saying is, "We may not be well known and well understood. And in fact, for communities outside those of the ICANN community or even people within the ICANN community, there may not be the kind of familiarity with what PTI is and does. That would mean that there could be development of policy without the kind of input that should happen."

Okay, any other hands, any other questions?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: We have a question in the chat from Harold Arcos. It says, what do you consider to be the largest budget investment for PTI? Human talent, infrastructure? What demands more budget from ICANN?

HOLLY RAICHE: Probably, I think it's human resources. At least when I was reading the plan, what became clear to me is they're worried about the resources and the ability to deal with—one of the things they talk about is the streamlining of processes, the way in fact to make processes simpler and easier, not only for their customers, which is the registry, but for themselves to manage and oversight, and nevertheless still be able to report back to the CSC every month.

Any other questions? Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes. Thank you. I think the way I see this objective five, especially the section about PTI operating standards due to a lack of clarity about the organization and its remit, I don't think this is a risk in terms of the customers of PTI. It's probably a risk for a normal user or a normal Internet users that is trying to understand how ICANN and PTI operates. But in terms of the customer, I don't think there would be any issue of lack of clarity. I think that is very clear, and perhaps if a statement needs to be made, especially in the sense of ALAC, Internet end user, I think it's just education, awareness approach that we may need to

emphasize. I don't think there's any policy or structural change that will need to be done to provide more clarity [inaudible] of awareness and educating the normal Internet users [who don't understand the business.] Thanks.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Seun. I think you're absolutely right, and I think that's the meaning—at least that's the way I put it as well, which is, they know what they do and their customers know what they do, but within ICANN itself, is there a very clear appreciation of what it is that they do? Because they're absolutely dependent upon ICANN for resources. So within ICANN, at the very least, there should be clarity amongst everyone as to what they do. And I think you're right, the response to that should be the kind of resources and education that means that there is a very clear understanding about people who are involved particularly in policy to understand how what they do in terms of policymaking can impact upon PTI. Alan, you've got another question?

ALAN GREENBERG:

It's a follow-on comment to that. I'm not sure there are a lot of cases where the policy we make impacts PTI, but my overall overriding comment is PTI and IANA provide core infrastructure. And to a large extent, when infrastructure works, nobody cares and no one wants to know the details. And trying to educate someone about something they don't care about is really hard.

Now, sewers are really complex things. They really are. But very few people understand how they work, and the same for your water supply

and your electricity supply. And people's eyes glaze over when you start talking about these things, until they don't work. And since IANA is doing a moderately good job operationally—and I'm being a little bit sarcastic or snide, but they're doing a good job and the infrastructure works. And nobody really cares.

So yes, it's true, there's a lack of clarity among those not directly involved, how it works and what they do and what the steps are and how complex it is. But most people really don't care. And I'm not sure you're going to change that by creating a course or having there be public sessions or pretty pictures on their website. Maybe I'm cynical, but I'm not sure.

Get them to fail a few more times, and people will become really interested in it. As I said, the whole Internet is like that. As long as the internet works, nobody cares how complex it is. If it fails, you care. So the analogy works with sewers, it works with the Internet, it works with IANA. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thanks, Alan. Maybe what I should do is describe the February meeting of the CSC. I think it was February, when in fact in the KSK rollover, they tried to get into the safe and the combination didn't work and the keys didn't work. And so what was supposed to be a two-day ceremonial meeting turned into a four-day break into the safe. And the CSC meeting that actually had to be briefed about having had to break into the safe.

I sort of chuckled when I thought nobody understands what it does. And you're right, Alan. Maybe they should publish a blow-by-blow description of them becoming safecrackers. But yeah, largely, you're right. It just works. But that doesn't say that—there should be some attempt. I think Seun is right, there should be some attempt so that at least within ICANN, there's some awareness of what PTI is and does, even if all it does is just function. Because if it doesn't function, then in fact, there's a little problem with the Internet itself.

Okay, any further comments? Okay. Thank you. I've taken notes, and thank you for your comments. What I'll do now is just draft up the statement based around the red—the highlighted stuff that struck me as that are worthy of comment. And clearly, what I need to do is—Seun, I like your point about education. We need to do that. And although possibly there's not much in the EPDP, I think they need to have some kind of process so that if they're going to be impacted by policies, there are steps that can be taken to make sure that the roles that they have and how those will be impacted will be impacted by changes in policy.

Now, are there any other questions, or is that the end of the session for me? I don't see any other hands. Okay. Thank you all.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you very much, Holly, for your presentation and for the comments on the presentation, and for [starting us in the PTI ecosystem.] Next, we have Seun with the Africa regional plan. I understand it's not only Seun [who's penholder on this,] but Seun will make the presentation. Thank you very much.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you, Ricardo. This has been presented at the CPWG before. Even though at that time, it was just talked about and not put in the slide. We have a couple of my other colleagues who were penholders to this statement, to the drafting of the response to the ICANN Africa regional plan for fiscal year 2021 to 2025.

This started from 2012 when the first strategy was actually initiated, and after that, there was the second one which is currently ongoing and which will elapse this year. And AFRALO has been quite involved in the development, since the beginning, actually, and this particular one, drafting of this current strategy [also witnessed] a lot of involvement of AFRALO community in the working group that actually did the initial draft.

Of course, as usual, the GSE Africa team were the ones that facilitated and saw this process through and provided support to the drafting team, the community that actually developed this draft.

The strategy itself consisted of five sections which are listed on the screen, the security, ICANN governance, the unique identifier systems, the geopolitics, and financials.

The approach that was taken was for each of the focus areas, [they then structured by] indicating the objective, the regional goal, the target outcome, the action and the risks that are foreseen.

Overall, this strategy was actually tailored to address some of the challenges of the region. So it's more or less quite regional, very

regional focused, but at the same time, [inaudible] region, we eventually also [inaudible] the global [inaudible] ICANN and Internet ecosystem. The next and last slide, please.

So we received the draft proposal, public comment, and then we took it up and started developing our response to it. The draft is still under discussion. Just a couple of things that we—the draft itself is currently a two-page document right now, but just try to start from the point that we mentioned in the statement just for your information and also if there are comments.

Under the security, the proposal was really looking into security that relates to Internet engineering standards, and we kind of also talked about them not just focusing on that alone but other aspects of security, because even though it may not directly relate to ICANN, but as long as it affects the Internet eventually, it can also affect the underlying principles of the Internet itself.

We also looked at the aspect of the ICANN governance. We challenged the—we talked about the fact that in the last decade, actually, meetings that [were held in] Africa, it's been difficult [inaudible] other parts of countries. It's been just two countries if I recall correctly within the last decade. And we kind of commented that, okay, yes, we understand the challenge of some of the countries in hosting meetings, but some level of support [has been] provided to reduce some of the requirements in a way that it will not significantly negatively impact the meeting but also allow other countries to hold these meetings, because eventually, it's a mutual benefit.

We talked about the unique identifier system, especially as COVID-19 has now changed some of the approach by which things are done globally, more people attend to the Internet now than ever before, and as this continues and which indeed may become the norm post-COVID, language diversity within the region, and the ability for people to actually use the Internet in a way that they understand and a way that communicates to them becomes a very important part.

So we kind of suggested prioritization of efforts to actually improve awareness, to encourage the support for the unique identifier system within all the people that actually contribute to it, those that are developers and stuff like that, various people that actually contribute to making sure that this is improved.

We also talked about the geopolitics aspect of things. Within our region, I think we have significant level of shutdowns. We encourage ICANN to to some extent get involved with government engagement, of course within the ICANN mission. To some extent, also provide some level of education and awareness, perhaps in a manner that could also reduce the impact of these shutdowns that are occurring.

For the financial aspect, the last strategy actually was also [inaudible] that increasing registry/registrar development in the region, we actually encourage that that should be maintained, because it also will be made obvious in the new strategy, and we show that there is still more progress that needs to be done in that aspect. So we show that it should be a recurring thing in this particular draft proposal.

Perhaps the last part is just to also mention that we had these public comments for the Middle East and Adjoining Countries strategy, and to some extent, Africa actually has some level of countries that actually part of this MEAC, and so APRALO and AFRALO, we actually did a response to that public comment. In our statement to the African one, we also encouraged that some of the things that are in that public comment or in that draft also be in sync, because Africa actually exists in both scenarios. So we encouraged continued collaboration and partnership between the two regions and the two strategies have been drafted.

I think that's it. If there are other, my colleagues want to add more to what I've said, they may do so. Back to you, chair.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Not seeing any hands. Thank you very much, Seun. I have a question. Do you want to submit this as AFRALO, or you want us to submit this as ALAC?

SEUN OJEDEJI: We will submit it as AFRALO, but [I think we would be happy if we] get an endorsement of ALAC on this.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you. I see Sébastien's hand. Go ahead, Sébastien.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Yes. Thank you very much. Thank you, Seun, for your presentation. I think it's very [well thought and well written.] I just wanted to come back to one point you raised. It's 8(b) here with the other meeting locations.

You know that when we create in the meeting strategy working group what was called a B meeting, now the policy meeting, it was supposed to be a short meeting with need for less number of rooms and big rooms, and it was to be able to have meeting in other country.

I don't know why it ended up in Africa to be a struggle between South Africa and Morocco, because the idea was to go to two other places. My fear is that some people, specifically from these big countries where ICANN is based, or afraid of every other African countries, and that's a big mistake. I am sure that there are places where we can go as ICANN specifically to the June meeting. And I really support your proposal. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you, Sébastien.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Any other comments? If not, thank you very much again, Seun, for the presentation. That's it for the meeting today. We just have our next call. I saw the Doodle poll. Seems to [have made it] about an hour our and a half ago, something like that, and the idea is to have our next meeting next week. The next week meeting, we'll handle the ABR, basically, and

the approved budget. I don't know if we're going to have anything else on Holly about PTI strategic plan.

HOLLY RAICHE: Richard, I don't think so. I think I've gotten enough feedback on that so that I'll probably just draft something. And if you want, I can present it, but I think that I've heard from everybody as to what the feedback is. I'll leave that up to you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: I don't know. We can give you five, ten minutes so that we can look at the bullet points of your draft statement if you have it all ready for next week. If not, we can look at this in the Wiki page.

So mainly, we are going to hear from finance and operations for the ABRs, and the approved budget. That's the idea for next call. Please put your dates, your hours in the Doodle poll. That's all for now. We're just three minutes late, so that's good. Thank you very much to everybody for attending. I don't know—

SEUN OJEDEJI: [Bye.]

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you. Good night, good day.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Thanks so much. Bye.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you all. This meeting is adjourned. Please enjoy the rest of your day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]