

Session Title Internet Infrastructures Role in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Target Groups: Proposal for plenary session at ICANN79

Justification:

The clock is ticking down and industries and governments are stepping up their efforts to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Internet technology, as a fundamental element of development and a key component of our critical systems, has a decisive role. The negative impacts of the ICT industry including data mining's and data centers' carbon footprint and water usage are well understood and publicized. Missing from the conversation is the positive role of the IT industry in general and the DNS sector in particular as the enabler of development.

In recent years, Internet governance institutions have become more active in exploring their role in achieving the SDGs. ITU, in collaboration with more than 30 UN agencies, is continuously working towards strengthening the alignment of the WSIS Process implementation activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, thereby highlighting the direct linkages between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.

ISOC published a paper "The Internet and Sustainable Development" as early as 2015 and in a recent meeting, ISOCUK discussed the need to explore the concept further.

At ICANN, interim CEO, Sally Costerton's number eight objective for 2024 is "Environmental Sustainability Strategy- Initiate the creation of ICANN's Environmental Sustainability Strategy" and stating that in "FY24, ICANN will initiate the development of a comprehensive approach for implementing an environmental sustainability strategy for ICANN".

So far, ALAC is lagging. Understanding the positive and negative impact of the ICT industry in general and the DNS sector in particular, as well as exploring ICANN's potential role in achieving SDGs is long overdue.

Documents and References:

1. [Greening our own house: addressing the environmental footprint of digital technologies - ITU Telecom World \[digital-world.itu.int\]](https://digital-world.itu.int/greening-our-own-house-addressing-the-environmental-footprint-of-digital-technologies/)
[https://digital-world.itu.int/greening-our-own-house-addressing-the-environmental-footprint-of-digital-technologies/ \[digital-world.itu.int\]](https://digital-world.itu.int/greening-our-own-house-addressing-the-environmental-footprint-of-digital-technologies/)
2. [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\) \[sdgs.un.org\]](https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda)
[https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda \[sdgs.un.org\]](https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda)
3. THE 17 GOALS
[https://sdgs.un.org/goals \[sdgs.un.org\]](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)
4. WSIS -SDG Matrix - Linking WSIS Action Lines with Sustainable Development Goals

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/sdg/Content/Documents/wsis-sdg_matrix_document.pdf [itu.int]

5. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=3236&menu=3170> [sustainabledevelopment.un.org]

6. ICANN Goals for Fiscal Year 2024

<https://www.icann.org/en/blogs/details/icann-interim-president-and-ceo-shares-goals-for-fiscal-year-2024-27-09-2023-en>

7. The Internet and Sustainable Development - ISOC [internetsociety.org]

<https://www.internetsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/ISOC-ICTs-SDGs-201506-Final.pdf> [internetsociety.org]

8. American Leadership on the SDGs

https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/sustainable-development-goals/u-s-leadership-on-the-sdgs/?gclid=CjwKCAiAmsurBhBvEiwA6e-WPB2GJ9J70auVgCfGih6dOoQU_qRpMKy4VD4OGNMK5q6eKw1ppq5uphoCYeEQAvD_BwE [unfoundation.org]

9. Measuring Eco-Friendliness of our Internet Infrastructure

<https://www.ajitora.asia/eco-internet-index-2023/> [ajitora.asia]

10. The Environmental Footprint of Data Centers in the US [iopscience.iop.org]

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abfba1> [iopscience.iop.org]

Duration: 90 mins

Agenda:

Introduction and Welcome – 10 minutes

Subject introduction: Pari Esfandiari (ALAC/EURALO) - 10 Minutes

Speaker (ISOC) - ICTs and SDGs - 10 minutes

Speaker (WSIS) - Linking WSIS Action Lines with SDGs - 10 minutes

Speaker (ICANN) – Governance - 10 minutes

Speaker (Registrar) – DNS and SDGs - 10 minutes

Open floor for Q/A - 30 Minutes

Closing remarks – 5 minutes

Closing session – 5 minutes