

ICANN

Moderator: Benedetta Rossi
February 20, 2014
10:00 am CT

Coordinator: Thank you. At this time, the call is now being recorded.

Benedetta Rossi: Thank you very much (Leslie).

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. This is the BC Members call taking place on the 20th of February 2014.

On the call today we have Chuck Warren, Elisa Cooper, Andy Abrams, Angie Graves, Aparna Sridhar, Philip Corwin, Jim Baskin, Chris Chaplow, Caroline Greer and David Fares. On the Adobe Connect we've got John Berard, (Stephane Dushnow), (Debra Flack) and (Tim Chan).

I would like to remind all participants to please state your names before speaking for transcription purposes.

Thank you very much and over to you Elisa.

Elisa Cooper: Thank you. So I apologize first of all for the long queue getting into the call. We'll follow-up and see what we can do so that doesn't happen in the future.

So we have quite a bit to cover today and there's been a lot of activity. And I want to cover a few things up at the front of the call.

First I want to tell you a little bit about the call that Fadi had with the SO AC leaders earlier this week. I did send out sort of a brief update of what happened on that call.

But essentially he sort of gave us a heads up that, you know, there were going to be the strategic planning recommendations were going to come out this weekend and we should be on the lookout for that.

He also let us know - he gave us a heads up about this board resolution which was published just yesterday and I just sent that out to all members. And we can spend a little bit of time talking about that board resolution.

I think it would probably during our section where we're talking about Internet Governance, I see this whole idea of the globalization of ICANN in some ways fitting into that other discussion about Internet Governance. So perhaps we can hold off and having some further conversation about that.

But the one thing that he really did focus on was the fact that at the upcoming Singapore meeting he was really thinking that the meeting should be focused on three areas in particular. One was the strategic planning process; two, the ATRT recommendations which I think we can get on board with; and then three, this whole topic of ICANN globalization.

He stated that, you know, he felt so much time had been spent on the last meeting on Internet Governance and that we was hopeful that that would not continue to take center stage.

So it was, you know, it's mostly a call where he's providing an update to the different groups. There is, you know, some opportunity for us to ask questions but it's primarily a status update. So I can take any questions about that.

The other - there were just a couple of other things that I wanted to cover and then perhaps we can take some questions.

The second item that I wanted to let you know about is that I spoke with (Chris Mondini) who is responsible for outreach. And he let me know that he is going to be asking each of the stakeholder groups to participate in a video project that he's working on, so he's going to be looking for a couple of people to participate in these videos that he's doing.

And these videos will be like two minute videos where basically, you know, we would state our affiliation, what we do, the value we get from ICANN. And he's planning on using these videos in a number of different ways; I think on the ICANN Web site, we could use it on our own Web site.

So if you have any inclination or would be willing to participate in this video project, let me know. I know that he would be very grateful.

The other thing that (Chris) discussed with me regarding the upcoming meeting in Singapore is that he is planning an outreach lunch. Normally, you know, he does like breakfast in the past for local business, he's done cocktail receptions for local business. But he's going to be doing a lunch on the Monday which is typically when we have a closed door meeting with just the BC.

I would like for us to participate in this outreach event on the Monday unless others feel strongly that we need to spend that time alone. We will have already spent some time together on the Sunday when we meet with the CSG, but unless somebody objects to that I would like for us to participate in his Monday networking lunch with local business.

And then the final thing is that as you all know, Benedetta is moving on and has taken a position with ICANN. And we've been working through some of the specifics of her transition.

I actually have a call today with Rob Hoggarth to discuss with him resources that he might be able to provide from within ICANN to provide us some additional support. So I will let you know how that call goes and what he is able to provide if anything.

So that's a quick update from me. Any questions about anything? I see Ron and John, you both have your hand raised. So Ron?

Ron Andruff: Thanks Elisa. Apologies, I got on a little late so if I'm saying something that's out of order, forgive me.

But I just wanted to tag onto your comment about I think it was (Chris Mondini) I would assume that wanted to schedule the lunch.

I for one am very underwhelmed and quite dissatisfied at what's going on within (Chris Mondini)'s office. If you recall in Beijing, we were asked to go to the breakfast and see what was going on there for his business outreach. I think there were five people, if that, from outside and there was probably 15 or 20 of us that were the usual cast of characters from the, you know, BC and other constituencies.

Then we had the same event happen in Buenos Aires. And I found myself sitting in the room with (Chris Mondini) and two other staffers and someone else, and big buffets all prepared and no one there. And now he's going to do a lunch.

This is getting a little bit tedious and kind of ridiculous. He is trying to do things within the business part of the world which is our constituency. Why is he not providing funds to us that we go off and do these things? I'm just getting very frustrated going to a (Chris Mondini) breakfast and (Chris Mondini) lunch and seeing no one there.

I'm happy to go there and do it on behalf of the BC, but this would be something I would just go for the purpose of seeing if in fact we actually had some people in the room. Because this is getting beyond the beyond; it's a waste of money, waste of resources, waste of time. And I'm not sure what effort he is doing to support what the BC's needs are.

So I'm a little cranky about it but I just don't understand why we continue to indulge this man to do these things. And I'd love to hear more from others how they feel about this. Thank you.

Marilyn Cade: It's Marilyn. Can I just get into the queue? I'm not able to get into Adobe Connect.

Elisa Cooper: Sure. Let's see. Marilyn, I'll put you behind John.

Marilyn Cade: Of course.

John Berard: So Elisa, am I audible?

Elisa Cooper: You are.

John Berard: Okay. Perhaps my comment on forum, not just by what I think I'd like to say on this call, but also by having sat on the ccNSO Council call this morning in which there was an expression of concern over the apparent attempts to manipulate the agenda of the community in advance of the community getting together. And I think that's what I would like to talk about.

So you mentioned three things that hang together for me Elisa. First is Fadi attempting to, as I say, set the agenda for Singapore. It's not just that he wants three certain things to be the lead topics of conversation, but he also wants to push a little bit offstage the Internet Governance discussion. If he offers an agenda of three items and perhaps Internet Governance would be the fourth.

And I've long felt that one of the worst things that you can say to someone as you've got to understand is truthfully, I don't have to understand anything. But if you would like me to understand, then help me to understand.

The second thing is is video. Why should - what is the value of someone from the Business Constituency doing a video about the value we get from ICANN when in fact the value that we seem to be getting from ICANN has been diminishing?

And then finally, this notion of the Monday lunch, the mere fact that it would intrude upon a long-standing meeting of the Business Constituency so that we can better understand what our fellow constituency members are thinking and forge a common purpose seems to me to be a bad trade.

And my feeling is if there's a lot of this going on, this bad trade, it's like, "Well you're part of ICANN so you're naturally are supportive of ICANN and help us do what we want to do."

I know you're going to get into the globalization resolution in a little bit, but again, that seems to be springing from magic beans that nobody at the community has planted.

And so I do have some concern about this. And I want to offer an early look at something that I've been thinking about and it has to do with this notion of (crowd sourcing).

Fadi's second anniversary with ICANN will coincide, I think, with the London Meeting. And I'm thinking of instigating a biannual performance review, a crowd sourced biannual performance review of Fadi Chehade. It could be initiated in Singapore and finalized just in advance of the London meeting.

Now to some that may sound heretical. But on the other hand, it might be an interesting way to demonstrate exactly the nature of the concerns that, not just the Business Constituency, but many other constituencies and stakeholder groups have been expressing on their own mailing lists.

So that's really all I have to say; thank you.

Elisa Cooper: Yes, if you - so you know, I did not tell him that we would, you know, be participating in his lunch. I said that I would discuss it. It sounds like there's a few people that feel strongly that you do not want to participate and that's totally fine. I can let him know that we don't want to participate in his business outreach lunch.

However, I do want to try to leverage (Chris Mondini) and whatever support he can give us in terms of outreach because I personally don't think we have the resources to conduct outreach, especially in some of these local markets.

So I guess with that said, let me just take, you know, I think we have a number of participants; 15 people on the Adobe Connect. If I can just see by a show of hands people - if you do not want to participate in his lunch, can you raise your hand or - I'm sorry - give me the green agree that you do not want to participate.

((Crosstalk))

Marilyn Cade: Wait, wait, wait. I can't do that and my comments address this. Can I speak before we take a poll?

Elisa Cooper: Sure.

Marilyn Cade: Thanks. I want to comment on two things but I will comment only now and then I'd like to come back in please on the second topic. I'll comment on the collaboration with (Chris Mondini) challenge.

I think the approach that has been taken, while well-meaning, is not meeting our needs. And I had a chance to talk to (Chris) when he was here for the (State of the Net), and there is really a significant gap of understanding of what our needs are, it's quite disappointing to me, and how to work with us.

And I can understand why because he's been getting his understanding and he's got a very broad portfolio. But I made an effort to reach out to him since he was going to be here to see if I could invite a few business people to come

together. I didn't want to raise any hopes unless I, you know, could communicate with him.

And a decision was made to hold an event with Think Tank and advocates in Washington at the ICANN Office, and to call it a Civil Society Constituency Event hosted by ICANN. That's not what it was. I think it's just an embodiment of the gap in understanding.

What I propose we do is to try again to get our members - get ourselves together, and sit down with him and have again a concrete set of things that he can help to do to help us be effective. And I think that both meets the objective you just mentioned and also the comment raised by Ron.

"We want to work with you, but just coming to events that take us away from important policy making things and don't help us build our business community and constituency." It may give ICANN awareness, but it's not helping to solve a bigger problem.

So I don't think a broad participating in this lunch - I doubt I will be able to commit to that because of other responsibilities. But I understand and support the objective of trying to figure out a better way to get him to help us.

Elisa Cooper: Thanks Marilyn. So again, if I can just see quickly by using either - if you want - let me ask it another way. If you want to participate, click agree. If you don't want to participate, select disagree, if you're on the Adobe Connect.

Okay, so I see that there are, of the people that are voting here, I see the majority do not want to participate. So we will, in that case, have our normal Monday closed meeting, and I will let him know that we will not be supporting his event.

And then in terms of the video, I will lead that individual; I will plan to participate and provide support because in the end, it's really promoting the Business Constituency.

All right, thank you so much for that. I see that Phil, you have your hand raised. Ron and then (Gabby)?

Marilyn Cade: Elisa, sorry. Elisa, and I was still in the queue to finish my comment on the second point if you recall.

Elisa Cooper: Oh okay, I thought you were done.

Marilyn Cade: No. My second comment was about the issues that came out of the discussion about Fadi's meeting/briefing with the chairs and the discussion.

There's a significant new announcement made by an approval of the ICANN Board in a resolution, and perhaps we'll talk about it later, that I want to reinforce the concern that I heard too. That I do agree that this is Fadi as a well-meaning CEO thinking that he's going to improve the agenda planning by taking it over.

But these meetings are the community meetings. And I'm concerned about this approach. And I'm also concerned when you read the resolution, you will see an acceleration and continuation of empowerment of the CEO to do a lot of thinking...

Elisa Cooper: Actually Marilyn, we - at the top of the call, we said that we would keep that for our discussion on Internet Governance. So if we can hold off on discussion on the resolution.

Marilyn Cade: I'm not discussing it, I'm mentioning it as a rationale for the concern that John raised that the agenda approach that the CEO is proposing is very non-reflective of the interest of the BC and the community. I wasn't going into a discussion, but thank you for cautioning me.

Elisa Cooper: Okay. I'm sorry, Phil.

Phil Corwin: Thank you Elisa.

Quickly, in regard to having read the transcript of the Tuesday call between Fadi and the community leaders in regard to - I just - Fadi's statement that he wants ICANN globalization to be discussed but Internet Governance, he hopes it's not much discussed, if that means that he wants the community not to talk much about the Sao Paulo meeting which ICANN asked for, is co-chairing and is funding, I don't agree with that at all. I do think we should be talking about Sao Paulo. It's the last chance we have as a community to do so before it takes place.

It's also at odds with that resolution that was released last night where the board has set up all the advisory panels to advise and collaborate with the CEO on management on ICANN globalization and where Internet Governance is one of the panels. So that resolution identifies Internet Governance as a legitimate topic within the ICANN globalization conversation.

Second, I don't know what the plans are for the agenda in Singapore. We usually don't see the agenda until a few days before the meeting. But I would observe that, if not for everything that took place last year with Montevideo and the meeting in Brazil, it seems to me new gTLDs, and there are

unresolved policy and technical issues, would be a major focus at this meeting.

And I don't know to what extent if any it's going to be on the agenda. So I'm curious to see how that will be treated.

Elisa Cooper: Yes, so one thing I did let Fadi know in the - was that I would be, you know, taking this call that we had with him to our members and providing any feedback. And I agree; like I would expect an unresolved new gTLD issues to be a focus as well as basically the Sao Paulo meeting.

And if others feel similarly, I would be happy to correspond with him and let him know that we are also hopeful that those two items would be covered and a focus of the meeting.

Ron?

Marilyn Cade: Elisa?

Elisa Cooper: I'm sorry. We have Ron, then David Fares, and Jim Baskin. And then Marilyn, if you want to be back in the queue, I will put you after Jim.

Marilyn Cade: Thanks.

Elisa Cooper: Ron?

Ron Andruff: Thanks Elisa. I'm sorry that we seem to be talking through two points at the same time because I certainly agree with what Philip has just said with regard to the focus of the meeting in Singapore.

But I also want to finish up on the conversation about this lunch because there's also some discussion on the Chat about it.

What I was saying was that we can go to the lunch, we can support what is happening there. But what I have seen already is that nothing is happening at these things and it's such a lame exercise that he's doing.

So what I'm suggesting is that we tell them that as a Business Constituency, we want very much to work with him. But he needs to come to us and talk to us about what the meeting is going to look at, tell us how much budget we have, and let us start to do some work on that rather than him doing what he's doing and inviting us to come and sit in his empty rooms. That's the point I'm trying to get at.

So I do - would really like to see this be taken forward in a very serious way. So rather than just, okay, we'll go to a meeting and then we'll have the lunch and someone will go and sit there. No, we just can't continue like this. We have to get this ship righted; it's going in the wrong direction. That's the point I'm making.

Elisa Cooper: Well just to clarify. This is an opportunity for us to invite local business to attend this lunch.

I personally, and I don't think there's probably anyone on this call, who's in a position to organize an outreach event while we're in Singapore.

So you know, my preference is that we support it. But I saw that there was sort of a majority or people that did not want to support it.

Ron Andruff: The point is that the timing is, you know, we're just a few weeks away. So as many people have to scramble to try to make something happen on this thing as opposed to him having said to us post Buenos Aires, "By the way, in Singapore, I'd like to do a lunch. Here's the budget. How does it work? What about the timing? Can you guys work with us?"

That's what I'm getting at. To tell us now, "I'm going to do a lunch. Will you come?" As you pointed out, we're busy. So you know, how are you telling us now at the eleventh hour, and this is what has to stop. That's the point. Thank you.

Elisa Cooper: Jim?

Jim Baskin: Yes, another follow-up on this same subject. I didn't vote in the little straw poll we just did because I was concerned about how we would convey our response to them.

We have to make sure they understand that we have concerns about the effectiveness of these outreach meetings that are happening. And as Ron said, we want to work with them to make such things more - as effective as we can.

But regarding this particular plan for the session on Monday, the lunch, we already have a scheduled session - a very important scheduled session with the Business Constituency that it would be very difficult to reschedule. So therefore, we probably have to respectfully decline to participate or to possibly only send one person to represent us. Rather than just say, "No, we're not interested, bye."

Elisa Cooper: Yes. No, I think we'll try to see if there's somebody that's able to attend. But we will have our meeting Monday as scheduled.

Jim Baskin: Yes, thank you.

Elisa Cooper: David?

David Fares: You know, I posted my - sorry - I posted my opinion on the Adobe Connect.

Elisa Cooper: Okay. Marilyn, I think you wanted to make a comment.

Marilyn Cade: Just real quickly, I'll just restate it. I'm sorry I can't write in Adobe.

I agree with Elisa's goal. I think - I'm not trying to restate what you're saying. But I think the goal here is we want to find a way to work with Chris. Our experience so far has been what he's doing is not meeting our needs and we don't actually see how it's even meeting the overall needs affecting the business community.

We want to find a way to work with him. Maybe grant that - and you know, Elisa will do this, you know, brilliantly. But we want to find a way to work more collaboratively, but it's just not clear that this approach is affective and we have a conflict; blah, blah, blah.

Elisa, do you know if the IPC leadership and ISB, you know, have they - if we could send a couple of people. But I think it's going to be hard because I think our Monday agenda is probably going to be very challenging. It will come after the CCWG meeting which will be in a public setting and it's likely to be fairly rockets in terms of the amount of intensity. Rockets is the wrong word. It's likely to be fairly filled with strong feedback.

Elisa Cooper: Yes, I don't know. So I only just heard about this yesterday. So I don't know if they're able to participate or what they have plans for their Monday lunch time.

I mean I need to be - I really want us to be supportive of (Chris) and if there are things we want (Chris) to be doing. I think that he is very willing and wants to hear from us and wants to know exactly what we want him to do and I think he'll work towards doing those things.

So if people have ideas about what it is you want him to do, you know, you should definitely let me know and I will correspond with Chris and let him know what it is we have in mind.

He is planning - and I will send you something that he just sent to me yesterday. He is planning to do a webinar prior to the meeting; I think it's on March 10th for local business. So we have contacts with local business, I would encourage us to send that information on.

I think he's going to be preparing a more formal invitation for this webinar. He has something planned for local business just prior to the ICANN meeting and then this lunch. You know, we're encouraged to invite our local contacts, you know, to attend.

But if you have ideas about what exactly it is you want (Chris) to be doing, you know, please let me know and I will convey that information to him.

And I agree. I think, you know, we need - I'm sure that, you know, hopefully there will be somebody that would be willing to attend as a representative of the Business Constituency. And perhaps I can get someone like my colleague friend (Felming) can participate on behalf of the BC.

Let's see. Gabi, I think you have your hand raised?

Gabriella Szlak: Yes, can you hear me?

Elisa Cooper: I can.

Gabriella Szlak: Okay, so I just wanted to say that maybe we can have a small group for this lunch. I will be willing to go to it. I think we should work with (Chris Mondini). I think there's many things that we can do with this budget if we can help him to actually (unintelligible) to the right communities.

I have some ideas. I will have him (unintelligible) to be able to organize this breakfast in a different way when we are going to have to webinar together with ICANN, and (unintelligible) success. We'll have many participants. But then the other event during the ICANN meeting was too confusing to everyone to understand what to do during the ICANN meeting, (unintelligible).

So use to having like ten events in the same week with the same organization. So we can maybe have something kind of a meeting event for businesses in the places that we go.

I'm happy to discuss all these ideas in the (unintelligible) by email with those that are interested on being able to use this outreach in a different way, but I think for everyone. Thank you.

Elisa Cooper: Okay, thanks.

Great, so why don't we move on. I think we've got resolution on these issues around Fadi's proposed agenda. I will plan to send a brief note unless anyone disagrees about our desire to also see new gTLD's and the Sao Paulo meeting discussed, and a focus of the meeting in Singapore. I think we have a way forward on this lunch.

Let's move on and talk about the working group on Internet Governance. Let's also try to cover the topic around the board resolution.

I don't think that Steve DelBianco is actually on the call today. So we will hold off on discussions around policy unless there are particular things that we want to discuss today, and then I think that will keep us on track.

So I turn it over to the working group members on Internet Governance. So I don't know who wants to take the lead; David, Aparna, Marilyn or Phil.

David Fares: This is David, I can chime in. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, I haven't been able to participate in the last few calls.

But what we're trying to do right now, and those who have been more active, please correct me if I misstate anything. But what we're trying to do is organize ourselves to make a submission. What we've done is created a series of working groups to look at definitions; what multi-stakeholder means, etcetera. And those are works in progress.

Marilyn Cade: This is Marilyn. I'll pick up and make a couple of adds and maybe - we also created a working group and designated - we were asked to designate one representative from each of the groups to plan the agenda for and open participatory session on Monday.

We, as mentioned before, we did work collaboratively and got agreement to repurpose the SOAC session (unintelligible) that was dedicated for Monday. The chairs of the ACSO's reported back and that's been agreed too.

The sub-team is going to be starting to design a (format). They haven't told us whether it's right after the opening ceremony or in the afternoon. It's at least 90 minutes in length and there may be an effort to extend it to a full two hours. But that hasn't been addressed by the sub-group.

The idea is to have an extremely participatory communicate also like a town hall approach - at least that's one of the ideas that's going on. (Olivia) is here in that chair. Once it's (unintelligible) of the two co-chairs. But there will be a draft going out to all of the members on some of the brainstormed ideas before we actually have our first working call of that sub-group.

And there's a BC WG call tomorrow night at 8:00 pm my time. So there will be, I think, more progress to talk after that.

Elisa Cooper: Okay, I see Aparna, you have your hand raised; I'm sorry.

Aparna, are you on - no, you don't. Okay.

Marilyn Cade: I might say one more thing. There's a fair - there's a good amount of (reservation) going on about the planning in the (unintelligible) meeting that I can give a quick update on what we know from that and timeframes and things we expect more maybe.

But I just want to say something about the content that is going to be coming into the CCWG which is likely to expect the discussion of the CCWG and

mean that we're going to need more communication back and forth with the members.

The resolutions that have just been posted from the board, and what appears to be, there's a nonconfirmed information (unintelligible) around that ICANN just gave a quote of \$1 million or \$25,000. And I - it's just a rumor or a non-substantiated report, I can't tell you which one - to be a co-host of the IECS. And that they would be reviewing the panel there which would be before the public discussion at the ICANN community. And while the public - while the reports are open for public comment.

It is expected that Fadi is going to have an interacted discussion with the participants in the IEGF, and I think most of us know that that's a very - the community that is rapidly committed to moving the IANA function and certain other issues, and is mostly the technical community including technical representatives of many of the BC member companies.

Fadi will be in Barcelona on the 24th for what is being billed. It's the first meeting of the high-level multi-stakeholder working group of the planning for the Brazil Meeting on the stakeholder side. And each stakeholder category has three members. They will meet on the edge of the Barcelona meeting with the governments who are invited by (unintelligible).

And due to the lateness of the communication which was last Thursday, very few of the business representatives or the civil society representatives are going to actually be able to be in Barcelona; it's going to be described as a dry run. It's half-day or maybe a four-hour meeting.

We will be able to get good feedback about what happens there because there will be a - one of the business community, Business Constituency community

representatives will be there in person. And there will also be a representative from another one of the groups that has promised from civil society - (unintelligible) who has promised to send notes - to send written notes and to post to the One Net discuss group.

The (unintelligible) from the ITU and the UN Undersecretary General (Lou) have been added to the group of governmental side of the (equation). He's also seeing that there's been an appointment of the co-chair for the event from the business side, so there is a civil society co-chair, a technical community co-chair (unintelligible), and a Brazilian co-chair, and the business co-chair is business man who is a friend of Fadi's from South Africa.

The deadline - there is a request going on right now - and David, did you want to just update people on the request for the extension on the comments because you're, I think, more current on that?

David Fares: Yes, there was - it seems to be that there was an extension to 8 March to make submissions to the (Net Moondial) meeting. It was originally 1st March and now it seems to have been extended to 8 March.

Marilyn Cade: And so what that means - what the Fadi high-level panel that he is (unintelligible), the (unintelligible) panels, and other submission, apparently there will be also submissions from one of the other panels. There will be a variety of other submissions, some from civil society, etcetera.

The committee that will review the submissions and will decide what to do with them and categorizing them, etcetera, and we're very fortunate that that includes one of the BC Members by chance in a different role, and that's by (Adra Mill). So we also will have fortunately have a window of visibility into that.

Once the submissions are received, and they're suppose to be posted in a public Web site so everyone can see them. And since this document will be presented as well as draft document that will be the subject of discussion for consensus approval, that includes global principles and non-binding consensus approval. That includes global principles for Internet Governance and a roadmap for the continued evolution of the Internet multi-stakeholder ecosystem.

Elisa Cooper: Thanks Marilyn.

Marilyn Cade: (Unintelligible).

Elisa Cooper: Would it be worthwhile to spend a couple of minutes talking about the board resolution around globalization? Because I do want to make sure that folks are aware that there was this board resolution. And a couple of people have already alluded to the fact like where does this come from. It wasn't coming from the community.

Is there somebody that would - I think there are a few folks that have already spent some time looking at the resolution. Is there somebody that would like to speak to that or are there any thoughts that folks would like to share around this globalization resolution before we move on?

I really want to make sure that Chris has some time to provide his finance update. But before we kind of move on to that.

Marilyn Cade: Elisa, it's Marilyn. I can tell you that (unintelligible), where I was told that (unintelligible) very quick.

Elisa Cooper: Oh absolutely, that would be great.

Marilyn Cade: I was told that there's shock and amazement that I would be shocked and amazed by. Because it's very clear that the Board made it very clear in their last resolution that they are going to continue to thoroughly in all ways, everything that Fadi wants to do in this matter. And all this is doing is saying that.

So I read it a little bit different but that - I thought I might be interesting to know that (unintelligible) board member thinks that this is the board showing very strong support for Fadi continuing to do exactly what he's doing and exactly the way he's doing it.

Elisa Cooper: Yes, and just for folks that haven't had a chance to look at it yet. Essentially, it's a resolution that calls for globalization of ICANN in sort of all ways related to policy, issues related to the affirmation of commitment, (Diana) function. It's pretty - I read it to be pretty broad and pretty wide ranging with some pretty major implications.

Phil and then Aparna?

Phil Corwin: Thank you Elisa.

Yes, I read this one last night; some key takeaways for me. Yes, the Board is, you know, is doubling down with Fadi and what he started in Montevideo and Brazil. They've set up these advisory groups to collaborate with management in this quest for globalization. The advisory groups are made up of board members.

I found it rather extraordinary that the final sentence of the resolution is ‘The present CEO shall have the authority to change the advisory groups.’ And I assume that means the focus of the advisory groups and their composition, that is which board members are on them from time to time without requiring a further resolution. So this is basically the board placing itself in a position where management will tell it what it should focus on and who is on those groups.

I was also a little bit taken back at the end of the rationale. It states, “This is an organizational administrative function for which public comment is not required.” So it’s just handed down from the mountain and just accepted.

I think - the last thing I would say is that I think between the secret resolution in September and this, it’s a very strong argument for opening up board meetings to public scrutiny. We have no idea what degree of unanimity there really is, what divisions are on the board, where various board members stand, what they are considering as they pass these resolutions.

And for an organization that has public interest responsibilities and professes allegiance to transparency, for the most important body to be totally opaque in its operations, I don’t find acceptable.

Elisa Cooper: Thanks Phil. Aparna? I don’t know if you’re on mute. I think we’re not able to hear you. Okay, I guess not.

I’m not sure David if you’re in the queue or not. I don’t think so.

David Fares: Sorry, David Fares, no.

Elisa Cooper: Okay. Aparna, if you are able to raise your comments, just let us know, or maybe you can type it into the Chat and I can read it.

All right, so with that, let's - let's see. Aparna has two thoughts so we'll come back to those. But let's move on. I want to make sure we hear from Chris and the finance update.

Chris, can I turn it over to you?

Chris Chaplow: Yes, certainly Elisa. Hi everyone, Chris Chaplow speaking; a finance update.

I sent around three documents earlier on BC private. One was the budget and numbers for last year, and then there was the forecast for this year, 2014, and the third was a document report which explained the numbers and made recommendations. So if anybody can have those documents, that would help.

I'm going to be reasonably brief and not go through those documents in detail because you can read them.

Last year - just to say though that last year several members asked for copies of the detailed budget to be sent out because initially we did a shortened version by request only. And so I followed that lead from last year, followed that style and sent out the full (unintelligible) as it were to everybody. So you got everything, chapter and verse there. So hope that's not too much for everybody.

The 2013 Budget versus Actual document has got two columns. The first column was what we proposed 12 months ago, and the second column is what actually happened to the end of 2013. And that's pretty much in line with the report I gave in November as to where we would end the year on.

Concentrate on the first and the third (lock) which is the direct income. And that's, you know, the BC income and expenditure. And the indirect income is the - what I call the pass-through. It's the ICANN support requests - some of those support requests that came through the BC bank account which is why I report them. But the real figures if you like, for us, are the direct income.

And you can see from that, from the direct income, that the income was \$53,000, the expenditure was \$44,000. So we had a surplus of \$9000 to reserves. And that brings our reserves up to about \$24,000 I think which is 55% of our expenses in line with the new recommendation that I see in the (unintelligible) document.

Moving to Budget 2014 Proposed, well this is particularly challenging to say the least, this time around due to the changes that we're facing with the secretariat moving on, and also hopefully, very soon the 12 hours a week support from ICANN.

And so the finance committee discussed at length yesterday. And in the end, we sort of steered a middle and conservative course regarding our expenses. You know, without a crystal ball, we've done our best and we put a conservative, middle-of-the-road, expenses down.

And for that reason, we are recommending a budget review in the second half of 2014. So as soon as we really know or the finance committee really knows where the land is lying, then this budget needs to be reviewed again.

I think that's about all. I'm quite happy to take questions. That's all I probably should report in a monologue.

Elisa Cooper: Well I for one, and I think I'll speak on behalf of all the members, sincerely appreciate all the work you've put in. I mean you basically ended up serving as our finance chair in this last period even though your intention had been to step down, but you basically took us through the entire term.

So thank you so much Chris. I know it's a lot of work and we all appreciate all the work. I sincerely appreciate it and I know that others do too.

Chris Chaplow: Thanks Elisa.

Elisa Cooper: Any questions for Chris?

Marilyn Cade: It's Marilyn. I'd just like to jump the queue and applaud (unintelligible) congratulations and appreciation for you Chris. And take the opportunity to say that, you know, Elisa you've had the opportunity to work with Chris as the Chair, and all of our members I think have benefited not just from you in the role of Vice-Chair of Finance and Operation, but in how you help to establish new processes for finance committee (unintelligible), help to train (Vinny). And have also then a very active contributing member on policy issues all the way (unintelligible).

I just want to join Elisa and I'm sure others do as well.

Chris Chaplow: Thanks Marilyn.

Elisa Cooper: All right, so I do want to just check in with John and Gabi to find out whether there are any particular issues at the Council that you need information from members to answer to participate or address.

John Berard: This is John. The matters before the Council are, when compared to Internet Governance and globalization, fairly small. But the issues or the rails on which ICANN runs is far more offers (unintelligible).

The policy and implementation working group has issued a set of questions to other SOs and ACs in hopes of engaging a wider swath of the community in their work. The first meeting of the Cross-Community Working Group Drafting Team is set now for next Thursday. Becky Burr from the ccNSO and I from the GNSO are co-chairs.

And I think those would be the two, other than Internet Governance and globalization matters, that are of interest. And I think I would encourage anybody who can to participate, at least in lurk mode if not in active mode.

Gabi, did I miss anything? Gabi said she might have to drop off early. But I think that's pretty much it.

Are there any questions for us? And more importantly, are there any initiatives that members think we should take up at the Council that are not getting attention now? That's not something that we don't spend a whole lot of time talking about, but keep in mind (unintelligible) relationship. We aren't only just hearing what the Council as a whole has to say, but as a constituency, we have the opportunity to ask for issue reports or make motions that address issues that are essential to our interests.

((Crosstalk))

Gabriella Szlak: This is Gabi. I'm sorry I wasn't...

John Berard: (Unintelligible).

Gabriella Szlak: Just to mention to everyone that there is a seat to the Board to be filled by the non-constructed (unintelligible). And this is something that is going to happen in the final meeting this year. So just wanted to bring your attention of the globalization issue and we'll hear more in the next couple of days about that.

Elisa Cooper: So I do want to - I'm sorry to kind of cut it short because I do want to give a couple of minutes to Marilyn to review any open CSG activities. I'll just ask this.

I assume that these issues around Internet Governance and globalization will be taken up at the Council level. Is that - do you believe that will be the case John and Gabi?

John Berard: Yes, without question it will. Especially as they impinge upon the policymaking apparatus.

Elisa Cooper: Okay. Marilyn, so I think we just have a couple of minutes. Any updates that you need to provide on CSG activities?

Ron Andruff: I'm sorry Chair, this is Ron. If I may just before Marilyn speaks. I just want to - John asked a question and I would like to respond to it.

Elisa Cooper: Okay, if you can do it quickly go ahead.

Ron Andruff: Thank you very much. John asked the question is there anything that we feel he should be taking up with the GNSO Council.

So earlier in the conversation today, he noted in the chat, and I think he actually verbalized the idea of doing a review of Fadi that would effectively show up in London. And I think that's a very important thing.

As I've been listening to the call today, what I'm hearing is a lot of board activity fully empowering the CEO and present take on ever more important tasks and excluding the community. So a GNSO driven community, or how John said, "a crowd sourced review," but a GNSO Council driven review of our CEO would give us an opportunity to let the board know how we feel about how things are going.

And so I do think that's something that deserves more discussion within the BC. Thank you very much.

Elisa Cooper: Thanks Ron. Marilyn? I'm sorry, we just have like a minute or so. But any updates on the CSG front?

I will just say that our next call is scheduled for the first week in March, and that will be the call where we'll really do our planning in terms of agenda and topics and focus for the Singapore meeting.

But Marilyn?

Marilyn Cade: Sure. Since we just have a minute, you know, I'll use an email for most of the administrative updates. But if you haven't already responded to a request from (Denny) for your arrival times, etcetera, it's a really a priority to get that because all of the other things are coming up. And the CSG officers may end up having to pull together some ad hoc discussion related to Internet Governance or other issues where (unintelligible) going in before the Board or having breakfast with the GAC or these topics going to come up.

And so, you know, you kind of have an understanding of when we're going to be talking about things. We'll publish that again, but I think there may be some sort of puddling that may have to happen in relation to CSG issues.

The other thing I just want to remind everybody is there is an election process that will start to be underway for the election of the board member who is elected from the archive of the (unintelligible). While the councilors vote, it is an election that is based on feedback from the house, each side, and we're beginning to work through that.

And I know the topics come up on the Council, but it's also very much a topic that has to be driven; we have to have a procedure, blah, blah, blah. We'll do that by writing as well Elisa, if that's okay, about our collaboration.

Elisa Cooper: Yes.

Marilyn Cade: (Unintelligible) yes.

The third point that I want to make is I think, given the way that ICANN is moving, the CSG consultation and engagement and positions on topics are going to be I think a lot more important for the BC to have influence.

And I'm just going to flag the fact that there we may not continue to be as cohesive with the ICP that we have been in the past. And maybe we want to discuss ourselves, first of all, with the leadership of the CSG, Elisa, and then perhaps talk about with the members more about how we make sure we have a firm ability to show cohesion when we are making these engagements with the Board or with the senior staff so that we're not drowned out in our efforts to be heard.

So I'm not focusing so much on substance (unintelligible). I think it's CSG issue that is beginning to emerge or it's not going to be enough for us to be isolated or not have strong unanimity in some of the topics that are beginning to come up about what I'm going to now call ICANN governance.

Elisa Cooper: Great Marilyn, thanks for that.

So with that, I want to thank everyone for joining today's call. And we'll meet again in two weeks. We will do more of our heavy lifting on planning for the Singapore meeting, and I'm sure at that time we'll have more of a policy discussion on open issues.

So thank you so much for joining today. If there's anything else that we didn't cover, let's please take it to the list.

I'll talk to you next time and have a great day. Thank you so much.

Chris Chaplow: Thanks everyone.

Coordinator: Thank you. That concludes today's conference. You may disconnect at this time.

END