BRENDA BREWER:	Good morning, good afternoon and good evening. Welcome to the NARALO monthly teleconference on 9 September 2024 at 19:00 UTC. We will capture attendees from Zoom participation and list them on the wiki for today's call. I do have apologies from Judith Hellerstein and Gordon Chillcott. And ICANN staff, I will just announce that we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Brenda Brewer, for call management. And today's meeting is recorded, as you know, and a kind reminder to please state your name before speaking. And I'll turn the meeting over to Greg Shatan. Thank you.
GREG SHATAN:	Thank you very much, Brenda. Welcome, everyone, to our first meeting of NARALO for September. Actually, our only meeting for September, but first for what feels like a new fall season. It's crisp and cool in New York, relatively speaking. In any case, we have a fun program today. Naela Sarras will be speaking about the new gTLD Applicant Support Program and previewing what is the official and finished package of information, as opposed to discussing it as a work in progress. This is now a thing, and one of the reasons we are discussing it is because we want the RALOs, the At-Large Structures, and the individual members to help promote the Applicant Support Program so we can get more diverse applicants from at least underserved or not the highest echelons of financial society. In other words, we want to get beyond the usual suspects to bring in more people. Unlike the last time, I think the Applicant Support Program has been designed in a way that will support

a reasonable number of applicants and provide a variety of support that will help them become potential new gTLD registries.

Let's move on to our first and main event from our agenda, which is a more inclusive internet. Introducing the new gTLD Applicant Support Program with Naela Sarras. Go ahead. Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS: Thank you. Very exciting. Hello, Greg. Hello, everyone. Thank you so much for having us here today to talk about exactly what Greg just described. It is here. It's a reality now. The Applicant Support Program is opening in less than three months. And we want to make sure that we do things in a more inclusive way this time around and really use all the networks—all of you—to reach out to your networks and hopefully get those applicants. I think, Greg, you described it as "beyond the usual suspects" to be a part of this program. Brenda, thank you so much for driving this. So, let's go ahead and go to the next slide for me, please.

So, I'm going to quickly go over some of the beginning topics here because this is the group that knows what a new gTLD program is, knows exactly what a TLD is. And we want to focus here on how we could use this group, as well as any other groups around the world, to make sure that we're spreading the word on new gTLDs. And as Greg said, I'm Naela Sarras. I work on the North America Stakeholder Engagement Team together with my wonderful team members, Josie McGinty, who's probably here, and Joe Catapano. So, between the three of us, you've probably interacted with one of us in the recent

months. Let's go to the next slide, please, Brenda, and then the next one as well.

So, quickly, we should be on the slide that says "the new gTLD program." This is something that this group is very familiar with. The internet started with a very small group of gTLDs. Com, Net, and Org are ones that we're all familiar with. But we've had different rounds in the last 20 or so years to add more gTLDs to the root zone. None were as big as the most recent one, which opened in 2012, and that one added 1,200 gTLDs to the root zone. The gTLDs being the generic top-level domains, not to be confused with the ccTLDs, the country code top-level domains. So, this is the space we're talking about expanding in yet another round that is slated to open in 2026. So, 2026—before that, we're talking about 2012—so these don't come around very often. And that's why we need to do what we can to make sure that people who need to participate in this round are informed and aware of it. Next slide, please.

This group does not need to know what a gTLD is because you guys are all experts on that. We're talking about the label after the last dot in a domain name. So, if you're going left to right in an ASCII one, you're talking about the most right label. ICANN, of course, lives under ICANN.org in the internet space. And then there's been, since 2012, as we said, there's been many new TLDs that were introduced. .trade and .vegas are examples we give in this slide.

Let's go to the next slide, please. So, ICANN's preparing for the next round of applications for gTLDs, as we said. What exactly do we mean by applying for a new gTLD? And why would any organization want to

apply, let alone operate a gTLD? Because this is not a small endeavor. Next slide. So, these new gTLDs, you can think of them as a way to provide greater consumer choice and can be used in many new and innovative ways. And we've been uncovering some of these examples as we talk about new TLDs, just to help people think about, you know, it's not just a domain name, a top-level domain name.

So, some of the more innovative ways we've seen new TLDs used since the last round—I'll give an example here, for example, is .bank in the banking system. By serving financial institution industries only, so only focusing on financial institutions and offering a secure and a verified, easily identifiable location online. So, if you're banking with a .bank, I think you can assume that you have a secure, higher level of security when you're working with that bank. NYC—that .nyc, New York City, where Greg mentioned earlier—they also have a top-level domain. And I think theirs focuses on showcasing the diversity of the city, of people, of perspectives, of businesses. And Greg can correct me if he doesn't see the presence of New York City that way. Or the .nyc.

.new here is mentioned—that's another example. If you go in your browser and type doc.new, what pops up is a Google Doc, a brand-new Google Doc. So, that's a very new way of using a TLD, so that's just another example. And, of course, we've seen many gTLDs that represent cultures, brands, geographies, communities, special interests, and more. And that's the message that I think we need to express when we're talking about why a new gTLD.

So, let's go to the next slide, please. So, opportunities for businesses—a gTLD can be a branding opportunity. So, not necessarily a branding

opportunity. So, these opportunities, really, they're limitless. They allow individual businesses, commercial organizations, or entire sectors to develop a unique label or presence for themselves on the internet.

We're talking about businesses benefiting from this, but also communities and cultures, geographies like cities or regions, governments, and then targeted customers or members of community groups. And then again, the whole—a very important message behind the next round—is this is about inclusivity and having more scripts and more communities are presented online. The last round has done a tremendous amount of getting more diversity added to the domain name system, and this is about adding more as well.

Next slide, please, Brenda. So, what are some of the benefits of running or operating a gTLD? You've got enhanced security, because you have, as a registry operator, someone who operates a TLD, greater control over the security measures tailored for that domain. We've got monetization opportunities. So, as a registry operator, you can sell the domain names under that gTLD, potentially generating revenue. There's increased credibility—a gTLD can enhance the credibility and trustworthiness of a brand in the eyes of users when you operate your own TLD and send them to your own TLD. There's control over that brand, so the gTLD gives you much more control over the brand you operate online. And, as we said earlier, flexibility and creativity of how you can use that TLD, and control over policies.

This is interesting, because a lot of the policies of how you operate a TLD are decided at the multi-stakeholder model, but through the ICANN consensus policies. But also, an RO, a registry operator, generally has

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the autonomy to set registration policies for its own gTLD, including who can register the domain name under what gTLD and how, for what purposes. And then there's localization. We talked about adding diversity of scripts. You can allow a more localized domain name that caters to specific regions or languages, improving the diversity. Next slide, please.

Now, becoming a registry operator is not an easy decision to walk into, and it's not really a small undertaking. So, we do want to make sure that people are aware of what it means to take on operating a TLD. So, let's go into that a little bit.

Next slide. So, when you're applying for a gTLD, as an applicant, your organization is basically asking to run a piece of the internet, right? A very major piece of the domain name system. The registry itself is a database of those domain names that are registered in the TLD. And, as the registry operator, you are maintaining the master list of those registered in that registry. And, as a registry operator, you have contacts with registrars that enable you to sell gTLDs under that registry. As the registry operator, you add, you delete, you modify domain names under that gTLD. So, we'll stop here for now, just in order for time purposes, to be able to get to the rest of this. Next slide, please.

Again, this is not a small undertaking. All gTLDs, all gTLD applicants, so they have to demonstrate that they have the operational, technical, and financial capabilities necessary to operate a TLD. So some of these, including technical capabilities, like running a back-end services, the name servers, the domain name security stuff. These you can run on your own as a registry operator, or you can outsource to a third-party

provider. But applying for the TLD itself is also a financial commitment. Right now, that's looking at, there is a range for the price. It's looking at between 208,000 to 293,000, just to submit an application. The final price is in the works right now and should be determined sometime in the later part of September. That's slated for arriving at a final number, but that's the range here, certainly. So next slide, please.

NAELA SARRAS: Responsibilities for operating a TLD. There's many aspects. There's technical, financial, regulatory, of running a TLD. The registry operator plays a key role within the internet ecosystem to keep a master database, that registry database, of all the domain names registered in each top-level domain, and generate what we call the zone file, which allows other computers to find those domain names registered in the TLD. Registry operators are also responsible for maintaining the registry for each top-level domain. The responsibilities of the registries include accepting registrations, registration requests, maintaining the database, as we said earlier, providing the name servers to publish the zone file, et cetera. So next slide, please.

We said earlier, and we started out by saying, this is about the Applicant Support Program, and we said throughout the presentation so far that this is not an easy or a cheap endeavor. So, but the good news is there is assistance available for gTLD applicants to apply for gTLDs. So next slide, please.

There are criteria in order to qualify to be a gTLD applicant under the Applicant Support Program. This is to qualify for the Applicant Support

Program. This is separate from applying for the string itself to be the generic top-level domain. So this is qualification for the Applicant Support Program. Different criteria include business due diligence, public responsibility due diligence, financial need, financial viability, and then eligible entity status. And I'll talk about each one of those in the next slide or two. But what's important is there is an Applicant Support Program Handbook that's published. And so anyone, any entity that we're talking to that might be interested in this, the first thing to refer them to is the Applicant Support Program Handbook, and those links are available at the end of this presentation. Next slide, please.

So Applicant Support Program. Applying for the TLD is expensive and maybe out of reach for many. Therefore, that's the general idea behind having the Applicant Support Program, which helps kind of break down the barrier to entry. But in order to qualify for one of these, for the Applicant Support Program, the applying entity has to be one of these. It has to be either a non-profit, non-governmental or charitable organization, it has to be an intergovernmental organization, has to be an indigenous or a tribal people's organization, or a small business that operates as a social enterprise or that is located in a less developed economy. So this is very specific criteria. I know when we were talking about this last week, there was maybe, there could be some confusion or questions about who applies, and the specific criteria here is talking specifically to who qualifies to apply for an ASP. And we should be very clear about this when we talk to our communities about it.

EDUARDO DIAZ: I'm sorry, Naela, this is Eduardo. Which number of slides should we be looking at? Because we are on slide 18, and what you're talking about is not there.

NAELA SARRAS: Oh, no, no. This is slide 16. You should only be in 16. Sorry, Brenda, go back a little bit to 16. I should be looking at what you guys are looking at. Slide 16, where I have four criteria. Are you looking at it now? Applicant Support Program, slide 16?

EDUARDO DIAZ: Yes, thank you so much, Naela.

NAELA SARRAS: Yeah, of course. Thank you for asking, clarifying. And so applicants will need to certify to being one of these types of entities that are listed here in order to qualify. So now we're gonna go to the next slide, Brenda. Now we're on 17.

And the type of support that's available under this Applicant Support Program is two types. There's the financial support, and then there's the non-financial support. Financial support includes fee reduction between 75 to 85% reduction of the fees based upon available funds and the number of applicants that qualify. It also includes bid credits, and it also includes a reduced or waived base registry operator fee. So that's on the financial side.

On the non-financial side, and this is important because if you were trying to draw new people into this space, there needs to be support, bringing them in and ongoing support going forward. So the non-financial support includes training materials, applying for a gTLD, becoming a registry operator. There will be capacity development and a mentorship program. There's access to what we call an applicant counselor that will be run out of the ICANN organization, where you can contact an applicant counselor as you develop your application to ask questions. And then there are a list of volunteer professional service providers that have volunteered to act as guides to applicants. And that list will be provided by ICANN.

There is also one thing before we move away from this slide. I believe there is a new ICANN Learn course that was just released about running a TLD. So that's another resource that I think if I were entertaining the idea of becoming an applicant, I would certainly review that one as well. So then, Brenda, let's go to the next slide. Now we're on 18.

So evaluating the applicant support applicants. This is the phase that we're talking about that's opening in November of this year. So in a little over two and a half months. The general evaluation will-

ALAN GREENBERG: It should be 17 you're on, not 18.

NAELA SARRAS: I finished, we finished 17, and now we're on slide 18.

ALAN GREENBERG: Your numbering is different.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Oh, really?

ALAN GREENBERG: Of the deck we have, 17 is the types of evaluations.

NAELA SARRAS: Oh, wow. What you have is what I sent. Huh. Interesting. Okay, that's weird. How did that happen? Okay, go back one then to 17, please, Brenda, thank you.

So there is a legal compliance check that happens on the applicant. There's confirming that all required documentation has been submitted. There's confirming that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the new gTLD program. And then there's always a background screening check that happens on all applicants. So that's the general evaluation support criteria. Now let's go to slide… How did that happen? So now we're going to go to 18.

BRENDA BREWER: Phase two, right?

NAELA SARRAS: Yes. So phase two, there's a public responsibility due diligence described here. This is the part that's looking at… This is the part that's done by a

panel that's evaluating that the applicant does not trade and produce or promote an industry or string contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order, and that the applicant is not affiliated with another entity. There's the financial need, and then there's also the financial viability. And these are explained on this slide right here. Okay, so then let's move to the next slide.

Okay, so what happens next? Once an application goes through the Applicant Support Program, this is really important to remember. The Applicant Support Program is determining whether the applicant qualifies for applicant support. So regardless of the outcome, there's still the application period for the actual string or the TLD. So from November 2024 to November 2025, this is the Applicant Support Program period that we're talking about, to qualify for the applicant support. At the end of that, you have four or five months, where then the application period opens for the next round. And that's when qualified applicants that want to take advantage of that support can come and request or apply for their string. So there are completely different applications. And that's important to note. Okay, so then next slide, please.

So these two slides are really just giving an example. As an applicant, as a supported applicant, what is the kind of expected journey that you would be going through, or an applicant can expect to go through? And so these are the phases explained here. So for the sake of time, I don't want to go through each one of them, but what's important to show here is that there is support provided by the organization and kind of guiding through the different steps from being aware that the application period is open, aware of the resources that are available,

and then actually submitting an application. Next slide, please. Submitting an application to where the applicant is informed of the outcome of their application. And then if they are approved, then they have access to the resources as an approved applicant. And then they can move on to the next step, which will be actually applying for the gTLD.

Okay, so the next slide, the one that says key dates, that's the one that I want to focus on here to make sure that everyone is aware. In November 2024, that's what's coming up the soonest, 19th of November to be exact. That's when the Applicant Support Program application opens, and that's open for an entire year from 19 November 2024 to 2025. In December 2025 is when the Applicant Guidebook is expected to be released. This is the Applicant Guidebook for the gTLD itself. The Applicant Guidebook for Applicant Support Program, that's already out and available, and you can refer to it for the rules and the procedures to qualify for Applicant Support. This is the Applicant Guidebook to apply for the TLD. That's expected in December 2025, is estimated to be available in December 2025, so a year from December. And then applicants are expected to be able to start applying for the TLD in April 2026. So that's roughly the timeline we're looking at for the next about year and a half. Next slide, please.

So events and resources, and this is where we need everybody here. This is why we're talking about this 18 months in advance. We need everyone to be aware. We need everyone to be engaged and helping spread the word. One place where we place all of the information that we're doing, such as webinars, meetings like this, one-on-one meetings, anything that is involved in the next round, we're posting it on the

ICANN engagement calendar, which we give the link to here. So go one more slide, please. Yeah, I think you got ahead of me. That's fine.

And then what's more important is using… this is why we're coming to all the RALOs, is using the resources available to you to basically do engagement and outreach. So identifying target markets, please tell us if you think we're not reaching out to the right markets, to the right entities. This is when we're asking everyone to help. To identify these eligible entities, we may ask you to, if you identify one that we haven't identified, to please help us connect with them. We're doing a lot of cold calls. We're doing a lot of just brainstorming about what entities might be interested and reaching out to them. And this is where we can use your help as well to identify those. And that's where our consultation with the community members is important.

Another thing, another very positive thing that happened certainly since Kigali, and then it became available in the last three, four weeks, is toolkits and materials available for that outreach. And I have a link to it in the slides, in the next one or two slides. And that is meant to be, if you hold your own events, and if you have your own networks that you're reaching out to, you can certainly supply… you can certainly tap into the toolkits and materials that we've made available and share that information with them and see if they have any questions or if they'd like to reach out to staff to ask those questions.

So then let's go to the next slide, please. This is our call to you to collaborate. We're relying on you. We're asking for your help here. We're asking for you to help us with capacity development, communication, and outreach with a focus on global inclusivity. That's

really, again, the cornerstone of this program. We're asking you to help us with outreach to engage to entities that may not be on our radar, or that we're not aware of, or the entities that you know are in your teams, I'm sorry, in your networks and would be interested in this. And that's why we're coming to you in this meeting to ask for the… basically an invitation to collaborate. And the next slide, please.

I spoke about this earlier, what your role could be here helping identify and mentoring potential applicants, and then connecting those applicants, established domain name sector players with new entrants. So we all know entities within the community that are very well connected and very well established and understand this, but now it's time to go beyond that and make sure that they're also connecting to other networks and other communities as well. And next slide, please.

This is what I referred to earlier about the toolkits that are available. So you also can become a next round gTLD champion. We've released in the last three or four weeks, the link is up here, the self-service champion toolkits that are available on this link, on this slide. It includes presentations, it has one-pagers, it includes a really good amount of information about what's coming up in terms of ASP, the Next Round. So I encourage you to take advantage of it, take a look at it. And if it doesn't answer questions, please email us and let us know. And next slide, please.

We have dedicated email addresses and a microsite for the Next Round. We're providing the links here for you to contact us if you have any questions. My colleague, Bob Ochieng, works out of the Kenya office, but he is very much looking after this in terms of outreach. And so if you

have any questions, email him, or either just email me, please do, or any of my team members.

And this is the last slide. Could you see what's next, please? This is the helpful links I referred to earlier with the Applicant Support Program website, the Applicant Support Handbook. So all these links are good things to be aware of for the Next Round. So that's just a slide of the links that we provided. And then next slide, please.

Yes, okay, thank you. So I'll stop here. This was really… I know much of this is… this committee is as informed as it gets when it comes to gTLDs and the Next Round. And so our purpose here is to see if you have any questions or for us about outreach and anything that we can help with and definitely any advice or guidance for us on how we could do better outreach or more outreach. So I'll stop. Thank you.

EDUARDO DIAZ: How much money, you know, it's about 75, 85% or 80% of the application fees. But, you know, going forward, once you get your delegation, you know, if you're successful, there are costs associated to that, right? Especially fees that you have to pay to ICANN annually. And that's one question. I have another one. You know, you said somewhere that you cannot be affiliated to another company when you do this, right? So if I want to become a registry, but I don't have all the technical know-how, I know there are companies out there that provide the service for me. Can I be affiliated to those? Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS: Yeah, I went over that one very quickly. So, okay, let's go back to the first one, the fees. I think you're talking about after a TLD is delegated, there's ongoing fees like registration fees, correct? That's what you're describing, Eduardo?

EDUARDO DIAZ: Yes, you're correct.

NAELA SARRAS: Yeah, so I believe that as an Applicant Support Program, there's relief from those fees. I don't know what the fee relief structure is. I can look it up and I can provide a more specific number, but yes, I believe applicant support, successful Applicant Support Program participants have that relief for a certain amount of time until the registry gets itself up and going. So that hopefully answers that question.

On the affiliation, what I meant there is being affiliated with another entity that's already a gTLD operator, I believe. That's what we mean by it's not affiliated. So let me quickly here see what slide I said that on. So let me just give you that very clear answer. So this was on, I believe I said that on slide 19, right? Is that the one you're asking? So it has to be that the applicant is not affiliated with an existing gTLD registry operator and or another prospective gTLD applicant in the next round that would not meet the ASP criteria. So if you're coming in on one hand as an applicant for an ASP, but in another application, an applicant for a regular gTLD, not an applicant support one, it can't be affiliated with another one. Because I think the idea is if you're coming in as one that's willing to pay for the TLD, then it shouldn't be one that's coming in as an

applicant, if that makes sense, an ASP. Does that make sense, Eduardo? I don't want to give examples because I don't want to name specific entities.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Confusing.

NAELA SARRAS: Yeah. But definitely if you're affiliated with an entity that's going to be a registry service provider, for example, yes, of course. I don't know how you're using affiliation here. I think if you're using it in a technical sense of no, but if you're using a third-party entity to provide your registry services, for example, then yes, that is fine, of course.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Okay, thank you.

ALFREDO CALDERON: I do have a question for you. You mentioned a couple of times that the applicants, and I'm guessing, this is my perception, that they have to do some research before they apply because if the script they want to use isn't listed or available, they can't apply. So that limits the number of underserved countries or communities that would be interested in applying. Is ICANN doing something besides the AU initiative to support them? Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS: Yeah. So let's be clear what that is. So in ICANN, there's something called the label generation rule set. That label generation rule set is an accumulation of all the scripts that have been admitted into that rule set, and those are all the scripts that have gone through the process of creating the label generation rules for that script.

So for example, the Arabic community got together and said, these are the characters from the Arabic language or the Arabic script, excuse me, that could be used for domain names, right? So that was added to the rule set. And then the Latin community did the same thing and said, here are the characters that could be used for Latin-based labels, and then that was added to the rule set, and so on. So you're saying if there's a community that isn't included already, that has a script that isn't already represented by that rule set, they can't apply for a TLD using that script, correct? That's what you're saying, and that is correct.

Yes, that's the case today, because there has to be a rule set that decides, is this a legitimate label or not? Because how do we decide if it's… ICANN on its own cannot decide that. There's also the question of variants, if a label has variants, can those variants be delegated? Do they need to be blocked? And that's why the script is limited to that one.

Now, that said, these label generation rules are constantly popping up. There's a community right now focused on Inuktitut in Canada script. And that's what… they're creating the label generation rules for that script right now. Once they complete their work, it's added to their label generation rule set. So you're right, the community needs to come together and make itself obvious. ICANN will help with creating the

label generation panel for that community and put together the rules. And then those rules, once they're vetted, can be added to the rule set. Hopefully that makes sense.

ALFREDO CALDERON: Yeah, it does. Thank you.

BILL JOURIS: On that same point, we just had a document that ALAC in fact put a comment in on the process that's been laid out for what do you do if you have a script that isn't in the LGR. So there is a process for doing that short of the full-blown effort that it took to get repertoire and variants and all that stuff for the existing scripts. There is a process being developed, I guess is the way to put it, since it's still in the public comment phase. But there is something being done on that front.

NAELA SARRAS: Thanks, Bill. That's really helpful. Thank you. Greg, I think I took longer than what I was allotted. My apologies. Do you want me to keep going with the questions?

GREG SHATAN: Let's do questions. Looks like we have David Mackey first up.

DAVID MACKEY: Thank you. Hi, Naela. David Mackey, for the record. Thank you very much for the presentation. I am learning a lot. Unfortunately, I

apologize in advance if I'm a little still confused and my question is not very precise. One of the things that I'm trying to understand, and maybe if I speak as if I might be an applicant in the future, which I won't be, but if I am the perspective of an applicant, is it fair to say that two main work items that I have to do in order to make this operational is, one, I have to interact and contact ICANN and get permission to use a certain label. And that's a lot of what we're talking about here. But in addition to that, I also have to figure out how to make it operational. And I need access to some sort of registry services, which I can either implement on my own, possibly, or contract with an existing registry. Is that a reasonable way to look at things?

NAELA SARRAS: Yes, David. Actually, that's a very, very good way of looking at it. Yes. There's the process of acquiring the TLD, the top-level domain, and that's done through ICANN. Because once you're approved to have it, then there's the part of ICANN, which is the IANA, that actually puts it in the root zone so that it becomes technically operational. Right. And then once it's live and operational, then you have the actual job of running it day to day, deciding who can register domain names under it. Absolutely what you said, getting all the technical stuff together to make sure it's operational. ICANN does not physically run any of those TLDs. ICANN only delegates them on the root zone so that they can be operated. The domain name system is based on delegation, and so ICANN delegates it to the operator, and then the operator operates it.

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DAVID MACKEY: Wonderful. I'm less confused now. Thank you very much.

NAELA SARRAS: You're welcome.

EDUARDO DIAZ: A follow-up on David's question. If you hire a registry to help you with that part of the operation, now if that registry is also applying for a gTLD in this round, can you hire that registry to do the operational part for your top-level domain? Hopefully, you will understand my question.

NAELA SARRAS: If you hire an entity to do your registry, your RSP, right, your registry service provider.

EDUARDO DIAZ: And it's what David asked. If you don't have the technical operational means, I mean, you don't want to do that yourself, you can hire a registry to help operate that, provide that service for you. You say yes. My question is, if that registry that you're considering as part of providing you the service, if that registry is applying for a gTLD in the second round, can you still do that?

NAELA SARRAS: I believe those are two separate things. Are you going back to that affiliation question? Is that what you're going back to?

EDUARDO DIAZ: No, I'm going back to what David asked, that if you don't have the technical know-how of operating a registry, you can hire a registry to do that for you.

NAELA SARRAS: Yes, you can. You can hire. That's exactly what those registry service providers do. Now, one thing I can tell you from my IANA background, it's hard to hear—we never want to be in a position where one entity is just labeled just as a label, as a registry operator, and then a completely different entity is actually doing all the work. I guess as long as you have the right contractual agreements between you and whoever is doing the work, because again, you're operating a part of the domain name system, and there needs to be understanding of who's doing what.

But remember, when you're a part of the application process of applying for a TLD, it's actually showing that you have the technical and the operational expertise to operate a TLD. So all of that is outsourced. So the technical part, that makes sense, makes very much sense to operate that. The operational part of what you're saying, outsourcing the whole thing, I don't know how that works in the evaluation criteria. I'd have to ask my colleagues, honestly. I don't know what that means, to just delegate the full thing.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Okay. Don't worry. I was curious. Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Naela. Looks like we have no more questions. I think that's very helpful. And if we want, at another time, we can also have a registry services provider company come in and talk to us about what they do for registries. They're really separate, in a sense. And I think the companies that do both keep those businesses separate. In other words, the companies that offer back-end services have, in essence, a division that does that, that's separate from the division that runs the registries that they operate. Although, of course, the technical services come ultimately from the same source. But in any case, it's a separate concept.

In any case, let's put the agenda back up so we can see where we're going next. And we only have 10 minutes left, if I'm correct. So, without further ado, let's get a report on the CPWG and open public comments. Bill, you or Eduardo want to go first?

BILL JOURIS: Okay, Bill Jouris for the record. As I mentioned, we looked over the proposed approach for dealing with scripts that are not yet processed by IDNs. We've also had a couple of other things. There's an effort going around to figure out what amendments have to be done to the ICANN bylaws dealing with, I think it's funding for the grants program, and Naela may be able to speak to that more than I can. But that's been under discussion.

And finally, as we're all aware, because folks doing .Quebec are here in North America, there have been some challenges around the Latin script and the use of diacritics. And the GNSO has proposed one approach, the board didn't like it. They proposed another approach, the board had problems with that one. So they're on to a third approach. I have some personal difficulties with it. But the way the world works is the GNSO gets to make these proposals, and they can take comments from the rest of us, which they can either pay attention to or totally ignore. And who knows which they will do on this case.

But for the benefit of the .Quebec people, there are efforts being made to at least address their issue. Whether it will be satisfactorily addressed, I don't know, but the good news is it's not being ignored.

And the main other topic, I think, has to do with the next round SubPro. And Greg, I think, is far more expert than I on that one. So I'm going to leave it to him. That's what I've got. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Bill. Eduardo, anything to add?

EDUARDO DIAZ: I just want to add one part that was discussed last time. It's very interesting and it has to do with the transfer policy review. This is policy review, transfer policy review, is when you transfer a domain from one registrar to another one. So there was a discussion about that when you change something in your domain, let's say an email, because you're ready to transfer that... I mean, the information that you have attached

to the domain. Let's say you change an email before you want to transfer that to another registrar, but just because you want to make sure the data that goes across is correct.

Now, if you do that, they put a lock on your domain for 60 days. That means you made a change in one registry, and then you cannot move that for 60 days just because you changed something, something like that. So there was a discussion about that, about reducing that from 60 days or some kind of number. What I'm not sure is… what I believe is the majority provided to provide a standalone policy to work on this, to reduce this 60 days, but I'm not sure if that was the next step. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thanks, Eduardo. Let's move on to Marita Moll to talk about what the OFB working group has on offer since there's busy stuff there too.

MARITA MOLL: Hi, Marita Moll speaking. Yeah, Heidi's been putting some stuff on the chat about ALAC having ratified a number of things that have been going through the operations and finance group. One of them is that issue of the grant program. The proposed amendment of the grant program, we actually agreed with, or the comment actually agreed with the amendment that was designed to exclude the use of ICANN reconsideration and independent review processes to challenge decisions. And Judith Hellerstein and Maureen Hilyard prepared a response on that, that supports the amendment because it supports the

recommendation of the cross-community working group on enhancing accountability part of.

The other one is the one Greg worked on a lot, which was IRP IOT independent review process implementation oversight team, which concerns the work of a panel to develop dispute rules. And mostly that was also ratified and agreeing with the proposals that were put forward, except asking for some clarity on such words as capacity and limited circumstances.

I wanted to highlight what we've been talking about here, the new gTLD program in that the OFB does have a team looking at the objection procedure, which ALAC might be able to use if there was an objection to some proposal, which had something to do with community or public interest. You could imagine, you know, something like supposing it's already been taken, but you know, a big bookstore wanting to own .book and only have its books under there. So that's something that, you know, as a public interest group At-Large might want to object to. One item is the issue of standing in this group, that we need to have standing or do we need to have standing in order to speak on this issue, and also there are currently two sub-work teams looking at the process flow by which ICANN can submit comments and file objections that would satisfy the criteria set by ICANN to obtain objection funding, because there's also a funding issue involved here.

And there's also a team which is scoring sub-team looking on how at-large can quantify what is perceived as a community or limited public interest objection. Dev Anand Teelucksingh has actually obtained the previously inaccessible report from the independent objector in the

2012 round, which contains a number of useful recommendations that we might be able to build on. Now I've got plenty of other things to say, but I shall leave it at that and we'll move on to that next meeting, I guess. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you. I think given time I'd like to go directly to the AOB for Alan Greenberg and then if there's anything that's worth saying about ICANN 81 and 82, we can say it here or just on the list. So Alan, why don't we go over to you?

ALAN GREENBERG: Many of you are familiar with the ICANN Continuous Improvement Program that's been designed to replace the specific reviews, the organizational reviews rather, that we carried out before. I sent out to the NA Discuss list a week ago a draft document which describes the various principles and criteria associated with the program and how the NARALO is responding to it. I've only gotten one comment since then. I would appreciate if people could take a look at it and be honest. Tell me it sounds good, it sounds like a pile of something, or you have specific comments to make on it. It would be good to get some feedback, both positive and otherwise, if necessary. I'll keep it open for the rest of this week and then I have to clean it up and submit it. So I look forward to any comments you can make and back to you, Greg.

GREG SHATAN:	Thank you, Alan. Let's all hope that we can continuously improve. We're right on the hour now, so I'll just mention briefly that, believe it or not, in just a couple of months, we'll be going to Istanbul for ICANN 81 and ICANN 82 in Seattle will be coming up and that's going to be another NARALO-hosted event. So we'll have our roundtable and our plenary session and some sort of a social event, possibly involving Science Seattle craft beers. So we're going to be planning that and people who want to volunteer to help plan that, it'd be great. I see a hand from David Mackey. Maybe he's going to tell us what beer he likes in Seattle.
DAVID MACKEY:	I'll have to think about that one, but I'm just going to make a quick and hopefully it's a shameless plug for the CIRA elections that are ongoing. I'm trying to run for the CIRA board again this year. I need 20 votes to get on the final members list. So for any CIRA members who have not already done the show of support, please consider looking on an email from CIRA on August 29th and click on the link and then select my name and then hopefully I can get on to the final election. So thank you very much, Greg, for letting me do my shameless plug.
GREG SHATAN:	Thanks, David, good luck with that. I wish I was Canadian enough to vote for you, but unfortunately, as a never-pat expat, I'm not qualified. So with all that and without further ado, we'll call this meeting adjourned and sure, I will see everybody on various sessions and then again in the next month. Thank you and goodbye from here.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]