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**BRENDA BREWER:** Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Welcome to the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency, also known as NPOC webinar series. This is Webinar #2, taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.

This webinar is recorded. Kindly keep your phones and microphones on mute until questions are taken. I'm pleased to turn the call over to Mr. Adam Peake. Thank you.

**ADAM PEAKE:** Thank you, Brenda. Welcome, everybody. This is the second in the series of webinars we're organizing for NPOC. Today's agenda we will have Patrick Jones who is a colleague of mine from the Global Stakeholder Engagement group at ICANN, an ICANN staff, and Patrick is a senior director in the GSE group. He, among many other things, does a lot of security and operational training for us. And today Patrick will be talking about DNS, how the DNS works, and how the registries and registrars operate within the DNS operations.

Our second speaker will be Emily Barabas. Emily is working for the Policy team, where she's an expert on policy development and supports the Generic Name Supporting Organization, the GNSO, in policy work. Today Emily will talk about the structure of the GNSO, NPOC's place within it, and the process of policy development in ICANN, and focusing in on the policies that affect and bind the registrars and registries, the contracted parties. This is the core of the work of the GNSO and is of particular interest for NPOC and NPOC members to understand the

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

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opportunities for them to contribute to the policies of ICANN, of the Generic Name Supporting Organization.

So with that, I would like to hand over to Patrick. I expect we will have about 20-minute presentations from Patrick, and then 20 minutes from Emily, roughly, which will leave us about 15 minutes for Question and Answer. So please think about your questions as you're listening to the presentations and we will run through them at the end of the call. You can raise your hand and ask the question live or put your questions in the chat and we will be monitoring those. So thank you very much. And with that, over to Patrick. Thank you.

PATRICK JONES:

Adam, thank you very much for the introduction. Greetings, everyone. I'm Patrick Jones from our Global Stakeholder Engagement team. Am I able to advance the slides or, Brenda, will you do that when I prompt you? Great.

For my lecture today, I'm going to give an overview of the Internet's unique identifiers. This is a high-level presentation. There are many options if you want to dive deeper into this. First, we have an ICANN Learn training session on DNS Fundamentals that I highly encourage participants to view. This information is presented in a much more technical fashion through our Office of the CTO Technical Engagement team. They do these trainings in our regions.

So for today I will touch on these themes at a high level. Certainly, if you have questions, hopefully, Adam, you can help call those to my attention because I can't actually see the chat while I'm giving my

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lecture. But hopefully, I'll address these issues, and if you have more questions, we can raise those when we get to it. So thank you very much. If you can advance to the next slide.

As I mentioned, with our Global Stakeholder Engagement team, I've been at ICANN almost 15 years. So in March, it will be that milestone for me. At that time I've been with our Global Stakeholder Engagement team for the past seven, eight years, and before that I was with our Security team, and I regularly and interact with our technical community. Next slide.

I'm going to start with giving some definitions. When we're talking about the Domain Name System, there's a number of ways that it can be discussed. First off, there's no single consistent definition of what the Domain Name System is. It could be referred to a naming scheme for the objects that are on the Internet. It might also be referred to as a distributed database that represents the names of properties of these objects. It is an architecture that provides for a distributed maintenance and a resilience to those functions, and also some coherency between the things that are within the database. And it's also a response protocol for answering questions and providing back answers.

If you wanted to read further about what the components of the Domain Name System are, there's a link at the bottom to a Best Current Practice document within the Internet Engineering Task Force. This was developed through some of our Office of the CTO team and it provides a point of reference for these definitions. Next slide.

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Great. So when we, in an ICANN context, are talking about Internet identifiers, an important thing to keep in mind is that the Internet is a combination of networks, and the operators of those networks agree to communicate with each other using a set of protocols. The networks need to use identifiers in order to connect different machines to each other and so they map these machines to individual hosts and individual computers to provide information that people might be syncing. In an ICANN context, these are referred to as names, numbers, and protocol parameters. Now, again, I'm starting basic because we'll build on these concepts and these might be simple terms that you're already familiar with. But for those that may not be coming to the ICANN space from a technical background, this is to help put us on an equal footing, and so that we're all able to understand the terminology. Next slide please.

Great. So it can be quite easy for machines to communicate with each other using what we call Internet Protocol addresses, but as you can see, these addresses are very difficult for people to remember and recognize. The top number is an IPv4 address. And we have a much longer number, which is an IPv6 address. As you can see, these addresses are very difficult for people to remember, and so the process of mapping Internet Protocol addresses to names is called name resolution.

Now, another way to look at this—go to the next slide—is that we have what we call the inverted tree of the Domain Name System. And at the top of the tree is the root, and the next level down would be the top-level domains, where the top-level nodes that are part of the DNS. I checked this morning and, as of today, we have 1504 top-level domains in the group, everything from two-character country codes such as .se

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for Sweden; legacy top-level domains such as .com, .net, .org; newer top-level domains, anything from .coffee to .wine, .food; and we have internationalized top-level domains. The one that you see on the slide converts to Hong Kong in Chinese.

The next level down, you'll have what we call second-level nodes. When we're referring to a fully qualified domain name, that's every part of the label from the third-level node to the dot at the end, which represents the root. So all of that together is called a fully qualified domain name. Next slide.

Great. So if you were curious and wanted to know more about the contents of the root zone, one place to go is on the IANA website. This is the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. One of the pieces of information that you might find—and I've put the link to the bottom of the slide—is you could click in and see the entire contents of the root zone. And what this looks like in practice—on the next slide, I've taken an extract which shows information that is in the root zone for the top-level domain .eu. If you go to the next slide, please.

So what types of information is in the root zone for .eu? You will see the name servers. You see DS which stands for a Delegation Signer record. That means that .eu TLD has implemented DNS Security Extensions or DNSSEC. And there's a mapping of the IPv4 address, which you'll see the letter A and the IPv4 address next to that. A quad A, which is below that, maps to an IPv6 address. So this provides the information for the various top-level domains that are in the root zone. This is just one example. Next slide, please.

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Now, it's important to keep in mind there are certain rules around labels in the DNS. There's a maximum number of characters that can be used, 63 characters. And emojis are not allowed as top-level labels in the Domain Name System. There's a variety of reasons for this. Some have been addressed in guidance from our Security and Stability Advisory Committee and that was adopted by the ICANN Board several years ago, encouraging registries to not allow emoji domains at the second level, and emojis are not allowed at the top level. Next slide, please.

I mentioned before internationalized domain names. This is a screenshot of the current internationalized domains that have been introduced at the country code level. And the most recent one has been the country code for Israel in Hebrew characters. That is in the process of being delegated and has been applied for by the operator of the .il ccTLD. Next slide, please.

It is important to keep in mind that the various zones represented administrative boundaries, and these can have jurisdictional impacts. So for example, the operator of the .com registry is Verisign and they're responsible for the policies that are set within the .com top-level domain. There's a different operator for the .se space and they're responsible for all of the policies that are set within that two-character country code space. These jurisdictional issues move up the tree so, for example, the holder of a domain within the .com space might be located in any number of countries that are different from the operator for the registry operator of Verisign in .com. As cases come up involving DNS threats or cybersquatting or other legal issues, the location of the

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holder of the domain name at the various levels is important to recognize. Go to the next slide, please.

So I'll talk a bit about who the different players are at each level. So the registry is the entity that maintains the database of the domain names and registrant information at the top level or within the particular TLD that it operates. It works through an agent, an entity called the registrar, and that entity access the contact point between the registrant and the registry. And the registrant is referred to as the holder of the domain name registration.

The next slide shows a depiction of the relationships based on contracts. I think Emily will talk about the same image in a different way. We, as ICANN, have a number of contractual relationships with registries, registrars, and other service providers. We have a contract between the top-level domain registry, and that's the Registry Agreement. That registry may have an agreement with its own registrar, which is called the Registrar Agreement. The registrar might work with a third party such as a reseller, and that reseller may have an agreement with its registrant. So, depending on where the issue is with a domain name, these contracts will play an important role in determining who has the responsibility to take action. Go to the next slide, please.

Another way to view the relationships between registries, registrars, and registrants is how the information flows from the registry out. And this provides a more technical view of how the data might flow between a registry and a registrar and a registrant. At the registry level, they'll provide name servers, which allow for the query and responsive information.

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The registry will also provide an interface with registration data. Before, let's say, the last few years, that would have been called WHOIS interface. Now, many registries are adopting the Registration Data Access Protocol. In any case, the Internet users will use that interface to make a query to see if a domain name is available to be registered at the registry, and then they can work through their registrar to request that that domain name be registered.

The registrar and the registry typically communicate with each other using a protocol called EPP, the Extensible Provisioning Protocol. Registrars often communicate with the registrants using a web interface, which is depicted here as HTTP. Some, if they add additional levels of security, might have an interface that is secure with HTTPS. I won't spend much time going beyond what I've described here, but you should just keep in mind that this is often how the registrants interact with the registrar, and how registrars communicate with the registry using these different protocols. Go to the next slide.

So I've been a bit quick. Hopefully, I've kept us on time but I'm happy to answer any additional questions people might have. And again, we do have a number of other tools that you can learn more about DNS fundamentals in a much more detailed way than I've been able to provide in this brief talk today. Again, I encourage you to view the ICANN Learn session on DNS Fundamentals, or if you have the opportunity to attend one of the more in-depth sessions from our Technical Engagement team in the regions, I encourage you to do that. And with that, Adam, I think I will turn it back to you.



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ADAM PEAKE:

Thank you very much, Patrick. Thank you. Before we move on to Emily, I just wanted to note that I've seen a question in the chat from Ioana asking about an explanation of what is cybersquatting. Rather than doing that immediately, if we can hold it to the end, but I don't know if you, Patrick, would like to talk about it or it may even be something that Brian would like to pick up on, but I think we can come back to that in the Question and Answer. Thanks for the question.

And with that, Emily, if you would like to begin your presentation, Brenda, I know you have to switch over to the next presentation deck. Thank you very much. Over to you, Emily. Thank you.

EMILY BARABAS:

Thanks, Adam. Hi, everyone. My name is Emily Barabas. Adam already talked a little bit about who I am and what I do, but just as a reminder, I'm a member of the GNSO Policy Development Support team, where a group of ICANN staffers who help the GNSO and, actually, the broader team helps that ICANN community more broadly in its work to develop policy. So I'm going to talk a little bit about what that actually means, how that works in the context of the GNSO, and some of the ways that you can get involved, as well as why it might be of interest to you. Next slide, please.

I'll just say that, again, this is going to be a very brief presentation, just like Patrick's. It will build on some of the concepts he introduced, so if that went quickly for you, I'll try to just recap a little bit some of the concepts as I talk, but there's also a great course in ICANN Learn called Get to know the GNSO, which goes into greater depth about all of the

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topics I'm going to be covering today. So if this interests you and you want to learn more, please start there. And you can always also contact Adam. He can connect you with the Policy Support team and we can talk more about topics that might interest you or projects you might want to get involved in. So this is just a just the beginning in terms of that.

On the last webinar, you talked about ICANN's ecosystem that includes the organization itself, the Board, and then ICANN community, all the volunteers who are involved in the ICANN world from Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, the three SOs and the four ACs. I won't repeat everything about them but just wanted to, in the context of this diagram that you've previously seen, focus in on one particular group and that's the Generic Name Supporting Organization that makes gTLD policy. So that's what the red circle is there. Next slide, please.

The reason that we're focusing on the GNSO when we're talking about policy development is because a significant part of the policy development work that happens in the ICANN sphere is happening in the GNSO. So ccTLD policy does happen at the ICANN level but a lot of the work for country code top-level domains is happening at the national level as well, whereas gTLD policy is happening within ICANN, primarily.

So what is the GNSO? The GNSO is the organization responsible for policy development for generic top-level domains. Patrick talked a little bit about what a generic top-level domain is but, as an example, .com, .org, and many more like .info, .museum, and .pro are all examples of

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generic top-level domains. The GNSO is the only entity that has this responsibility.

The GNSO community—that’s the group of volunteers that are involved in GNSO work—is very broad and represents a range of different interests, including registries and registrars. And as a reminder, Patrick talked about that registries are those entities that operate TLDs, whereas registrars are the primary interface with registrants but many other groups as well. For example, those interested in intellectual property, Internet service providers and connectivity providers, those with business interests in the gTLD space, as well as non-commercial interest, and that’s where we’ll focus today.

So the GNSO is bringing together all these different stakeholders to develop policy recommendations and it’s not just those groups that are involved in GNSO policy development. So even if you’re just an interested individual, you’re affiliated with another structure within ICANN, for example, At-Large, you can still be involved in GNSO policy development. Those are just the ones that are formerly represented in GNSO structures.

And all these folks are brought together to make recommendations through these bottom-up processes driven by working groups of volunteers from the community. When we say bottom-up, we mean that they the community creates these working groups, these working groups develop recommendations using community input, and then put forward recommendations that are adopted by various structures that I will go through in a little bit. Next slide, please.

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So what is the GNSO Council? The GNSO Council is a representative body that serves as the manager of the policy development process in the GNSO. So it not only has a policy development function but it also acts as the representative body that interacts and works with other parts of the ICANN community. So, for example, other Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, the ICANN Board, and so forth. The GNSO Council is the voice of the GNSO community in those spaces. There are 21 Councilors from six different constituency and stakeholder groups, as well as appointees from the Nominating Committee. And we'll look a little closer at that in a moment. Any policy development work coming through these working groups needs to be considered and approved by the GNSO Council before it can go any further, so that management function that the GNSO Council serves culminates in a consideration and approval process. Next slide, please.

So taking a little bit of a closer look at the GNSO Council, you can see lots of little boxes here that show you a little bit about the interests that are represented. So you have folks from the registries and registrars, what we call the contracted parties because they hold contracts with ICANN. There's the Commercial Stakeholder Group, including business interests, intellectual property interests, and Internet Service Provider and Connectivity Providers, and then the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group that we'll focus in on, which includes the Non-Commercial Users Constituency and the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency. So, six of the members of the Council collectively represent the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, including the NCUC and NPOC.

Why do these numbers matter? Why is there so much focus on the numbers? Because the GNSO Council operates by voting, it makes

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decisions by voting in monthly meetings, and so the number of votes from different groups matter in terms of the outcomes of the GNSO Council's work. So that's why we talked a little bit about numbers and houses, and so forth. If you're interested in that, there's much more detail on the GNSO website. Next slide, please.

Focusing a bit on the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, and why do I focus there first as opposed to talking about NPOC, specifically? A lot of times, for the purposes of policy work, for example, drafting input documents and so forth, the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, which has a Policy Committee, often works together with the constituencies to develop documents, positions, and so forth. It doesn't have to be that way and it's not universal. Some of our more experienced community members who are on this webinar, I invite you during the Question and Answer to, of course, also talk about your experiences and specific examples. But it is sometimes the case that it is in the interest of all the groups that there is an alignment and positions, and that it makes sense for the NCSG to collectively produce those positions and documents, and so forth.

So the NCSG or Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group provides the voice and representation in the GNSO and other policy processes and community processes to nonprofit organizations, as well as individuals who are concerned with non-commercial public interest aspects of domain name policy. We'll talk again in just a moment about some of the specifics of that. The NCSG also represents non-commercial interests in other processes such as reviews of ICANN structures and cross-community working groups, which is just another way that the

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community does its work. We're going to, I think—on the next slide, please—look more specifically at those constituencies.

First, the NCUC. A couple of focal points here: policy development, Internet governance policy, protection of non-commercial communications, consumer protection, civil liberties, and human rights. Whereas the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency or NPOC has a particular focus on the operational concerns related to ICANN and the Domain Name System. So examples of that are domain name registration, expansion of the DNS, and DNS fraud and abuse. Next slide, please.

I'm going to talk a little bit about the policy development process and what that means. That flows out of the ICANN Bylaws, which state that the GNSO shall be responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains. So that's the root of it, and then what does that actually mean in practice? Next slide, please.

First, we'll talk about why you would even want to get involved in this. Here are some of the topic areas that are relevant to policy development that they touch on. Things like accountability and transparency, trademarks and access to knowledge, the multilingual Internet, freedom of expression, human rights, privacy and data protection and jurisdiction. But one of the things to really understand is that these issues are only discussed in ICANN in the context of ICANN's mission, which is about the Internet's unique identifiers. In practice, that means while you might be interested in the multilingual Internet broadly in terms of, for example, content in different languages,

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ICANN's focus is much narrower. It's specifically on the Domain Name System, so the application of IDNs, for example, internationalized domain names. So it's just about domain names in that case, as opposed to all language issues on the Internet.

Similarly, freedom of expression, it's not about bloggers' rights, and Internet content, for example, it's really specifically about, for example, freedom of expression as it applies to who can apply for an operator domain name and which domain names are available to be applied for. Again, very narrow.

Privacy and data protection, there's a lot of really interesting privacy and data protection issues related to the Internet, privacy on Facebook, for example. But ICANN doesn't deal with that. It only specifically deals with, for example, privacy and data protection issues as it applies to access to information about registrants and other registration data. So those are just a few examples. But indeed many aspects of ICANN's work do touch on these broader values and concerns, and so someone who has a non-commercial orientation and is interested in these issues may very well have an interest in policy development in the GNSO. Next slide, please.

So what is the process like to develop policy, the sort of rules that govern the way that the gTLD space works? It's a pretty long process and it's a pretty complicated process, and there are good reasons for that that we'll talk about in a few minutes.

First, an issue is identified. That could be through the GNSO Council, it could be through the Board or an Advisory Committee. The Council

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looks at whether the issue could result in consensus policy. We're going to talk about what that means. Consensus policy is a very particular term in the ICANN world. If it does indeed result in consensus policy, the Council will request something called a Preliminary Issue Report that scopes the issue. There's a Public Comment Period, which is an opportunity for people to comment on the issue, and then something called the Final Issue Report is published. If the GNSO Council determines that work should be done on this issue, they'll charter work, start a call for volunteers to get people involved, community volunteers to sign up and engage in the work. Next slide, please.

Then the working group will do the sort of meat of the work that needs to be done, which is about consulting with the community, collecting data, deliberating on the issues, and ultimately making a set of recommendations that are reviewed by the GNSO Council. I also wanted to mention that during the working group's work, there are a number of ways that they consult with the ICANN community broadly, and also anyone who's interested in these issues. So something called a Public Comment Period is held on the Initial Report. And then there's also outreach that's done to various community groups to ensure that their input is taken into account. And that's a great way as a volunteer to get involved. If you don't want to commit to joining a whole working group, you can contribute to submissions to public comments, and that's a great way to engage.

So, once the GNSO Council has approved the report, it goes to the Board. There's more public comment, and then the Board ultimately determines whether to adopt those recommendations and turn them into policy and operational practice. Next slide, please.



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You saw the slide earlier. This is about contracts. The reason I'm showing it again is to just mention that registries and registrars have certain obligations. Those are spelled out in the contracts they have with ICANN, and those obligations ultimately flow down to the registrant in terms of the relationship that the registrant has and the experience that they have in registering a domain name.

So where do those contractual obligations come from and what is the scope of them, and can ICANN just do whatever it wants in terms of what it forces registries and registrars to do? The answer to that last question is no. There's very specific rules about ICANN's scope and what it is and isn't able to do in terms of those contracts because it's not a unilateral organization. It's really much, much more decentralized and managed in sort of this community-focused bottom-up way. Next slide, please.

I use the term earlier "consensus policy" and I want to just briefly touch on what that means. This could be a one-hour lecture easily on the topic of consensus policy but I just want to very briefly touch on it. As we said, the contracted parties have obligations as part of their contracts. And consensus policy is policy that is broadly supported by ICANN stakeholders, which can then be translated into the contracts that bind the registrars and registries. So when we say "broadly supported," it means that it's gone through this whole long bottom-up multistakeholder process through a working group, through the Council, and through the Board. And in doing so, has sort of proven that it has the consensus support of a broad range of groups. Next slide, please.

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In the contracts with ICANN, registries and registers agree that they'll comply with consensus policies under a specific set of circumstances and provided that the policies don't unreasonably restrain competition. I won't go into too many specifics there, so maybe we'll just go to the next slide.

You may hear the term "picket fence" used. That term sort of talks about the authority that ICANN has to preserve the security and stability of the DNS. It's called a picket fence because it's essentially a boundary around what ICANN is able to put in consensus policies and, therefore, require of the contracted parties. ICANN can also develop policies and best practices that are not considered consensus policies but it can't force registries and registrars to comply with those policies. And this concept is incorporated into the contracts of both registries and registrars. Next slide, please.

Briefly, I want to talk about how you can engage in policy development processes. Some of these PDPs, you can just join. They have a totally open model, which means anyone can sign up. They have regular meetings that are done by teleconference. You can prepare ahead of time for each meeting with an agenda and materials. The meetings are recorded and transcribed so you can either participate live or if you can't join every week, you can catch up. It's usually a very active engagement process if you are a member. Some working groups are more limited, they have a representative model, which means individuals from specific groups are engaged in limited numbers. But you don't need to join a PDP as a member to get involved. As I mentioned earlier, through the Policy Committees of your constituencies and stakeholder groups, you can provide input on the

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issues that PDPs are addressing. You can respond to public comment periods, and also engage with Policy Committees through the SG and C to interface with your GNSO councilors and the work that they're doing at the Council level. You can also attend ICANN meetings, attend sessions of working groups, attend cross-community sessions, and direct exchanges between PDP leadership and specific other groups in the community. So, a lot of space for engagement there as well. Next slide, please.

In the last minute or so, I just want to highlight a couple of opportunities coming up for engagement, just to give a couple of examples. Two long running in policy development processes are reaching their conclusion. One has just had its recommendations approved by the GNSO Council. That one specifically looks at intellectual property rights protection mechanisms in gTLDs. And the second one is being considered now by the GNSO Council that is about sort of policies and processes and procedures for entities to apply to operate gTLDs. Both of those will go through public comment periods before the Board considers the recommendations, and so that's a great opportunity if you're interested in those issue areas to get involved.

There's also some new policy initiatives that are likely to be starting up very soon. One is about the review of the Transfer Policy. The Transfer Policy governs transfers of TLDs from one registrar to another. So if you're a registrant and you don't like the registrar that you're using, the policy provides the rules and procedures for how you would transfer your registration. So that's a really important policy because it touches on things like, is the policy usable in terms of the experience for a registrant and how easy it is to transfer a domain? It also touches on

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things like, how do you ensure that the policy is both usable but also effectively prevents fraudulent transfers where people are transferring a domain against someone's wishes to use it fraudulently? So really important for non-commercial interests.

Another policy development process that's likely coming soon is about internationalized domain names and specifically about variants, which are two IDNs that are technically different but might be either interchangeable or indistinguishable kind of on a linguistic level. So there's a few different ways that IDNs can be variants, but an example might be two TLDs, one in traditional Chinese and one in simplified Chinese. So another policy development process, if you're interested in IDNs and how the IDN landscape will look in the coming years, that might be also something to engage in. Next slide, please.

So that's the end of my presentation. I'm happy to answer any questions and would certainly also love to have some of our more experienced community members weigh in on where did they think it's important to engage and be involved in GNSO and the PDP. Thanks.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thank you very much, Emily. Thank you, everybody. So we've had one question and I hope we'll have many more, as Emily said, both from people who want some clarification and also what is your experience as an experienced ICANN community member participating in policy development processes.

Patrick has put an answer in the chat about Ioana's question about cybersquatting. He's written that the cybersquatting is a term for when

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registrant registers a domain name, particularly a well-known brand, trademark or individual's name, with the hope of reselling it for profit.

The background to this is that before ICANN was created in the mid 1990s, the number of domain names being registered grew substantially and many famous brand names and trademarks and so were being used, not always maliciously but they were using them against the use of the trademark rights that were in those names. And this was actually one of the fundamental issues that ICANN was created to address or it was in its initial charter of work in 1998. And the UDRP, which is the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy, will be covered by Brian in a later discussion later webinar.

So that is essentially the answer to that question about cybersquatting. And the notion of squatting, of course, it comes from property, when there's an unused or an empty property that people then occupy either without any right to do so. So cybersquatting is the Internet, the cyberspace equivalent of that squatting activity. The building I live in actually was the center of squatting in Amsterdam in the late 1990s and early 2000s. So there is a physical link to the cybersquatting evolution of that term.

So thanks very much, Emily. Thank you, Patrick. Are there any more questions? I see Raymond is asking about city code names, names that are being used to represent geographic identifiers, I think, here. So cities, regions, and so on. These were part of the new gTLD round that Patrick mentioned that came after the legacy round. Emily, yes, please. If you'd like to chat a bit about that, that would be great. Thanks.

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EMILY BARABAS:

Raymond, thanks for the question. The topic, more broadly, of the use of geographic names at the top level was included in the scope of the New gTLD Policy Development Process Working Group for Subsequent Procedures. So that's one of the working groups that I just mentioned is just wrapping up its work now. They looked at the full scope of policy governing the new gTLD program, but one of the topic areas was about whether different types of geographic names should be included in the program, how that's defined, what the rules should be, who should be allowed to get them, and so forth. Specifically with respect to—well, let me first say sort of a broad issue. There was a sub track of the working group that specifically focused on this issue and had representatives from across the ICANN community. So it had a leadership team including someone from the ALAC, someone from the GAC, someone from the GNSO, and someone from the ccNSO, and membership from all those groups and more. So it's a really big broad group of people who looked at the existing rules from the 2012 round related to geographic names. Ultimately, the big sort of overarching takeaway from their work was that they recommended that many of the rules stay in place as they were in the 2012 round, not necessarily because people didn't have strong feelings about it. As a matter of fact, there are some very strongly held positions among different community members, but more because reaching consensus to change the existing rules was very, very difficult to achieve because there's so many strongly held views about this topic.

Specifically with respect to city names—I'm just looking—yeah, they recommended for the most part the rules for the registration of city

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names remain as they are. So there's different rules for the name that corresponds to a city in general, and one that is a capital city so the capital of a nation. I'm trying to remember the specifics. I believe that the non-capital city names are eligible for registration broadly, but the capital city names require consent or non-objection from the government of the country that has that capital city.

So, Raymond, if you're interested in more specifics about that, I can certainly share the final report of what they called Work Track 5. But the working group, as a whole, adopted the Work Track 5's outputs and those are now being considered by the GNSO Council as well. So I hope that answers your question, but let me see if I can track down that report and share it with you shortly. Thanks.

ADAM PEAKE:

Right. And in the chat, you will have seen that Patrick mentioned how city names have been handled within the existing top-level domain names. So Emily was talking about the names that came in and the rules that were in place for them to actually create a top-level domain name that would be the name of a city. For example, there's a .amsterdam, the city I'm living in. But there are also rules for different registries applying to the legacy names. So, within .com and so on, they were allowable within those top-level domain names and it was decided by the registry operator. But here we're talking about the evolution of the Domain Name System and the addition of new top-level domain names where there may be a geographic indicator of some kind. And that report would be very, very helpful, Emily. Thank you.

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I actually do have a question for you, Emily, if you don't mind, and it's about the GNSO policy development process. You mentioned at the beginning is to identify an issue. Who is involved in identifying that issue? Who can bring an issue to the GNSO Council? I think this is an interesting starting point if somebody has a policy they think is important that should be considered by ICANN and beginning with the GNSO. Who would initiate that—initiation of the initiation, as it were—the start of the issue report? Thank you.

EMILY BARABAS:

Sorry, Adam. I was just typing in the chat, dropping the Work Track 5 report in there. So that's a great question. I don't know if it's possible to go backwards in the deck to slide 10. Yeah, perfect.

Adam, I think you're kind of talking about the first step of policy development work, which is about identification of an issue. And it sounds like you're asking about sort of what even happens before that, right? To start policy development work, the first step on this slide is saying the GNSO Council, the ICANN Board, or an Advisory Committee identifies the issue. I think what you're asking—and tell me if I'm wrong—is, what if you are a member of NPOC, for example, and there's a topic area that you think requires policy development, how do you turn that into a PDP? Is that correct?

ADAM PEAKE:

Absolutely. How would an NPOC member or the NPOC as a group go through and then say, "Okay. We think this is really important, how do we move this forward into the GNSO?"



EMILY BARABAS: Yeah. I think that's a really good question and I think we're talking a little bit earlier about Policy Committees. If you're interested in having a particular topic area or issue amplified, I think the best way to do that is through your stakeholder group and constituency—raising it, talking to other people in your group, seeing if there's some sort of common concern or common recognition that there's an issue that needs to be addressed further. Because what those Policy Committees in the stakeholder groups and constituencies can do is then interface with the councilors, the members of the GNSO Council who represent the group, and then who raise issues more broadly in Council discussions and in Council decision-making. So that's the flow of information. It's from individuals to the stakeholder groups and constituencies, and then onward to the GNSO Council if you're in the GNSO. It could also be if you're part of the At-Large community, it would then be through the At-Large Advisory Committee and it's sort of policy structures that you would raise an issue, and then ALAC could then bring up an issue for potential policy development. But that's one of the reasons that it's so useful and important to engage in the structures, because the structures can bring together and amplify individual voices in a structured way that makes it possible to become part of these processes that seem sort of big and complicated. So I hope that answers the question. I'm happy to elaborate further.

ADAM PEAKE: It does, yes. I think this is really a key issue because we talk a lot in ICANN about bottom-up processes, and this is what it really means. It

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means that we, as individuals—not particularly me anymore, I’m a member of staff. In fact, I don’t have a role in this—but as community members, you have the opportunity to really kick off one of these quite complicated policy processes, and that is really at the heart of what ICANN does. We’re talking about anybody having the opportunity to have a say, to have their point of view and issue raised. Sometimes it may not go forward because you won’t get the agreement of your colleagues within the NPOC and so on, but this is a real fundamental issue to ICANN. So, thank you very much.

Do we have any more questions? Is there anybody who’d like to raise their hand and ask a question of Patrick or Emily? Please, now is the opportunity. I don’t see any in the participants. But please also any experiences that you’ve had you would like to comment on as one of the more experienced members in this active PDP process. That would be great to hear as well. I’m not seeing anything. Hand up, I missed it. Where’s it gone?

EMILY BARABAS:

Hi, Adam. I did want to just—one correction to something that I said earlier in response to Raymond’s question. Since there’s no other hands up, I’ll make it verbally. Going back to the report regarding capital city names and non-capital city names since that’s a topic of interest, it was the case in the 2012 round that a letter of support or non-objection from the government was required in the case of a capital city name but also if the intention of the applicant was to use the name in connection to the city name as well. So there were actually two instances where that support was required. So I just wanted to make sure on the record

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that I got that correct and didn't give you that information. More in the report. Thanks.

ADAM PEAKE:

Thanks, Emily. That's a nice clarification. I see Raoul asking—and, Raoul, I'm guessing that you're still having problems with the sound, but yes—saying thank you and what webinar do we have next week? So next week, Brian is leading the next couple of webinars and we'll try and bring in some additional speakers. It's February the 17<sup>th</sup>, again at 14:00 UTC. The broad topics to think about are registrant rights and responsibilities, registering a domain name, and some of the issues around that, and then getting on to topics around maintaining and managing and renewing domain names. I know these have been issues that not-for-profit organizations, and so on, have been interested in so I hope it will be a very useful topic. We will send also links to some blogs that Brian and his team have written over the years about this, there's some background. So we'll make sure that those go to the list.

If there are no more questions or comments then I think we can close. One minute to go. Thank you very much for participating today, looking forward to seeing you next week. Particular thanks to Emily and to Patrick. So thank you and cheers. Bye-bye.

There we are. Just before we close, Brian has put a link in the chat. It's the main link to everything you need to know about domain names, and these will be the topics for next week. Thank you so much. Cheers. Bye-bye.

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