ICANN

Moderator: Nathalie Peregrine
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6:15 am CT

Rob Hoggarth: Thank you everybody. We're going to get started now for our afternoon

sessions. This is a lunch session, so please feel free if you want seconds or

dessert, go on out into the foyer on a personal break to grab something extra.

As we get started in the afternoon, I wanted to make sure that I did something

that I missed doing yesterday when we did the introduction and that was in

addition to recognizing our staff here in the room, I wanted to make sure that

you all appreciated the work that was being done by Maryam Bakoshi, by

Chantelle Doerksen, by Nathalie Peregrine, who've all been helping us

remotely, making sure that your breakout sessions work effectively and

constantly making sure that the follow up being in done in terms of posting

transcripts, making sure that the recordings are making it up, making sure the

slides are being put on the various pages.

So I wanted to acknowledge the great work that they're doing behind the

scenes to make sure that this all works for us. One final note on their behalf,

and I appreciate you all doing this from a cultural perspective, is please do

identify yourselves before you speak at the mic. It's not just for those of us in

the room, not just for people listening remotely, but because we've got the

Verizon service doing the transcript and while it's great to see man, woman, it also helps to actually have you all identified in the transcript so that folks get credited for some of the things that they're saying.

So with that final admonishing, Ed and Jimson, let me turn it over to you for the next plenary discussion on ICANN budget matter. The floor is yours. Thanks guys.

Ed Morris: Hi. Excuse me. Good morning. I guess good afternoon, good evening, the traditional ICANN greeting. Please don't fall asleep. We're about to talk about the budget. There we go, Klaus. I just want to, at the outset, tell you why that's a problem.

On council, we do a - we don't do much with the budget. We're doing it increasingly because of our new powers. But we do a letter every year, a comment on the ICANN budget, and for the past two years we have little teams that are formed and I wind up writing the letter with the help staff by myself. There's just no interest. And guys, we've got to become more involved for two reasons.

In the empowered community, we have a ton more power on the budget in terms of rejecting it, accepting it, but also is the fact that if you start looking at the allocation of funds between the various groups in ICANN, at least it's my view, that the groups which are loudest, making the most noise, are getting the most money. I think we're underfunded in the GNSO compared to some of the other groups and I'd like to talk a little bit about what I would propose as a partial solution to that problem, as well as getting into a few issues.

So first for the empowered community, for those who are not aware. When we were putting together the community powers, there was discussion about

whether we should have some control over the budget or not. We got a lot of pushback from some folks, particularly those in ICANN. Steve DelBianco actually really pushed the budget probably as much as any issue you fought for. The NCSG, we were split on it. But Steve got us the powers over the budget.

And so what we have in 6.2 is the general powers reserving approval of the budget to the empowered community. Then in bylaw section 22.4, we have the ability - they have to consult with it, each SO, AC, before the board approves it. 22.5, same thing for the strategic and operating plans. And then in the end, we have the power to send a reject notice if we don't like what's in there.

And the problem is here in the GNSO we've generally consigned comments and budget and participation in the process to the stakeholder groups and constituencies. And so the NCSG actually hasn't - we didn't even submit a budget comment last year, which was a bit disgraceful for us. The other groups here in this room did.

But we're going to have to start coming up with a little bit more, at least in my view, some more constant monitoring of the budget process. Now ALAC and the ccNSO both have standing finance committees that regularly meet with Xavier. One of the problems where we don't, and by leaving this to the stakeholder group and constituencies is that we don't speak with a unified voice.

And the problem thereof is -- and I've talked to David Olive about this in the past -- he goes in and he does a great, but he doesn't have sort of the echo behind him that the other groups have. He doesn't - he can't point to the community and say they're demanding this, this, and this. And so he goes in

without the backing, theoretically, of the community that the folks on the ccNSO and ALAC have.

So when I combine these two ideas together, one of the things I'd like to talk about today is whether we should set up a small standing committee, we can invite the contracted party houses as well if you'd like, to be involved in the budget discussions and to be basically the first point of reference for all of us, including council for how to handle our new powers.

Then once we're done with that discussion, the two topics that Jimson and I came up with would be speaking about the very low levels of the reserve fund in ICANN. And the second topic is one that I know is near and dear to many of us, the ICANN travel policy. Should we be funding workers more than position? Because this is something that keeps coming up. And, again, having spoken to some of our staff, it's something that they're going to try to twiddle with a little bit. So I'd like to actually have a discussion about who should we be funding the meetings and how should that be decided.

But first, what are folks' views about trying to create some sort of small standing committee to monitor the budget, talk to Xavier, work with staff to ensure that the GNSO is properly funded, and to be the first point of alert for council, who have powers that are going to be reject the budget to sort of say, "Hey, take a look there, look here."

Because I know as a councilor, we're so floored with work we're going to need some help to actually let us know that there's a problem we need to deal with there. Jimson?

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you very much, Ed. And good afternoon all. We do know that budget gives life to any organization. So if you don't work on it effectively, you may

not get an effective outcome. And as Ed said, we do have a new bylaw and an empowered community and we need to exercise our power. So should we have this - should we set up a standing committee or a small working group? In BC, we do have a finance committee. They also sit on our Internet budget team and follow Xavier's presentations at every ICANN meeting.

So, but having as all the all community would be more effective in response to our new status in ICANN. So I think you just open the floor. We have Steve, Steve DelBianco.

Steve DelBianco: Yes. Steve DelBianco. Ed and Jimson, I fully support the idea of moving towards a consolidated position with respect to monitoring and commenting on budget. The empowered community boils down only to the level of the ACs and SOs, so the GNSO has a representative on the empowered community so the GNSO in total, and that's not even necessarily council but we are relying upon the chair of council and council itself to approve and instruct the representative on the empowered community.

So ultimately it will end up going to council as a resolution, as resolution that council would consider and vote upon according the rules that we put into the bylaws drafting team, and then the rep would be instructed. But that's just one of the ACs and SOs in the empowered community group. So the voice of any one constituency like the BC or the NCUC, that voice gets significantly diluted as it makes its way up the ladder towards a GNSO position.

So to the extent that we can jumpstart a consolidated position, I believe that our brethren in the contract party house would likely follow along, especially if they saw that the rare sight of the NCSG and the CSG coming together and saying we're going to cooperate on the budget topic, follow our example. I mean it would be a committee - you called it a standing committee and yet

most of its work is at the annual budget cycle. And it would only have to come alive again if there's been an anomaly, a huge variance that came up, a new budgeting item that wasn't anticipated. It might not need to meet for more than just a few weeks to put together a position to take through council to instruct our rep on the empowered community. But I like the idea.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay thank you, Steve. Greg?

Greg Shatan: Thank you. Greg Shatan for the record. Following on Steve's remarks, I think this is in essence it's almost an essential element of trying to empower the empowered community. So this is a, like many things, it's a micro issue with macro implications. On the micro point, I think it is important to try to bring together a budget.

There is a small group that meets with Xavier at the public meetings. I've been at a few of those. There's some regulars there. They go over and kind drill down with the budget. If you have an extra three hours in the evening of one of the evenings that the - any of the public meetings and it can be very instructive. There should be a linkage between the standing committee and Xavier's little dinner and wine group with the budget. So.

The macro issue I think is one where we have to look at how the empowered community gets communicated to. But I think that, you know, sticking to the micro, this is look at this one issue. If we are to have a view and an ability, we should do it. But even putting aside the empowered community, just in terms of our oversight, our day-to-day oversight of ICANN, we need to be able to do that.

And even if we're commenting separately or we decide to some sort of coherence and cohesion, I think would be much better so that we give, you

know, amplification and clarification and any place we can come together, you could have, you know, a GNSO comment and then additional comments where there is no, you know, GNSO consensus. But rather than writing it eight times, or whatever it might be, to write it once from the GNSO is so much more powerful and we don't have, you know, the same methodology to do that and, you know, the council does it on an ad hoc, you know, pile it on me basis, kind of like Giles Corey in the Crucible, more weight.

But, you know, we need I think something separate. This is not a small group I'm going to volunteer for. I can volunteer somebody else for it, but. And this is something I actually wanted to say while Steve was in the room. One of the things I thought about as we've been through Workstream 1 on the accountability group is that we have this empowered community that's almost like catastrophic insurance, something when things go really off the rails we have this major weapon.

But we haven't, as a community, worked out how to really do the day-to-day oversight that might someday get us to that point. You know, we rely on the standard - the standing, you know, things that we have, the community groups, the GNSO Council, the working groups, this, that, but the - having a budget committee that is aimed at the budget and that matches up with a specific power or concern is maybe something to look at the other empowered community pieces and wonder how would we ever get to the point where we would decide to light up the empowered community if we have no oversight mechanism that is designed to channel into it. Just food for thought. Thanks.

Jimson Olufuye: Yes. This is Jimson for the record. Thank you, Greg. Well mechanism is very important and maybe before Lori comes in, or actually comes in, because I've been thinking in terms of what is the empowerment framework. Are we going

to have a separate charter or are we going to have kind of maybe some administrative process and things like that, that gives power to that.

Steve DelBianco: We're drafting a resolution.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay. Lori, please?

Lori Schulman: Lori Schulman for the record. I would definitely support a - certainly at least at house-wide comment if not a whole GNSO endeavor. I think that is where we probably have a lot of common ground. And I'm curious in terms of sort of the direction where you'd like to see this discussion go. Because I have a laundry list of budgeting concerns and I do follow Xavier's group, probably not as closely as I should. To be honest, he tends to schedule the group at the ICANN face to face late in the evening for many hours at a time. And one of the things I'd like to kind of work out is there a less onerous way of doing that than currently is done.

I do think too, from an oversight perspective, it makes complete sense. We noticed this in the Workstream 2 working groups generally that, yes, we're sitting here thinking about big picture items but when my group report comes out, one of the things - one of the recommendations you will see is that we advocate for exactly that. We need a framework for day-to-day operations. We need what to do before you get to DEFCON 1, right? We need something where we're - our eye is always on the prize, that the oversight that's expected from general shareholders is in place, whatever that looks like.

And in terms of sort of my laundry list of budget issues, one is this year the IPC decided not to make a special budget request, first time ever. And we will be following this decision with a letter that I have yet to draft but will be drafted before Copenhagen for sure, that says we're not doing this because we

expect some fiscal responsibility on your end and we don't think it's responsible to ask for extra budgeting for anything until you clean up your budgeting health.

That includes a plan for their reserve, that includes creating a format where you can very easily read the budget, where you can easily see the deltas, because it's not done now. And I've had board members come up to me privately and more senior leaders come up to me privately and say, "Yes I thought it was just me." Because people are very afraid of numbers, right? It's very difficult to read budgets.

And just my own background is I've chaired audit committees before. I've been a general counsel so you - I was forced to do it but I hated it too. But you can have your finance team and you can have your auditing team create readable documents, and that's something that ICANN is just not doing. And I don't know if they're not doing it because there's some underlying, if not even conscious, endeavor to obfuscate, because I sometimes I think there is quite honestly because the numbers are so confusing.

On the other hand, it may be just be because ICANN has grown so fast. The budget has multiplied exponentially and the carve outs now are many, many, many, many, so it really might just be a situation where ICANN's budget has gotten so large that we haven't figured out how to create the Cliff Notes version, basically. But until we figure that out, I think it's going to very hard for the community to comment meaningfully on this.

And I would like to see, I know that many of us would like to advocate for more travel funding to have, you know, maybe stronger administrative support or whatever our needs are to function better. But I think, as good citizens of

the community, it's important to also set the example that we expect fiscal conservatism right now, quite frankly, given the situation with the reserve.

My other point about spending, and going to the travel policy, I think, yes, it's good to look at workers versus leaders and maybe figure out some formula where there's a percentage of leadership and a percentage of workers that are funded versus, you know, leaders across the board or whatever. But going to that as well, I think in terms of budget oversight that we would have to look at ICANN's travel policy generally. The way that their defaults are set on the travel rules can actually result in airline tickets that can be three or four times more than the cheapest ticket a constituent could buy on their own.

So I would think it would be very much in the common interest of both our sides to get a more realistic policy on travel allocation generally. And I certainly would like to see ICANN shift to, "Hey we'll make the travel arrangements if you want us to, but here's your budget limit." And then whatever that limit is and you go find a ticket that makes sense and document it to ICANN. That's easy and it certainly would take the burden off ICANN constituency travel.

Ed Morris: Lori, much what you said, I just have to say amen. I mean it's the reserve fund - Greg, this is the elephant in the house that nobody does talk about. As I've explored the ICANN budget, what's fascinating is there's lots of little pots of money and they're sort of segregated. It's hard to figure out what the overall situation is, but when you look at the reserve fund, it's about one-third - is it currently at one-third of desired levels, Lori, do you know?

Lori Schulman: I actually think it's lower than one-third at this point.

Ed Morris: It used to be one-third, great. So that's an issue we have to deal with. I can - in terms of the travel policy, I know that there is going to be an attempt, by staff at least, to perhaps ship some of the - or at least get some funding for some of the face-to-face meetings for the PDP.

One thing I can tell you that the council has submitted is a request for eight slots per meeting for chairs of PDP groups. Right now what we have is a situation that if our chairs want to get funded, they have to take on other roles. And if you start looking at things like the PDP, the RPM PDP, that's a 20-hour a week job minimum for the folks. And then they either have to find their own way to come here. I know in the case of one person he has to become a mentor to get funding.

So on council we looked at this and said, "All right the folks that are leading these mega PDPs they deserve to be funded, so if they have no other source of funds, we'll take them there." And so that at least is in one of our supplemental budget requests.

But overall, one of my concerns is that you have to do that. When I ran for election for council, I wasn't sure what I was going to do. But I recognized at that point if I wanted to continue my accountability work, I needed to be onsite for the meetings so thus I had to run for council in order to be on accountability, and that's craziness.

And so I - there needs to be, at least in my view, as Lori said, I think we have to look at the overall travel situation. I will tell you how I spent last Friday. Under our community rules, per diems are supposed to be sent out one week in advance of a meeting.

Lori Schulman: Really?

Ed Morris: Yes. Exactly. And I've been informing people like that, including the finance department and the travel department at ICANN. It's on our website and they were aware of that. And they feel that they're overworked. And I've heard that since day one. Travel is overworked, and I acknowledge that principle. But I also know that travel has a new person working for the past year and yet the problems are still there.

We switched travel providers from (Dominic), I forget who he worked for, (Dominic) was there, he's gone, and now we have FCM. I was told when we switched we were going to have sort of a computer program, where the traveler would go on and, within the limits of certain budgetary requirements, be able to select our flights and presumably that would solve part of the problem of having, you know, I had heard one story at this meeting where somebody that could have come here for 70, 80 euros, they spent €1,200 on a ticket.

I had an example when I was going to (Towlin) for a (Cycon) conference on what the crop funds, they routed me via Moscow for about $2,000 with a 23-hour layover when there was a direct flight from Manchester for 22 pounds. So we all have these stories. And we - Heather Forrest is not here, bless her. Heather always had wonderful stories of making it the intersessional meeting. She used to have to traverse most of the continents of the world and then was using this ticketed. I mean Heather is the poster child for the problems with what we've dealt with here.

But from a budgetary perspective, I agree with Lori. We need to take a look. It sort of just grew bit by bit. First we funded certain people, then we funded officers. I think we need to take a look with the new ICANN on, A, who we fund, B, who decides it, and then we have the operational issue that we need

to have somebody, preferably our new CEO, talk to Joseph, who I think everyone here likes and respects, I have yet to hear a bad word about (Joseph), and try to see what we can do to help Joseph create a department and a situation that really supports us. You should not have to spend, as I did last Friday, a day bugging (Rob) with constant emails, having some members of the NCSG saying, "Hey, we heard from Carlos Gutierrez" -- and Carlos has gone on list with this -- stating that two months after India, he still owed $2,000.

And some of our members are students. Some of our members are unemployed. They can't float ICANN a $300 loan. And Iceland's expensive. So I think it's - we're not trying to reinvent the wheel. We're not trying to do brain surgery. I would just sense that if it's the sense of the room, when we leave here today, when we're going to make our final comments and issue whatever documents we're going to issue, we send the message to ICANN that this is not acceptable. They have to take a look at travel, at least from an operational standpoint. They have to fix some of these long-standing problems.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Ed. This is Jimson Olufuye. I would like to use the opportunity to recognize those on the remote connection. We also have Stephanie Perrin and she corroborates and supported the views expressed by Lori. And she also asks the question to Ed that are you suggesting that a committee look at wasted money? Ed? So that's from Stephanie Perrin.

Ed Morris: Well in the budget - I'm going to turn to Lori as well on this. You looked at this issue. During the - if we're - Stephanie has asked do we have a committee to look at wasted money? How should we approach the fact that we looked at the ICANN budget? We all have stories of money being wasted. We all have our favorite groups we point at, that certain group that starts with perhaps the

letter A. I have special grievances with how they spent funds. We all have stories. How do we deal with it?

Lori Schulman: Hi. This is Lori. Right now I don't think there is a formal way of dealing with it. You know, we have Xavier's meetings and that's about it at the moment. But I don't see why we couldn't, as a house, at least start collecting the anecdotal evidence.

I mean I've seen it with my own partner, who's based outside of the U.S., and he'll plan a flight and say I figure it all out. It's $850, switch it to ICANN, and then ICANN submits back, "No that's not acceptable," for whatever the reason is, or there's a time delay and that $850 flight has now become a $6,000 flight. And I am no exaggerating that number, by the way. And it happens more than you think.

And I think if we start adding that up and can make the business case, then part of it is, I know this from just my other life, when you use online booking systems and you set perimeters, there's inventory of flights and the online provider makes more money if you're booked on particular flights than necessarily the most convenient flight or the most cost-effective flight.

So what I think we would have to do as a community, at least on the travel end, is start documenting these horror stories. And my guess is anybody, but even U.S. based, but I think it's more relevant to non-U.S. based participants, to talk about these, line it up and say here's ten stories and right here we see $50,000 or $100,000 worth of waste. And that would be one.

And, two, to actually, I don't know how this is done operation - in operational policy, have an operational policy in place that says this isn't about the perimeters in an online booking system, this is about cost caps and get that in

place. And I think once you have that in place, some of these problems would alleviate themselves and would be - I mean would be delightful for Joseph to have to make, you know, 100 less bookings because the individual can do it better, faster, cheaper.

Jimson Olufuye: Right, Lori. Thank you. So we have some other flags. I think Renata. Renata, please?

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: Thank you, Jimson. Renata here. First, I think it was said by Ed awhile ago about working in small groups, I think this is quite interesting. I'd also like to second the importance of thinking about the travel expenses. But most of all I want to quote Tapani and his question to Göran, how the hell do you find something on that website? That website is something - is that from 80s? It's like really old. And then you have that and you also have people from our stakeholder group. You have someone from Uruguay in a shady room in Morocco airport for several hours because of a visa mishap.

You have Remy, who is not here with us, and without his passport because he sent his passport for the visa and never got it back. So I almost did not go to the last meeting as well because my passport is in India. Someone came to me and said, "Oh, no you have to pay $2,000 if you want to expedite the process. You're doing this on your own." Nobody does this on your own. Everybody does this through visa agencies. And ICANN has a visa agency.

So what is going on? A blog, people, at least to track travel requests and visa, where are people's passports, what are they doing, any sort of system but not an 80s video game. That really doesn't work.

Ed Morris: Just - thank you, Renata, for the comment. Just briefly, for the NCSG folks in the house, we have, again, put in one of Lori's favorite supplemental budget

requests to provide visa expedition firms for our members going forward, and for everybody. So we're going to try that if it's approved. So we're looking at the issue. Hi, Lori.

Lori Schulman: I think maybe you could leverage that request with my proposal about documenting where there's waste and implementing a new policy and have it offset because I could see ICANN coming back and say, "No, we're not going to do this because the expediters are quite expensive." And so I think to be successful in that, we would have to argue the other as well. So because this is about being fiscally prudent. If you're asking for - to spend more money on expedited visas, then let's help ICANN spend less money on the flights.

Ed Morris: Agreed. And the way the project's set up is just for expenditures, not for un-expenditures.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay. Just a reminder, please state your name before you speak for record purposes. Well for us -- this is Jimson speaking -- for us from developing countries, I think that would be a challenge getting a consultant to process your visa because of many issues. So. But I do recognize that this is things that you are facing in other areas, but from Africa in particular you have to make personal - you have to be present personally. You have to follow it up personally. But anyway, we can explore the opportunity. Thank you.

Well I think I have here Poncelet?

Poncelet Illeleji: Poncelet speaking for the record. I'll first state in my first comment (unintelligible) is this and visa expedition, which I will talk about later on. But I just want to say in terms of this ad hoc committee, yesterday my chair, Klaus, raised something in the open plenary that we in particular, and I'm sure other constituencies might have had experiences with it, when we tried to do

outreach and we meet the timelines and then at the end of the day, last minute they make you cancel an event because they tell you the money's not there or you do the event and people have to pay from their personal pockets, and for them to get refunded, it doesn't happen.

I makes, for me personally, it makes you as a constituency, especially you're doing this voluntarily, sometimes you lose credibility because ICANN - imagine we do so much hard work, Klaus and (Sam), on trying to meet NPOC and our outreach and all of a sudden, you cancel that. So I don't know whether what's in this ad hoc committee you're thinking about forming and to look into budgets, whether that will be a provision to really outline was specifically needs to be done for outreach. And in this budget, why don't ICANN meet their own timelines they provide for us to meet and they don't abide by it. Thank you.

Ed Morris: Yes hi, Poncelet. I have some knowledge of what you're talking about for the outreach you guys had planned for this meeting. My suggestion first of all to deal with that specific incidence would be to write a complaint to the ombudsmen, get them involved in mediating between NPOC and ICANN staff to figure out what their perspective is and if ICANN was in the wrong. That in and of itself will be enough to create new policies going forward because the ombudsmen reports go to the board. So that might be an approach for that specific incident.

I do think when Lori was talking about travel booking, getting the low rate and asking ICANN for the money, one thing I do want folks to remember, at least particularly for our group, the NCSG, we're not all that wealthy. We can't afford to loan ICANN $1,500 if we have to buy the flight and wait for reimbursement. Oh it wasn't, okay?

Lori Schulman: No that's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is, when I usually book my flights, I find the flight I want. When I get the little note from ICANN constituency, I say, "Thank you for doing this. I actually found my flight already." And most of the time I'll get the flight I asked for. But I find the experience with partner, who is home-based, it's not Washington, D.C., it's Frankfurt, Germany, will do a very similar thing. "Oh thank you for the e-mail. I figured out the flights. Here's where they are, here's what it costs." But he will consistently not get the flight. And the flight that comes back is always substantially more, and I don't understand that.

Ed Morris: I can confirm that because I've been based in the U.S. and in Europe since the change. When I'm dealing with FCM U.S. they've always accommodated me. When I'm dealing with the Dublin office, they don't accommodate me. So that could be a problem we might be able to talk to Joseph about.

Jimson Olufuye: This is Jimson speaking. Just to quickly respond to Poncelet. In fairness to ICANN travel, there are times for some of our outreaches we apply late but they still accommodate it. So yours is quite interesting, so I think we should really probably (unintelligible) for improvement. Next is Stefania.

Stefania Milan: Stefania Milan here. Thank you very much everyone who has spoken so far for bringing this to our attention. It's definitely very important. I have three points. Well, it's not just a matter of fiscal responsibilities or similar transparency. We've heard a lot about that (unintelligible). We are sensitive to that. (Unintelligible) seems to be sensitive.

                   So we also heard a lot about metrics, data, facts also this morning. Well this is one of the cases in which it's relatively easy in principle to get data which are right, accessible but also actionable. And that's something we should really ask and also relatively easy to obtain.

The second point is dealing with the anecdote. Another problem that we have when it comes to travel funding is that they don't reimburse, they don't want to use low cost airlines, which is much, much cheaper when for example you move in Europe, right? And when you want to go for the low cost, then all of sudden you get reimbursed far less, right? Like (Yulf) and I for the Morocco meeting had to chip in money. It was not clear and it only came up later on that we were reimbursed, probably after, I don't remember now.

The other thing, there was a (unintelligible) up here, I think it was for the intersessional in Washington in which we are asked to book through like an online form that would give us the maximum allotment. But then it was a very efficient way of doing it because you could do it yourself within the maximum (unintelligible). So that would be probably also a relatively low cost solution to ask for.

And then finally, most important point, I really like the idea of the small standing committee but I'm not sure that all of the elements that have been brought up for discussion fit into the mandate of this small group. And I'm a little scared that we might be expanding the mandate.

I see the value of what Steve has mentioned, a drafting team, able to act quickly and bring attention on the GNSO in budgetary issues and stuff like that, especially in the respect you're bringing to life the empowered community. But I'm not sure this committee should also deal with, for example, travel funding and all of that. It seems like to me too much to expect for one group. I don't know whether this is a proposal for creating more groups or more mailing lists or something like that. But I would like to discuss this as well. Thank you.

Ed Morris: At least I can give you my perspective. Right now our input - I mean there are two issues here. One is how to participate in the empowered community, the other is an ongoing presence in the budget process. Now right now in the NCSG I'm the new NCSG finance committee chair, treasurer, et cetera because we've got a finance committee that's never met.

First meeting tomorrow 9 am face-to-face. We're actually going to do it. We're going to try to crank this out. But I think we're more effective if we're working together as a GNSO or even as an NCPH. Within this room, I only see one major budgetary difference in terms of what we what, and that's compliance. You know, I'd like to have it be a call center in Bangalore, some people want it to be a skyscraper in New York City. So there is a difference there between the NCSG and the CSG. But on most issues, we're walking step in step.

So I'm not sure - I agree with you. Maybe there should be two separate items here. I love Steve's idea of a drafting team for the empowered community bit and I will promise you will have that on the agenda in Copenhagen. I'll make sure that happens in the council meeting. But how should we do with these mega issues? Should we continue to be lobbying Xavier and even staff separately or is there way for us to come together? I don't have the answer. It's a question.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay. This is Jimson. We've got some people in line. Just hold on please. Wolf please. Wolf, please state your name.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Yes. Thanks, Jimson. Wolf-Ulrich speaking. I don't have a comment to all this travel trouble here, because personally I'm satisfied with what ICANN is providing here in this regard.

So they're answering my questions. They're organizing me very well, say, if I have questions. And so but it may be very different in other countries, and I would like to give you support as well in solving these problems.

However, I would like to comment on what Lori was commenting on with regard to the budget sheets, and reading budget plans, and reading balance sheets. I got a slightly different impression, Lori, right?

ICANN, to my knowledge and to my impression, has improved a lot over the last years in providing information for the budget plans, and readable information as well. Readable means, to me - well I have to learn how to read it. This is because of the specific kind of the financial statements here.

But there are several groups here, several processes in the budget plan, where we can engage, and which we did. And people from the various constituencies did. And Xavier's providing enough information.

I think that is a good thing. I think we should not just criticize it in general, when we have specific problems with administrative budget we are referring to, with regards to our constituencies or the house-specific items. It would be helpful, I think, to them. And they are, to my knowledge, open well to understand that, and to follow our advice.

So if you have specific, critical items - well with regard to that, we should bring it up. Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you very much, Wolf. This is Jimson speaking. I've actually been attending all the (face-to-face) meetings of the working group, finance working group, and I can agree with you there has been remarkable improvement really. But there's always room for improvement.

Next to intervene is Johan. Then after that's Stephanie from remote connection. Yeah, Johan?

Julf Helsingius: Okay. Please call me Julf, because otherwise I don't know who you're talking about. This is Julf Helsingius. Hate to come back to - so I'll beat up the old totally beaten up horse of travel, but I kind of link to it.

As I was trying to deal with some numbers of rather irrational rules about the travel, I also tried to actually find out - and this goes to how the Web site really doesn't contain any information we need. I was trying to find out who actually made those decisions; what policies it was actually based on. And after a number, a number of questions, I never got a response.

And I think that goes to a more general question. Yes, we all have to learn how to read a budget document. But one specific piece of information that I think we need is, who is in charge of what? What policy is this cost related to for each really major item?

We need to know who actually determines the process of spending that money. And that is something ICANN should be able to answer easily. And that - right now it doesn't seem to be the case.

Jimson Olufuye: Well I'm not speaking for ICANN staff. (But the composition) - this is Jimson speaking. Many of the budget's working groups have declared that their - the CFO, you know, makes sure it goes through the process. And their tax owners and so on and so forth are tracked.

But I think in relation to what you said, maybe the timing for the working group meeting needs to be checked. So with that, more people can participate and get more clarity on this.

Next, Stephanie. Stephanie Perrin?

Stephanie Perrin: Thanks very much. Stephanie Perrin for the record. Just muting my speakers to get rid of that echo.

I would like to second what Stefania said a few minutes ago. I appreciate that travel is a big concern to everybody but - this is point number one. I really think if we have complaints about travel, we should bring it up with ICANN management. And as far as I'm concerned, Joseph, I was going to apply for sainthood for him. He possibly needs support in dealing with some of these issues.

Secondly, I'd like to second what Julf just said. Coming from government as I do, it's pretty clear who's responsible for spending the travel budget when you're a manager or director or whatever. There's a pretty clear line of authority and responsibility.

If we, as a stakeholder group -- I'm just speaking for us -- spend a ridiculous amount of money on travel, nobody holds us to account for it. So I think it is a little difficult. And we have to understand that a constituency travel is operating in what I would call a policy void there.

So once again, as with so many other things, ICANN, as a multi-stakeholder model, is a bit weird. We're all independently responsible for the money we waste. If we go to a meeting and do nothing, nobody's going to hold us to account for that. We don't have deliverables.

So I just think that that's important to keep in mind if we are going to look at waste. It's a pretty broad topic. And the reason I asked the question in the chat was Ed was spending quite a bit of time on it, which suggested that an examination of waste would have been part of the mandate of this group.

Now that brings me to, I guess, what is my third point. The mandate has to be very clear. We only have a budget once a year, right? So that doesn't mean that we don't have some kind of ongoing watch that we could go, in terms of following the pots of money.

But just having an ad hoc committee to coordinate a useful response to the budget when it appears might be a sufficient initiative here, or one with a limited, concrete, tight mandate. Because just as this conversation seems to have gone all over the map, I would suspect that if we don't have a very clear mandate for this committee, it might do the same. Thanks.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay, thank you, Stephanie. Next is T. T is Tatiana. Yes, T.

Tatiana Tropina: Thank you very much. Tatiana Tropina speaking, for the record. I would like to make a comment about this expedited visa complaint. As Jimson already has said, for many people who really need visa in developing countries - and I know myself, I mean, I'm from Russia, and I do need visas though I live in Germany.

You have to make an appointment in advance. You have to go to the appointment personally. You have to give your fingerprints. Normally these expedited visa companies, they deal with like Germans who want to have Russian visa or Chinese visa, and make the process easy. It will not help.

What will help - because Remy's problem, waiting for his passport, is that he submitted the documents late. Why did he submit it late? Because ICANN travel, constituency travel, is overloaded with job. It's our duty to get visas, but we cannot get those visas if we don't have documents in time.

And I believe that much better utilization of this support and this money would be to get ICANN to hire full-time person in the constituency travel, so people can get their documents in time to apply, in time to get their passports back. And this would be much better than expedited visa, which will not help if ICANN is not given documents in time. You cannot influence embassy processing time anyway. Thanks.

Ed Morris: Just one comment, Tatiana. It's always nice to say, let's give Joseph some more help. I want him to have all the help he needs. But I was told two years ago that we need to give Joseph help. He has help now. The problem hasn't changed. Thanks.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay, so next to intervene is Steve, Steve DelBianco.

Steve DelBianco: (No, no, skip).

Jimson Olufuye: Oh, okay, (unintelligible). Then (John)? Okay, you're down? All right. So Erika Mann?

Erika Mann: I mean I have the interesting experience to have - been served on the board, and now a different experience, which is very interesting to compare. And I think the team is really excellent. So Joseph and his team, they're fantastic people. And I must even say the travel agency in Dublin, they're trying hard to do what is right. But there are certain bits and pieces which are missing.

And I think what we should do - and we have board members here as well. What we should do just to bring these bits and pieces together in a simple format - you know, just describe them.

Each time is one example, like the one we just heard from - about visa requirement and travel arrangements. And then just find a solution, and find a solution quickly. Because I don't think we can wait another year or another two years. It's not possible.

The same is for travel arrangement and the money point which was made, and expenditures which certain people, of course, shall not pay, pay even in advance.

So there's certain things and we have to - I'm pretty sure there's willingness. We just have to ensure that it's done. And we have to set a kind of deadline until when we expect this to be solved. And that's at (unintelligible) year.

Because people want to do the right thing. I've never experienced anybody who doesn't want to do the right thing. So and maybe we should prioritize them from 1 through 6, so that they have a clear indication what's the most important for the community which needs to be solved first, and then second, third. Just kind of business plan. Just make it simple for them.

And I'm trying to get an answer how much we spent actually for - I spent a note to (unintelligible) and (Becky). Maybe they come back during our discussion how much the overall budget is for our part on the travel arrangement.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay, thank you very much, Erika. Next to intervene, Lori?

Lori Schulman: Thank you. I appreciate what Erika said. I think tying up little pieces absolutely makes sense.

And I do want to clarify that my comments about the budget and the travel have nothing to do with the personal performance of either Xavier or Joseph. I know they do very much go out of their way. I just want that to be clear for the record.

In terms of what Stefania was saying in terms of data and the budget, the data is there. I mean the one thing that ICANN finance is very good about is supplying number, number, number, number, number. Where we seem to have somewhat of a disconnect is how the numbers are presented -- you know, where some changes are that we might not notice, not being as intimate with the budget process.

And I do feel and I do recognize, particularly in the last 18 months, that there - and even today, as Steve just pointed out, a budget report was just issued and it…

Steve DelBianco: Quarterly report.

Lori Schulman: Yeah, the quarterly report just came out. It's much more graphic. It's much more accessible. And I applaud ICANN for that. But I still feel that, you know, last year I was new to this. But I was new to this process. I wasn't new to reading a budget. And I could not read the budget. And I think that's a problem, you know, in a very basic sense.

Erika Mann: Just to quick reply to that, that's why I said - I mean transparency's also made by providing data that is actionable, right? So I don't think it's a matter of poor

will. On ICANN's side it's probably a matter of poor output. And that's where we have to intervene.

Ed Morris: I'd like to - can I ask Rob a question? It talks about transparency and data. This meeting, I believe - I know we have a separate line item -- I believe it's budget -- for $100,000. Would the travel expenses be included within that line item, sort of hidden within it? Or would it be in a separate travel budget? How do we actually see this on the ICANN information?

Rob Hoggarth: First off, I would never use the word hidden. Thank you. Oh, Rob Hoggarth, for the record. For various projects we will have a budget component in it. So for example, for this meeting the budget is, I believe, $95,000. Don't hold me to that. But about 50 of it is travel.

And what we did last year, primarily as a request from the registrars, was we responded to a DIDP request, and I can share the link with you of that response, which itemized all the expenses for each of the last - or previous two meetings, listing how much we paid for everybody's travel. And there was an analysis of how much it cost per traveler.

So we put that together, and our plan is we're just going to continue to do that to the extent we have future meetings. We'll do it for this meeting once we get all the final expenses and tabulate those. And so you'll be able to see, you know, essentially how it sets. And it gives you a good, I think, picture about what goes into these things.

I think Stephanie -- and I don't know whether she was referring to this meeting -- said something like $400,000 for the current meeting. That's nowhere near close to what our budget is here.

But I think it is very useful for you guys to be able to see, what does something like this cost? And be able to compare that to other things you might want; or in terms of your previous discussion, Ed, about seeing the bigger picture, and seeing if more resources are needed. Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Rob. Lawrence? You did…

Lawrence Olawale-Roberts: Thank you. This is Lawrence, for the record. Talking about travel from - especially I would like to talk about travel from my own point of view. And I think the question to ask is, what is ICANN trying to achieve by centralizing the process?

For me, basically what comes to mind is abuse. You - as simple as travel might look, it's also very tricky. Recently I saw a ticket. I'm based in Nigeria. I saw a ticket to the US. It was going for what I'll call a very good deal. And I made the effort, from Nigeria, of calling the agent in the US. And I was told that I could only get that price if I was traveling from the United States.

So it will mean that using the same airline within the same period of travel, traveling from Nigeria to the US and back to my home country on that same airline, I can't get that price. In other words, what I'm trying to arrive at is one, the different locations where we all come from, to a large extent, influences the prices and the deals that we get at the end of the day.

It's easier for - I presume it would be easier for ICANN to manage travel from one point, than to manage travels from over 100 different agents. Because at the end of the day, if we were to go forward with some of the proposals we have here, that is what it will end at.

Another thing is abuse. Yes, we can vouch for ourselves. But within the same community, I'm sure we'll find personal stories where ICANN could depend on a community member to provide a service, maybe expecting to pay about $2000. And at the end of the day, they're given a bill of about $8000.

And so when this fee does come out into the public, we will be the same persons shouting to have their necks. So it might be better for - I mean I would want to - I mean, I would just want to put this down, and how's that?

I think the thing to look at is, what problems is ICANN travel trying to solve? And if we're able to identify these problems, then we might be able to look at better solutions to what presently works. Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay. Thank you, Lawrence. And then I think we have Phil? Phil then - yes, Phil.

Phil Corwin: Yeah, Phil Corwin for the record. I think this has been a good discussion.

And I think it's important -- while looking at the overall budget and how we get adequate resources for GNSO, and adequate financial support for its important role -- that we really focus on this travel issue, because it's just every dollar that ICANN wastes unnecessarily on tickets that are more expensive than they need to be for routes that take far longer than they should, is not just a burden on the people who volunteer their work here, but it reflects poorly on ICANN.

It diverts funds that could be used in much better ways, including support for participation by other people in the process who want to contribute. And frankly, all these travel budgets -- I know I've seen industry articles -- they get focused on.

It all gets published in the end. There's a list for every meeting of who all the supported travelers were, and how much was spent. And to the extent that much more is spent than needs to be, it makes - it reinforces that wrong notion that ICANN is Club Med for geeks, and this is some kind of - you know, that we're having some kind of fabulous party here in Reykjavik, rather than sitting in a room with windows, though it's not very sunny out.

And the poor person who has booked a $6000 ticket instead of the $600, someone's going to think, oh, you know, he's really ripping off ICANN. He must be flying first class. And the poor person is stuck in the middle seat in the back row on a flight that's taken twice as long as it should, because of what's going on.

So it's just a bad deal all around, and there's no excuse for wasting funds that way and creating that kind of impression, which reflects poorly on both ICANN at large, and on the individuals who are named with the amount spent for each meeting next to them, if those expenditures were substantially more than they needed to be. Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Phil. Stephanie, remotely, I agree with you 100%. Okay, (unintelligible), Rinalia?

Rinalia Abdul Rahim: Thank you. Rinalia speaking. I've heard similar challenges regarding travel in the at-large community, so it's not an isolated issue. I think it runs across ICANN community. I've encouraged them to document, as you are discussing. I think it's very important to have the information on what's not working properly, so that you can submit it to management; tell them it's a problem; and work with them to solve the problem.

In Copenhagen, the CEO and his management team will be having a session focused on the CEO report. But it's revolving around management, and that's a good opportunity to raise it. Because talking to Joseph, you're actually going down. He's accountable for ICANN. You should go this way. And it's the same thing with the finance issue as well, yeah? Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye: Excellent. Thank you very much for that. And I think the last flag I can see is Ayden.

Ayden Ferdeline: Hi, Ayden Ferdeline for the record. Ready? I'm hesitant to raise this point because I think it continues with the theme of travel, when I thought this session was meant to be a broader discussion of budgeting. But I think there's another aspect to travel expenditures than what we're talking about.

We've been discussing, with the benefit of hindsight, the line items like slides sent, and wasted expenditure there. But we're not discussing why this travel is happening in the first place. And there are participants in this room who contributed to the decision to say, host this meeting in Iceland on these particular dates, when perhaps there may be more economical destinations, or there may have been cheaper days that this meeting could have taken place.

So I'm not suggesting at all that travel should not take place. I realize it's important. But I am suggesting that perhaps we as a community, or ICANN as an organization, in a situation where it is spending more resources -- be they financial or non-financial -- than it needs to, say, scouting out locations to meetings, arranging travel for a large number of community volunteers, because of the requirements that we've put in place.

So I just wanted to put this out there that perhaps there are also ways that meetings can be done more economically on different dates in alternative

locations perhaps. And maybe that is something that we need to think about , too. Thanks.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Ayden. I don't know if Rob may throw more light on that. Comparatively, previous session, (unintelligible) has it made any different really, in terms of budget?

Rob Hoggarth: This is Rob. The cost is relatively the same, compared - I'll have the final cost for this in probably about three or four weeks, so we'll know and we'll see that in the report.

I'm keeping my mouth closed unless you ask me specifically. I have a number of comments I could make. We might have some separate parking lot discussions about various points that people are making.

I think this is a really good discussion, and I really want to reinforce what Rinalia said in terms of, you know - and Phil as well, in terms of having many more opportunities to really look at this in a broader programmatic fashion, because I think that will benefit you as a community, as well as staff who's responsible for operations. Thanks, Jimson.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you very much, Rob. Last on the list is - on this round, Tony Harris.

Tony Harris: Yeah, I'll put in my two cents on travel arrangements. First of all, I'd like to say I think Joseph does a fantastic job, and he's always extremely helpful. Unfortunately, we're forced to deal with an organization called FCM, which obliges me usually to take one month to get my itinerary sorted out, whereas I could do that in one hour with my own travel agency.

Just as an example, I'm struggling to get my itinerary confirmed to Copenhagen with an economy class seat with the carrier of my choice. And when I asked FCM Mexico who attend to us -- or I don't know what you would call it; they service us -- the answer was, oh, you can't have that. That's a $6200 fare. I asked my agency for exactly the same itinerary on the same dates, and the cost was $1600.

So it's a little difficult to plan - to organize travel. Plus the fact that when we get the notification, we have to fill in a template which - also some questions of what our preferences are. The moment we get a reply, everything's ignored.

And the itinerary goes through Turkey, and then it goes to Russia, and then comes back to South Africa, and finally you'll end up in Asia. And this is a solution.

So I think basically we've got a problem here with the provider more than with ICANN. I mean when Joseph hears about things, he immediately sorts it out.

But to do this exercise every single time, you go through all these procedures, and I know what the outcome's going to be. And then there's a month of negotiations before we finally come to an agreement. It seems a waste of time. And also, in many cases, I think it's costing ICANN more money than it should.

Ed Morris: Can I ask a question, Tony? Did you have the same problem with the previous provider? I mean I've heard stories which suggest that (Dominick) may have been an asset that we sort of lost by moving to FCM. I've heard others tell me the reverse. I'm just wondering what your experience was before and after the change.

Tony Harris: In my experience, they were much better. Because when you explained something to them, they actually understood. I don't see that with our current people that service us right now.

Plus the fact, if I might just make one more comment, you used to have the option to book your own ticket. They would give you a limit. And if you wanted to choose your own itinerary, you had to do it within that limit or pay the excess yourself.

That's just fine with me. I'd sooner, you know, have my organization chip in -- I don't know -- a couple hundred dollars, and be able to travel like a human being than, you know, subjecting to whatever I'm subjected.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay. Thank you. I was thinking that I'm going to begin to summarize, but we just - this is Jimson speaking. We just picked two more. That's Raoul and Markus.

Raoul Plommer: Yes. Raoul Plommer for the record. Yeah, I would definitely - in an organization like ICANN where people are traveling all the time, making expensive trips, and there's a lot of people traveling, I think - I'm quite sure it would make sense to have our own ICANN people sort our travel, and not use outsourced agency, because they will rip us off any time they can.

Jimson Olufuye: Interesting point. So, Joan, please?

Joan Kerr: Thank you. It's Joan for the record. I do agree that Joseph does a really great job, especially if you communicate with him. But I just want to go back to a point that Rinalia made about speaking with the CEO. I think that's a really good idea.

But one of the things that I always do is speak to the person that's actually doing a job, and asking them what improvements would they recommend, before you go and speak to the top management to make policies and decisions.

Because when somebody's doing a job, they actually can decipher what are some of the ways that things could be done more efficiently. I'm just saying a two-step process.

I wanted to just pick up on the point of the cost of travel. I had the - many of you know that I'm married to my favorite husband…

((Crosstalk))

Joan Kerr: …and he's at large. And we travel together. And he gets his itinerary usually two to three weeks before me. And he also has information about the cost of travel before me. And I will send emails saying, okay, my husband has got this, you know, I want to be on the same. And I get different information all the time.

And I find that very - you know, we both laugh. And I always say to him, you know, he has a lucky star. But I think that when information is being provided, that it should be provided that everyone has the same information for the same cost and the same instructions. So I just wanted to mention that.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Joan. Markus?

Markus Kummer: Markus speaking for the record. Just two brief comments. As I was sitting next to Lori and making the comments on the budget, I would also like to

reassure you that the board finance committee, we have actually raised this issue with (Javier), and he promised to make efforts to make the budget more readable.

I mean as you said, the figures are all there. But it'll be helpful to have maybe sometimes an explanatory note in the budget line why the amount has gone up or down. And he also said he would try and make sort of easy summaries, budget for dummies, executive summaries, that highlight the salient features.

And I also welcome the call for fiscal responsibility. The trust fund is something which is close to our heart. We really think we have to look at this to make sure that we replenish the trust fund. Thank you.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you, Markus. We're running short of time now, so we can make a quick intervention. Poncelet, and next Klaus.

((Crosstalk))

Klaus Stoll: Okay, thank you. I can give you dozens of anecdotal stories from my travel life. But I can give you a fact. That fact is, for example, on the Hyderabad travel, I lost personally, because of incompetence, over $800, just with (unintelligible) and so on and so on.

But where's the solution? The solution is quite simple. Let's design a questionnaire for all travelers to fill out after the travel and say, how was your experience with the travel agency? What was the price you could have got? What was the price you got quoted? What could we do better? And things like that.

Then you know basically, after each round, after each ICANN meeting, actually what you had to pay, what paid, and what happens. And based on that survey, ICANN's CEO and so on can go to the travel agency and can say, here, this is the travel experience. That's what's going.

Because the questions we are getting asked, yeah? Was your flight enjoyable? Did the carrier arrive on time? These are not the questions ICANN should ask. ICANN should ask - like in the case of Tony. Tony, what would it really have cost? And how much did it cost you? When did you get the ticket? How much delay did you have?

In the case of Hyderabad, just simply by them not booking the flight for one week cost $4000 more. And that's even in the quote. You could see it in the quote, the quote they made on the Wednesday the week before is - what it cost for the same flight with the same seat and everything, $6000.

When I asked them, why didn't you do it? Oh, we've got so much work to do. So basically it's got so much work to do, the money costs ICANN, not you. And get somebody else. So what I'm saying, let's look for practical solutions. Let's do survey after each ICANN meeting and ask the right questions.

Jimson Olufuye: Thank you very much, Klaus. That's very important feedback. A questionnaire is very interesting. There is - this is Jimson speaking. We'll be wrapping up shortly.

This intervention from Stephanie. She said, for the record, I had to cancel my ticket last minute because I was running a bad fever. They would not have let me on the plane. First time ever. Things like this happen, I guess.

But we should definitely have a clear framework for folks to align their travel decision-making. Costs tend to go up dramatically at the last minute. Most tickets have a huge penalty. People need to be accountable for the last-minute decision. So thank you very much, Stephanie, and I will (unintelligible).

Ed Morris: It's time to wrap up. Okay. I wanted a deliverable, because we have to - at least I'm trying to justify this meeting and the expense.

I think Steve had a wonderful idea. I will - I can commit to speaking to my council colleagues about setting up a drafting team, hopefully get it on the agenda in Copenhagen, to deal with the formal budget issues we have before the GNSO. So I will commit to that.

Otherwise, we have a ton of ideas. By the way, I knew we were going to go off track. But I've been in the hallways. Everyone is talking about the problems with travel, so I felt we needed to bring it up while we're all here together.

So what I'll commit to do - and work with Jimson. Rob has said he'll get me the transcript ASAP. I'll go through the transcript of this. Try to summarize. Put it on list. And because of the concern about travel, I'll get it to Joseph and probably give him a call and talk about what happened to day, and then report back to everyone here, if that's a plan moving forward. Okay, thanks.

Jimson Olufuye: Okay, thank you very much, Ed. This is Jimson. I would also like to encourage every constituency to have maybe a budget committee. That will help a lot not only following up the budget and passing comment, it will also feed into the larger, in part, community administration that will react or be proactive concerning ICANN's fiscal budget framework.

So and as Ed said, we will look at all the feedback, and will provide summaries. There is something on the Adobe room. Well I don't know. Stephanie's saying something. But I think it's in tune with what we have said so far, so thank you very much.

Rob Hoggarth: Thank you, gentlemen, very much. We're ready to roll into our next session. Our chairs are Tony and Kathy. I don't know whether you prefer to chair from your seats or come up to the top of the table. But Jimson and Ed are making room for you if you'd like to do that.

We have an hour and 45 minutes scheduled for this session, after which we do have a break. And there'll be things outside for you as a reward for after this session.

So, Tony and Kathy, I'll let you come up, and then we'll be doing some reset here with the recording, and start in about a minute and a half.

END