

ICANN

Moderator: Maryam Bakoshi
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10:00 am CT

Coordinator: This call is now being recorded.

Maryam Bakoshi: Thank you very much, (Gloria). Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. This is a Pre-NCPH Intersessional Meeting Briefing on Friday, 28 January, 2016.

On the call today we have Martin Silva Valent, Farzaneh Badii, and from staff, we have Benedetta Rossi, Robert Hoggarthh, Chantelle Doerksen, and myself, Maryam Bakoshi. I'd like to remind all participants to please state your name before speaking for transcription purposes. Thank you very much.

Over to you, (Rob).

Robert Hoggarth: Thank you very much, Maryam. Welcome, everybody. This is Rob Hoggarth.

Thanks very much for joining us today. We are recording this session for those folks who are not able to join us because I had the advantage of some of

the knowledge we'll be imparting today -- just some of the background about the meeting. Others may join during the call.

An open invitation to those of you on now and anyone who will join, we'll advise them please feel free to raise your hands in the Adobe Connect room or otherwise interrupt us at any point if there's something that we can clarify, there is an additional point that you'd like to get some information on. I think we'll be fairly exhaustive here over the next 20, 25 minutes, but if there is additional stuff, we are more than happy to answer your questions.

Benedetta, can you get us started with just a review of our call agenda, and then we'll start rolling with the information. Thank you.

Benedetta Rossi: Thank you. This is Benedetta Rossi for the transcript. So - yes, so we'll kick off the call with the first agenda item which is Meeting Origins (unintelligible) and planning process followed by a review of the meeting program and agenda, and then the logistics of the meeting, delegates and roles and then any other business and questions.

Robert Hoggarth: Great. Thanks, Benedetta. I'll - we're going to alternate to provide a little audio variety for you all. I'll take the first bullet item and then I'll turn it over to you, Benedetta, for some of the meeting program information and the agenda for the meeting.

Just by way of brief background for you all, the concept of an intersessional meeting for the non-contract community really had its genesis probably about five years ago. At that time, a number of members of the community were utilizing what we're currently calling the special community budget request process.

But, essentially, that was a - an additional process as part of the annual budget development that allowed individual communities to approach ICANN staff and make suggestions for improvement to existing programs, for suggestions about where the programs might go in terms of expansion, and for coming up with new, experimental ideas that, fundamentally, would help the community operate better. It would allow them to focus more on the actual policy development and take some of the administrative burdens off them.

Those request, in addition to administrative support, publication support, and the rest also began to focus more and more on outreach and engagement activities on ways that the individual supporting organizations and other groups could actually work better together. And so there were a wide variety of requests. A number of requests seemed to circulate around the concept of getting community members together outside of the jurisdiction of a regular ICANN public meeting.

As you all know, we've got those three public meetings every year where everybody from the community gets together. And, typically, those meetings are highly-structured, very busy with, you know, people running from meeting to meeting, session to session, not getting to sleep until late at night because of networking and other opportunities that all circulated around a fairly packed agenda.

And the constant feedback we were getting from a number of communities was, gee, can we get an opportunity to get together outside the bounds of an ICANN public meeting where we can actually start thinking strategically, where we can learn a little bit more about each other, where we can find areas where there's a little bit more capability to network, build relationships, and the rest? And unfortunately, what ICANN was not structured to do was to be

able to provide individual meetings in every one of the 19 different community groups that were asking for them.

And so the thought was are there ways for us to combine those efforts -- maybe bring together like-minded groups of leaders and members of the community to help them interact better? And the first pilot experiment that we came up with primarily would be driven by the degree of interest that was being expressed by the community so as to bring together the non-contracted members of the GNSO team.

There seemed to be enough diversity, certainly, and enough commonality as well that the thought was there might be benefits there to the community more broadly as well as to the individual members of the leadership teams of those groups. And so that's where the concept of this meeting came out. We held the first meeting in January of 2013 at the ICANN offices in Los Angeles and, quite frankly, it was the first time that that had ever taken place.

And we had some - let me jump back here - we had some pictures on the slide there just showing the group getting together. You'll see a rather odd arrangement there that we had to engage in so we could get enough people in the room. But where we had people, essentially, facing each other and giving them an opportunity to look back and forth and communicate.

The original Los Angeles meeting happened to coincide with change in leadership in ICANN. Fahd Batayneh was coming on board, there was a new Senior Leadership Team. And the major focus of that meeting became more informational, more educational in terms of sessions where staff would give briefings about what some of the plans were, where certain structures of the organization were going, and sort of some larger pictures about the - this longer-term strategies of the organization.

We got the feedback from many attendees at the time that say it was a great value of doing that and that that was helpful, but that the balance wasn't right, that there was way too much sort of talking to the community and not enough interaction between the community itself. It's important to note that, you know, when different communities said they wanted to get together, they really wanted to do some of that collaboration themselves and the structure of the meeting where they were basically being talked at for several hours at a time just didn't translate as well in terms of roles and expectations.

So the next meeting that took place - actually two years later because of some timing issues with respect to the public meeting break - took place in 2015, last January in the Washington D.C. area. But now we approach things somewhat differently. We continue the same general structure - and many of you, I think, have learned about just a little bit in that that the concept is one of balance between the different communities within the non-contracted party (unintelligible).

We tried to find the right balance between leadership participation, participation by veterans versus folks who are new, like many of you, and try to get the right mix so that there were enough people in the room to represent the points of view of each group without any group dominating either by via personalities or numbers of people.

And so that's why we are at this balance now of seven delegates from each community group with an even balance between the stakeholder group, the NCSG, and the CSG. And so - it seems to be a relatively manageable and magical number of around 40, 45 people to really have some roadblock conversations, but also to have a broad enough diversity and point of view that everybody feels like a point of view is represented and contributed.

The extra little twist that was developed over time was the recognition that it would be helpful to have the non-voting members of the GNSO council from the nominating committee appointees participate as well as the nominating committee appointee who associates themselves with a non-contracted party's house. So those were two additional guests that have been introduced to the concept of the meeting over time and the board member who is appointed by this community is also invited to participate in the meeting.

And as far as we know, based on schedules, itineraries, and commitments, all of those guests are going to be participating in the meeting with you all next week as well. One final bit of introduction just to give you all a perspective is that, you know, the communities were the ones who came up with the concept of getting together intersessionally (sic). And the role the staff plays in this is basically to facilitate, provide support from a logistical standpoint, otherwise, help keep things organized so that all of you can focus on more of the details - - the substance of the conversations.

And so, as a result, for each of the meetings up till this one, we've invited members and representatives of each group to participate in a planning committee. And the purpose of the planning committee is to basically get together, talk about the various topics and issues that are important to you all as a group, and reach some consensus as to what those topics will be and how you'll address them and who will address them.

And that's resulted in a programming agenda that Benedetta is going to walk you through here in a moment or two that just gives you a sense of what the topics are going to be in this next week and how everybody's going to approach them. So that's it in the very high-level view, in terms of the origins, purpose of the meeting, and the planning process.

I'll stop there and see if anybody has any comments or questions they'd like to ask so that we can provide a little bit more detail or explanation for you. Seeing no hands and hearing nothing at the moment, if anything crops up again, we can - please feel free to interrupt or otherwise just offer a question in the chat.

So let me turn over the mic now to Benedetta. Benedetta, if you can walk folks through the meeting program and agenda for the two days next week that would be fantastic. Thank you.

Benedetta Rossi: Thank you, (Rob). This is Benedetta for the transcript. Yes, so I'd like to walk you through the meeting program and agenda, mainly in terms of - to give you a perspective of what to expect during the two main meeting days.

So in the screen here, you can see a screenshot of the first day with the meeting agenda just to get a feel of what it looks like. Each day -- so the Thursday and Friday -- will be structured as follows. You'll have practice serve for all delegates in the DoubleTree hotel restaurant area from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

And then all meetings will kick off at 9 a.m. in the hotel conference room and they will be broken down into different slots by topic, as you can see here on the screen. We have Slot A, B, C, D, etcetera.

Each slot, as you can see on the agenda, will be run by two different co-chairs -- so one from each side of the house. You have one from the commercial side and one from the non-commercial side. And the - one of the purposes of having the two co-chairs is to have balanced representation on the house and just to - help facilitate the group's discussion on the relevant topics.

Each session will have remote participation capabilities -- so that includes Adobe Connect and recordings and transcripts, similarly to this session. And all of these things will be facilitated by ICANN staff. Lunch for delegates will be served just outside the conference room and delegates will be able to bring it back into the room to continue the working lunch session on both days.

And then you also have coffee and snacks served in the morning and afternoon on Thursday and Friday. You - all delegates will receive a hard copy of the program agenda upon arrival at the hotel. And this will include all the relevant information for all the times of the meeting rooms, etcetera, and other useful materials in preparation for the meeting.

So please don't worry about remembering the location for breakfast or meeting room or any other logistical item that I just mentioned because you will be briefed once you arrive. There will also be a reception in the Double Tree Hotel on Thursday evening and that will be a great networking opportunity for all delegates.

Again, that will be announced once you're onsite and you receive an invitation so you'll know where to go and what time it is. So in the, on the main intercessional meeting days, so the Thursday and Friday, all meetings will take place as a group in the Double Tree Hotel main conference room to the exception of the constituency or stakeholder room group breakout session which will take place on Thursday afternoon and then Friday morning.

On Thursday afternoon's breakout session, the CSU will meet as a group with as the non-commercials will meet at constituency levels. So you'll have your (unintelligible) in separate meetings. And then Friday's breakout sessions are tentatively scheduled for the morning at the stakeholder's group level to

prepare for the CEO session and meets with the CEO at a stakeholder group level.

I know that (Rob), can you please clarify why this is still tentative please?

(Rob), I think you may be on mute.

Robert Hoggarth: I wasn't on mute. I was desperately trying to get my phone off mute. Thank you. Yes, the reason why that is still up in the air especially (unintelligible) next week the ICANN Board has a workshop in Singapore and with several senior staff including Fadi Chehade participating.

And the challenge is essentially that travel itineraries are going to make it hard for (Fadi) to get back. And so the hope is that we are able to do that in the morning. He's very interested in talking with the group. And we have some difficulties in travel connections and whatever for him so we might have to shift back to the afternoon.

The overall concept and this is something I perhaps should have chatted about in the introduction is that, you know, one of the values in the conversation is to engage with members of staff on particular items of interest and one of the benefits of being in Los Angeles in most cases is that's where most of the staff are.

As a result, scheduling opportunities interact with ICANN Board members or ICANN staff members. It's always something that we try to achieve. It's been a little bit more challenging this time around. But something always seems to happen that makes for an interesting experience.

In the first iteration of the meeting it turns out that the Board was actually meeting in Los Angeles shortly after our inter special meeting and as a result,

we were able to interject into the schedule a meeting, an informal meeting with Board members to chat about issues.

Last year in Washington D.C. the timing worked out well with not only (Fadi) in town but at the same time, we had other senior members including the Chairman of the Board. We also tried at that time to leverage the Washington presence as an opportunity, as some of you've all see individually on the day after the meeting.

So there are a number of things, the overall theme again is one of flexibility. You know, you don't have to show up in suits and ties. This is something where you really have an opportunity to be in a more relaxed atmosphere with leaders from other groups that are facing a lot of the same issues as you are in terms of administrative challenges, time pressures and the rest.

And it's really an opportunity to network, get to know each other better and to explore on a more strategic or even tactical basis some of the issues that you face, either areas of commonality or agreements that you all can reach in terms of how you work together or how you approach them.

In I can just interject, I know (unintelligible) who partook in the meeting as far as who asked about the (CCNSO) and for the future because this is a pilot. Other communities might take advantage of the concept. Most recently the (RSAT) began to adopt the concept of an intercessional workshop to allow them to get together.

Yes, ICANN is already doing that. Other groups may choose to do that and in the future in the case of some of you that may become involved in the planning process, there may be issues that involve (CCNSO), with (unintelligible), or other groups that you want to learn more about and in those

circumstances, you might choose to invite somebody from those communities to participate.

But the major focus here for the purposes of the NCPH intercession is really to pull all of you together particularly where you have areas of potential common interest, where you can have discussion on the issues that are important to your community.

I'll turn it back over to you (Benedetta) to talk more about the agenda.
Thanks.

Benedetta Rossi: Thank you (Rob). I had actually finished what I had to present about the agenda but I wanted to know if anyone had any questions at this point about the program agenda.

Robert Hoggarth: This is (Rob). I would like to make an observation about that. To follow-up on the co-chair conversation that you had started a bit there (Benedetta). And that is as you see the concept of co-chairs is one that, you know has some balance in terms of people moderating or facilitating the conversation.

There's no set of criteria eligibility rules for who can take the role of co-chair. We basically in this case this year, I literally was pulling the assignments out of the hat in terms of individual communities that would have some responsibility for the co-chair role.

You may as individual delegations agree that a certain person is going to play that role. We've left it up to the planners and to the individual communities to pick who does what in those meetings. Again the theme is for all of you to be in the decision-making role, to really help move the discussions forward.

Where we can help, we're delighted to do so. Sometimes in the dynamics of the meeting someone will say, (Rob), can you take (over) but generally our view is that this is your meeting. This is your opportunity. It's one of those rare opportunities in the course of a calendar year to get together and we want you to have as most productive time as you can.

And so in terms of modifying the agenda, sliding things back and forth, if you're in the middle of a session and say, you know, this is a really good conversation, we want to continue it. Can we steal some time from one of the other sessions? That's entirely flexible and in the purview of the people who are sitting around the table to make that happen.

Thanks (Benedetta). Want me to turn to the next agenda items, the logistics? You've got some things about that. Let me let you take the mike on some of those (logistics) (Benedetta) and also employees.

Benedetta Rossi: Thank you (Rob). So all meetings on Thursday and Friday will be held at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel and their conference rooms. They'll be an ICANN technician there who will support all of the technical requirements for the meetings to run. And as previously noted, all sessions will have (virtual) participation so anyone within your group who are not physically there can listen into the meeting.

As part of the, I'm sorry I got lost there for a second looking at my own slides. As far as the planning (sessions), the community planners were given the option of holding face-to-face meetings either at a constituency or a stakeholder group level on the Wednesday preceding the beginning of the plenary sessions of the intercessional meeting. So those meetings will take place in the ICANN office in Los Angeles in the Headquarters.

So I believe that the NCSG, NCUC, NPOC and the (IPC) will be meeting here on the Wednesday. Then for more information about the planning process, you can refer to the intercessional (wiki) space. The link is also provided in the Web link (unintelligible) in the (unintelligible) room.

Here you'll be able to find all of the meeting documents and materials, all the recordings on the planning calls and then once the actual meeting takes place, the recordings and the transcripts of the plenary sessions will also be posted here.

And it might be useful to browse this space to familiarize yourself with the previous meeting since all of the intercessional meeting documents are also found on this link. It might give you a sense of what the previous meetings look like, what was achieved, et cetera.

And then this is one of the documents that you will also find on the (wiki) space. This is actually a screen shot of last year's delegate document. And you will receive a hard copy of this year's bio document upon arrival at the hotel. That will allow you to familiarize yourself with everyone that's going to be attending the meeting.

In case there's anyone you don't know, everyone will have a picture and their name and constituency or stakeholder group so at least you'll know who everyone is. And there won't be any strangers. (Rob) is there anything that you wanted to add about the logistics or about the, before going onto the next topic which is the delegates and their roles?

Robert Hoggarth: Yes, thanks (Benedetta). There are a couple of things here, this is (Rob) for the transcript. From a perspective of logistics, it's very important to

distinguish for you a little bit between the Thursday/Friday meetings and the Wednesday affair.

The Thursday/Friday meeting agenda, the logistics and everything is being provided by ICANN (unintelligible) staff and the rest are the meetings. They are the intercessional meetings. The program agenda is by consensus. The time and agenda that staff is putting in is all budgeted.

You know, the food and everything else is being covered and all that, all those logistics are managed by ICANN. What I mentioned earlier and (Benedetta) flagged the Wednesday session, earlier I mentioned to you that last year we took advantage of everybody being in the same city, particularly Washington D. C. where a number of people had offices.

That a number of groups stayed after on Friday for individual meetings. Those meetings were sponsored or hosted by various law firms or think tanks or associations that some of you were affiliated with or some of your colleagues were affiliated with.

There's not quite that same robust community, excuse me, in Los Angeles as there was in Washington D. C. in terms of infrastructure of various groups to just turn up in a conference room or whatever. But it really turned out to be a neat idea where, you know, folks didn't feel like they didn't have to go immediately running out the door to hop on a plane. That contributed to a little bit more relaxed atmosphere.

In addition, it gave you opportunities to sort of talk a little bit after the meeting, maybe plan more forward what's going to happen the rest of the calendar year for the different groups. What's important for that so to note is that those agendas, those arrangements were made by the individual

community. You all established your own agendas and what you want to do. The only - in this case the only accommodation that we're making from an ICANN perspective recognizing that that infrastructure doesn't exist is we're making available the ICANN space at the LA office for folks who need to have the conference room table, a poly com conference bridge capability and the rest.

Otherwise it's pretty much like any one of your other meetings that you might have telephonically with the exception that you're actually in the same city and able to sit face to face across a table. So you all had much more individual control within your communities about what you talk about during those sessions, whether you invite ICANN staff to talk about specific issues that are important to you.

So essentially your time on Wednesday, in this case before the meeting not after, is your time. I'm pleased that a number of communities have taken advantage of that and it's giving you all an opportunity to actually talk prior to the intercessional meeting in this case to prep for the meeting, maybe have some additional conversations about what positions you're going to take or otherwise just sort of getting (unintelligible) on stuff.

So I'm delighted that communities have taken the opportunity again this year to take advantage of that. But in terms of, you know, if you're going to go out to eat, there's going to be a side shortage of something else that's totally on you all individually. ICANN is not sponsoring that other than to make sure that you have the remote participation capabilities if other members of your community want to participate. So that's what I wanted to say about Wednesday and your individual agendas as well on Thursday and Friday also impact that.

There are as Benedetta pointed out two breakout opportunities, one on Thursday afternoon from about 4:00 to 6:00 pm local time and the other on Thursday morning while the other group is meeting with Fadi Chehade. The other group has separate time on their own. Again those agendas are entirely for you all as delegates to determine. Maybe it's being determined by your leadership. Maybe you're all discussing those collaboratively. And again that's your time and you can use that to follow up on discussions that you just had or to prepare for new discussions.

I'd also point out since I mentioned the remote participation angle here that Benedetta touched there is the availability for this meeting to be observed by people who are not there. The entire meeting is being recorded and transcribed. So there is a record of it. As Benedetta noted, there are all the records from the past two meetings that are on the wiki. And if you want to see what happened during any one of those sessions even now you can go back. You all know this is ICANN. We never throw anything away. We're always recording and transcribing stuff. So we have a historical record. We'll have a historical record of this meeting.

The only difference in the dynamic from a regular ICANN public meeting is that the focus was for you all to have direct conversations. And so while folks who aren't there can observe, can submit comments in the chat, they really have to sort of go through those of you who are in the room to make a contribution to the meeting. The folks who have been planning these meetings for the last three years, you know, have reinforced that attitude that no the value is for those of as leaders who are together to have the conversations. We want others to see what we're talking about. We want to give them an opportunity to view what we said. But the difference is there's not just that real time dynamic participation that you might have at a regular ICANN

meeting. And I'll stop there and see if anyone has any comments or questions for clarification on that.

Okay well finally last agenda item, delegates want the responsibility. As Benedetta noted, you'll all have the - a nice document to familiarize yourself with some of the faces, names and where folks come from from other communities who are participating in the meeting. I just wanted to once again sort of reinforce for you though that it's your meeting. I will be there. Other members of the team will be there to support you. Benedetta and Maryam will be supporting us remotely with the remote participation capabilities and those links as well.

But that we're, you know, there to help facilitate. We're there to make sure that you have what you need but the primary role for all of you is to actively engage with your colleagues and with other members of your delegate team to really work as hard as you can to get the most of the meeting that you can. For a number of you this is your first meeting of this type. And so it's a really good opportunity face to face to network, to contribute. I think you will find universally whether someone is from your community or from another one that there's a real good spirit there of collaboration and cooperation.

Something that grew organically out of the conversations at the meeting last year was the creation of a communiqué where the delegates really started to gravitate around the GNSO review topic and had some important things to say that they wanted to share with the board. And so it resulted in a communiqué from the meeting. That was an interesting dynamic because this was essentially the meeting participants coming up with a statement to share. It wasn't something that went through the normal channels of approval within the individual community group. It's not clear to me whether there will be a communiqué that comes out of this meeting. I specifically asked the planners

if that was a goal and they chose not to make that a goal of the meeting but that's something that may bubble up or something that may develop.

There will be other focuses I think in terms of discussions about some of your decision-making with respect to selecting vice chairs in the GNSO Council or selecting the board member who gets appointed by your community. I would just encourage you all to participate as actively as you are comfortable because I think you'll find that the dynamic discussions are what contribute to the most valuable meeting that you can have. I don't know if there's anything else to add in terms of roles and responsibilities. Benedetta is there anything that I missed that you'd like to clarify or capture?

Benedetta Rossi: No thank you (Rob). I don't have anything to add.

Robert Hoggarth: Great. Thank you. Then in that case I would just ask one thing of you who are participating. Is there anything that you wanted us to touch on for this call that we have not? Is there any part of the conversation or of the two days or of anything else that you'd like us to tease out a little bit more or that we simply have forgotten and not touched on? I'd be delighted to do that now. Seeing no hands and hearing no verbal comments, I'll just wait for Farzaneh to finish typing and we may be ready to wrap up here.

Oh I see Martin's question. Is there a major difference with the one in Washington? I don't think so Martin. I think it's mainly just the fact that in addition to being a month later, being in a different city. It's still the same overall set of expectations, you know, the opportunity to collaborate, improve relationships, build on things. And since the last meeting took place I know that there was a challenging election for the GNSO Council chair in terms of that process. And so that's something that we'll be aware of. Similar to the Washington meeting, the hotel is separate for is - well in this case where it's

different is that the meeting is actually being held in the hotel where you're staying. And of course in Washington, D.C. some of you may recall it was literally right across the street. So I mean probably the same walking distance. You didn't have to put on a coat to walk across the chilly street.

Beyond that, no major changes other than unfortunately we won't have the meeting in the home town of the chairman of the board. So he's not likely to drop by. We'll probably have a little bit less staff, senior participation, simply because of the schedule and all the challenges that occurred, IANNA transition matters that are going on. But otherwise not logistically or really anything else, just minor things I would imagine. And (Farsamit) you asked is there a guideline and a record of the previous meeting? The place to find anything connected to the previous meeting is the wiki page. As Benedetta noted, down in the bottom right hand corner there is a web link. You can just click on that and that'll take you right to that space.

One of the things that I didn't mention that you should be aware of and we will be following up with you on is that we introduced the concept of an evaluation satisfaction survey at the end of the last meeting. We'll be doing that again this year. We found the feedback on that to be quite valuable. We were asking about individual sessions. We were asking about the planning process. We were asking about the travel support and how that went. We hope a number of those comments helped us to improve the planning of this meeting but we view this as being a constant and never ending improvement region.

I mean this is the type of thing that depending upon the delegates, depending upon what's going on in the community any particular year the structure of the meeting could change. The topics will certainly change. And so please keep your eyes and ears open and be ready to provide us with feedback because we will be asking for the staff perspective how it can be a better experience for

you in the future. Well thank you all very much for taking half an hour or so to participate in this conversation. We really appreciate the opportunity to brief you. I can't wait to see many of you in Los Angeles. Just think about it. A week from now we'll be ready to wrap up the meeting.

So please everybody safe travels. We look forward to seeing you all in Los Angeles, some of you next Tuesday, some of you next Wednesday. I think I'll be a great meeting and we'll really appreciate connecting with you all. Thank you very much. Thank you very much Maryam for your work in getting us together today and Benedetta for helping me with the briefing. We'll see you all next week.

Maryam Bakoshi: Thank you very much everyone for attending the meeting. Gloria you may now stop the recording.

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