

THATO MFIKWE:

Okay. Thanks very much. I think [inaudible] we are already 12 minutes past our [inaudible]. So firstly, I'd like to welcome everyone to the [third] meeting of the NCSG Finance Committee, and I'm hoping that everyone can hear me clearly, but I'm still waiting for Remmy and [Bruna and Seun] to [inaudible]. But I think [inaudible] proceed. Hopefully, they will join us along the way. [inaudible] going through the charter of NCSG. There's three official members of the Finance Committee, which is the chair of the NCSG, the representative of NCUC, and NPOC.

So currently, we do have [inaudible], so myself and Stephanie are here as official members of the Finance Committee, so we're hoping that Remmy will joins us as we proceed. So I'm on mobile as you can hear [inaudible] just follow up on your chats on the platform. So if you have any comments, just feel free to post, and then I'll be able to follow through.

So firstly, before we start with the agenda, I'd like to start by congratulating Stephanie on her appointment as the NCSG Finance Committee, and also [Bruna], and I can see that Rafik is also joining us on this call, so [inaudible] anytime. And Raphael also [inaudible] joined the Finance Committee, and he's bringing some value and is looking for gaps that might be existing in the Finance Committee. So we really appreciate your presence in this meeting.

So basically, the purpose of the meeting is to review the progress of the Finance Committee activities and discuss some new development and

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updates, and also to pave the way forwards for Finance Committee through fiscal year 19 and also 20.

So I'm hoping that everyone can see the agenda that is reflecting on the platform. So I'm hoping that we'll be able to adopt this particular agenda. anyway, I'm on point number two, on adoption of the agenda right now, so I don't know if there's any other item that you think that we should also include in this agenda besides what's already [inaudible]. And so I'm hoping that this meeting can be more interactive so that we can speed up, because we have a lot of items to cover. So I'd appreciate if we could get some periodic feedbacks as we proceed.

Okay, [inaudible] some comments from Stephanie and Raphael that they are okay with the agenda [inaudible]. So the next item on the agenda is one about reading minutes of the previous meeting. So we've had several meetings during 2018.

Around July, we had [our office meeting] where we were formalizing the Finance Committee because we were still switching from [inaudible] committee, so the [inaudible] was to elect the chair and [inaudible] get to know each other so that [inaudible] move forward when Farzaneh [inaudible] the chair of the Finance Committee.

And then our second meeting took place in August 2018, and it was focused on drafting the operational procedure for the Finance Committee, and we were also trying to [inaudible] attempting [inaudible] see if the Finance Committee can coordinate its own meeting during ICANN 63, but that did not go very well, because none of the Finance Committee members were able to participate in ICANN

63. So our last meeting before this one, it was November 2018, whereby we were looking at the PTI and IANA fiscal year 20 budget, and comments were submitted [inaudible] input, and we managed to submit something [on behalf of the] community.

So so far, I think things are [inaudible] committee, although I think that we still need a bit more capacity, more members, because [inaudible] and there's very few members within Finance Committee. So, based on the last meeting that we've been having [inaudible] on this call, I don't think [inaudible] mostly because everything is recorded, so we can go back to the recording and [inaudible] what was discussed and [inaudible]. But I was hoping [inaudible] because there's something that we had already discussed last year around our various roles within the Finance Committee, and then we had actually requested that Remy take over the role of being – as a [custodial] role within the Finance Committee where he does a lot of [inaudible] and stuff like that. That's another thing I wanted to point out.

So going back to the previous meetings minutes, some of the proposals that have come to the fore that we need to deal with before, the first proposal that came out of [inaudible] is that the chairs of – I don't know if everyone is [confident] with section 4.6 of the NCSG charter that talks about the Finance Committee, because it does have some stipulations in terms of how the Finance Committee should operate, what is the role, what should it focus on, but one of the things that we discussed in the Finance Committee is that it would be [inaudible] if the Finance Committee would have [the chairs of constituencies] to become [members] of the Finance Committee without [inaudible] being invited to become members or observers. Because the role that they can

assume within the Finance Committee, they can just become observers, they can provide comments, but decisions regarding [currently the] charter, they are made by the team members, [inaudible] Chair, the NPOC rep and NCUC rep. So we are also [doing that] with the current committee [inaudible] because we are still working on some of the general operational procedure.

Our operational procedure is very critical to the [well] functioning of the Finance Committee, so it's one of those critical things that we need to actually start off before the work of the Finance Committee can officially kick off. So as I've said [inaudible] issue that actually came to the table is that out of all these meetings, we've had the chairs of constituencies to become members of the Finance Committee without necessarily being invited. So I don't know if there is any objection to that before we can move to another issue of the Policy Committee chair, which is [inaudible] by Rafik, [inaudible] also be part of the observers or members of the Finance Committee [chair,] and [inaudible] in the comments so that we're able to proceed.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Hello. Can you hear me?

THATO MFIKWE: Yes, Rafik. Go ahead.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay, so thanks, Thato, for the meeting and all this detail. So I think regarding the observers, in fact, the charter gives enough liberty for the

Finance Committee to decide who can join. So I understand that this Finance Committee decides to invite in particular the chairs of constituency and so on.

Regarding the Policy Committee chair, I think when I was suggested to join, it's maybe more as I was before the chair of NCSG, so I have that familiarity with all the committees' work and mission. So I can understand also that the idea here is to have more coordination in some area, because the NCSG charter is clear about [inaudible] task and mission between the different committees. There is no overlap.

But I think in particular for public comment, when it's regarding the budget, ICANN budget, operating plan and so on, there is sometimes need of coordination, as when it comes to NCSG position, it's the Policy Committee which has the role to review and endorse. But I think now the practice we have is that we expect the financial committee to lead in terms of drafting and so on, but just after when it comes to endorse, the Policy Committee just will do kind of that lightweight task to ensure that everything is okay, but we expect the Finance Committee to do the bulk of the work.

Other than that, yeah, so it's just really – I think it's more to ensure that coordination [inaudible]. Other than that, I don't see any problems.

THATO MFIKWE:

Okay. Thanks, Rafik. I agree, but we need to regroup on communication with [inaudible] committees themselves, and this would be a great start. We could have representation of the Policy Committee [inaudible] the Finance Committee, and vice versa, so that if there is anything that

needs to be ironed out [inaudible] policy-related activities, then everyone can be in the same page moving forward. So thanks for that.

[I also took cognizance] that it's been [inaudible] of the Finance Committee, of which both myself and Remmy, we had [inaudible] in that, so we just note that, and then hopefully, these are some of the things that will help us towards finalizing the operational procedure.

And then I don't know if there's any other comment, but if there isn't, the second issue now, this is also relating to the operational procedure of NCSG, is that according to discussions that we've been having around operational procedure as the Finance Committee, the agreement, the consensus that is coming from the community from last year's meeting is that the constituencies, they can seek advice about financial matters from the Finance Committee.

But that advice that is provided by the Finance Committee is nonbinding to the constituency itself. I know that there's been a little bit of argument about the role of the Finance Committee in regards to NCSG and constituency [inaudible] but I think [inaudible] of constituencies seeking advice about financial matters on the Finance Committee, I think it creates a little bit of a bridge between the two extreme arguments, because some people might think that the Finance Committee has no business to do with the financial activities of the constituencies themselves, but [inaudible] there is communication between the constituency and the Finance Committee, I think that would [inaudible] workable solution moving forward.

So I'm not [inaudible] each and every statement ask for input because we have a lot to cover, but please feel free to make use of the chat for activity, or you can just jump in as I communicate so that we are able to provide you [inaudible].

So as I mentioned, the second issue, it was around the constituencies seeking advice about financial matters from the Finance Committee, [inaudible] advice coming from the Finance Committee is nonbinding to the constituencies. So I think this can create some kind of a way forward so that the constituency and the Finance Committee can start working together, not that the Finance Committee wants to like oversee the activities [inaudible] Finance Committee, but creating that link [inaudible].

And the third issue that came out from the last meeting, and the section about the special [inaudible] of managing the finances of NCSG, and the consensus or the agreement that has come from the Finance Committee, from the [inaudible] meetings, is that that particular [inaudible] still developing this operational principle. Hopefully, everyone had the time to look at the document, [inaudible] about it, but the final decision around it is that that section was supposed to be removed completely, and replaced with a statement that states that NCSG must create its own bank account. But in order to move forward with this, the Finance Committee [says] it needs to resolve this, because [inaudible] extraneous [inaudible] of officers who have been appointed in committees or [inaudible] because it changes all the time. And there might also be some regulatory requirements that are needed in order for the start [inaudible] NCSG [inaudible] for example in cooperating

[inaudible] NCSG itself. So these are some of the things that I'm hoping that we might be able to have some answers on moving forward.

So the only issue that we've [inaudible] on is the first one [inaudible] Finance Committee and the Policy Committee chairs, so these are the issues, I'm just listing them, and [inaudible] think about them, and then maybe before we [told anything,] we can see whether we can have a way forward around [inaudible] seventh point of the agenda [inaudible] moving forward.

And then regarding the operational procedure, we need to develop a light process for additional budget request submissions. So that's something also that the Finance Committee needs to [inaudible], and then the last issue now that is coming from the previous meetings, it was Finance Committee participation in ICANN meetings, because I know that there'll be some [inaudible] around the participation of the Finance Committee in ICANN meetings, but I'm hoping that we can be able to find an amicable solution around that so that the Finance Committee can start being active and [inaudible] starts engaging ICANN Finance, the community members, but we'll be looking at the meeting requests for ICANN 64 during this meeting [inaudible] give us an indication in terms of what are the issues that the Finance Committee wants to address [inaudible] ICANN meetings. Although [there is still] online platforms to coordinate meetings, engage members, but we can look deeper into that when we look at [inaudible] request as part of this agenda, and that's the next one, point number four.

And then I did mention about Raphael made some adjustments on the comment on PTI IANA operation [inaudible] and [inaudible] provide us

with a little bit of background, because he's the one that is representing NCSG when it comes to PTI and IANA functions, [inaudible] after this comment and [inaudible] put forth a comment on behalf of the community itself.

I don't know, before I go to item number four, ICANN 64 meeting requests, I don't know if there's any questions.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: [inaudible] Stephanie has her hand up.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Hi, Thato. Can you see the chat, or are you on the phone?

THATO MFIKWE: Yeah. I'm on the phone, but I just looked at [the chat] [inaudible].

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Oh, lovely. Okay. I just wanted to ask what – hell, if any – have we done any legal examination of the issues behind forming a legal entity for the NCSG? You mentioned incorporating. Now, one of my reservations that is holding me back from rushing out and opening a bank account is that the creation of a legal identity will attract litigation, or could. And one of the reasons that ICANN is constructed as loosely as it is is to avoid litigation. And although I can't immediately point a finger and say the moment we create a legal identity, these guys are going to sue us, it is

certainly a risk, and I wonder if we've had any legal advice on that in the past. That's my question; have we explored the issues?

THATO MFIKWE:

Thanks for the question, Stephanie. And in regards to the issue of the bank account, [inaudible] discussions at this stage within the Finance Committee, because [inaudible] we're not advising that they proceed with incorporating the NCSG. But one of the suggestions that came out is that we needed [inaudible] to communicate with ICANN Legal to define a better advice what would be the better advice moving forward, because the situation of the finances of NCSG [inaudible] NCUC, it brings a little bit of discomfort on the side of NPOC, but we need to find a way that will be comfortable to both constituencies moving forward. I think opening a bank account is something that would be great, but is a bit complicated and it could take a little bit more time, and it might cost [inaudible] in order to get through that process. So I think for now, as I mentioned that the current Finance Committee was [approved] to look into that and see how they can move forward with that or what alternative is available out there that can be pursued in order to make sure that [inaudible] they do get transparency and are part of the activities of NCSG, because I know before NPOC had issues that they don't have [inaudible] and they don't get any support [initially.] So to avoid those kinds of arguments from rising over and over, we need to find an amicable solution that can encompass both constituencies. So as much as [I'm the chair,] I'm hoping that everyone can come up with suggestions and see how can we [inaudible] because we know that NCUC has a lot of activity – is very active. NPOC, they are active, but they're not that much visible and they are not that much [inaudible] in

terms of financial activities [inaudible] stakeholder group and the support [inaudible]. And I'm hoping that we as committee as a whole, we can come up with an amicable solution around it. [inaudible]

RAFIK DAMMAK: [inaudible]

THATO MFIKWE: Yes, go ahead, Rafik.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Sorry, [inaudible]. Okay, so there are several comments here. First, let me start, I think [the question] from Stephanie is about being [– it forces you] to become a kind of legal entity, because we are not now – outside of ICANN, we don't exist, really. But I think that you want to put more about [having a bank account] I think was two separate issue, so [they] can be different. There is maybe overlap, but they are, I think, different.

So to respond to Stephanie, there was some effort before to investigate this idea, [inaudible] so just I think [inaudible] United States so she can do all the work for that [pro bono.] Some people proposed maybe we need to be incorporated in other country, but I don't think that got far.

What I can add here also that I know that other constituency, in particular business constituency, they discussed about such, to be also incorporated, and they [inaudible] I think two or three years ago, prior to [intercession,] so they wanted to see if there's anything that we can [share in] term of experience and so on.

But at least what I know is there is the Registries Stakeholder Group, they are already incorporated. I don't know how, which – one of the numbers, like 401 something, 401-K or something like that. So they are already incorporated, and they opted for that approach, and now they have been like that for now at least two or three years, if I'm not mistaken.

So yeah, I think Stephanie raising a good point about the liability, and I don't think the ICANN Legal consult will help or can help on this matter, because I don't think, first, that ICANN has any interest to help us to get incorporated, to have any legal entity, so we need to be careful on that matter and don't think ICANN staff really will help. So if you want to investigate, it should be done by us, [we can find] those who can help us on this matter, but I don't think ICANN Org in any way should be involved, so this is kind of a word of caution from me.

So yes, for the bank account, I think Stephanie proposed something before. I'm not sure how [it was,] but at least NCUC also in terms of kind of legal – not really legal entity, but something to help in terms of getting the funding from [PIR] is to have the tax ID. I think [inaudible] can help on that, because she had to get that, I think, two or three years ago because the [PIR] were kind of concerned about just transferring money to bank account, and so they wanted this – maybe tax ID can help to alleviate their concern. So this is the kind of thing that was done, but not that much. So if we want really – I don't think it's just the Finance Committee, but it's really for the whole NCSG kind of to discuss. But it may – depending on what you mean by incorporation and what can be the impact, how – does it mean we need some structuring and so on? And I'm not a legal – I mean I have no legal background here, but

[I recall this kind of matter that arose] and we need to be careful how it may impact us in the future. Sorry for being long here.

THATO MFIKWE:

Thanks, Rafik. [inaudible] So, it seems like there is still some different views in terms of how we should move forward, and I'm hearing Rafik talking about what other stakeholder groups are doing, like the Business Constituency, as [he'd] mentioned, [that has been in operation] for the past three years or so. So I think also hearing from them and engaging them to understand how they went about [inaudible] provide a way forward, but currently, I don't think it's something that can happen in the next six months to resolve this particular issue. We need a lot of engagement, a lot of advice externally, and so that we can be able to come up to an amicable solution that we can propose to the community as a whole.

So I don't know if we should stay on this subject further, because I'd say from my side, it would be a matter of us as the Finance Committee trying to actually go on a factfinding mission to see what other [inaudible] in terms of finances by other stakeholder groups so that we can see whether we can adopt or or use any methods that's currently used by other stakeholder groups.

So if there are no other comments in regards to this, I'd like to go to ICANN 64 Finance Committee requests. So, basically, in regards to ICANN 64, this – okay, I don't know how to [present,] but I'd like to believe that everyone does have a copy of the proposed meeting requests for ICANN 63, which did not go through. And I will be [AFRALO]

in ICANN 64 in Kobe, and I'm hoping that we can be able to participate or coordinate a session during ICANN 64.

So basically, the objective of the meeting is to introduce the Finance Committee to the NCSG community and to start the Finance Committee operational procedures and the charter itself in order to find synergy between two documents. And the meeting is basically broken down into two parts, but after contemplated on the meeting itself, I thought to myself— but obviously, it's subject to everyone's comment — is to actually break down the meeting into two parts.

The first part, it would be around establishment of the Finance Committee itself [whereby] we introduce the Finance Committee, its background, its responsibilities, its [inaudible] on the charter, and then we look at the charter itself, and then we look at the operational procedure, [especially the] functions around oversight, participation, accountability, [auditing functions] issues, [inaudible] on the charter, but more in an interactive way so that members are also able to engage, and then we can discuss on how we synergize now the charter and the operation procedure document itself. That would be the first part of the meeting, of which I feel that we can [run this in the next] meeting, ICANN 64, but now, if opportunity permits, we can also go to the second part during ICANN 64, or maybe we can postpone the second part for a future meeting of ICANN so that we don't get our [inaudible] flooded with a lot of activities in regards to the Finance Committee.

But in a nutshell, the second part is built around NCSG finances and fundraising, and it's basically discussions around the NCSG, the [clarities of looking to the needs so that we understand that these are basic

needs,] because even now, [inaudible] that in terms of [inaudible] request, [inaudible] has come out in support for people to attend ICANN meetings. I'm not sure whether capacity building is still carrying on.

So these are some of the things that we're trying to iron out with the second part of this meeting, and also provide members with background on ICANN budgets, how they operate, the ABRs, fundraising options, then we also wanted to have ICANN Finance as part of this meeting, and then also look at different ways of fundraising, like [inaudible] contributions from members or organizations, outreach to external [inaudible], and also how to leverage on ICANN finances for NCSG activities, because there have been a lot of comments recently around ICANN budget, especially for fiscal year 20, but we'll be looking into that.

So basically, in a nutshell, this is what the Finance Committee was planning for an ICANN meeting, but now, what [inaudible] it's the first part whereby the Finance Committee has its own meeting and then [it calls whoever is interested] within the community or people interested [inaudible] NCSG to participate.

Then the second part is something that might be happening during NCUC or NCSG constituency outreach, whereby we just introduce Finance Committee, its activities, its plans, how to participate, question and answer. And [inaudible] usually [inaudible] constituency [inaudible] of different communities, [inaudible] presentations and stuff like that. So in a nutshell, that is what we were proposing, but unfortunately, [inaudible] none of the Finance Committee members. I think we only had the chair who [took part] in ICANN 63 to run this meeting, but now,

I will be attending, as I mentioned, ICANN 64, and I'm hoping that we'll be able to actually run a session. So we also need some feedback from members before we can forward to the community and get their inputs to see if there's any other issues that they think that we should put into the agenda for ICANN 64, because as soon as we've done this, we will submit the meeting request via Maryam. I think in regards to ICANN's [inaudible] meeting, that is what I'm proposing for now.

So I can see that Rafik is [inaudible] but I'm not sure whether [– are you referring to] ICANN 64? Because [inaudible] but ICANN 64, I'm not sure [inaudible].

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Yes, Thato, it was me. I made a request for it.

THATO MFIKWE: For ICANN 64?

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Yes, that's correct.

THATO MFIKWE: Okay. Thanks, Maryam. And also just to get some comments from members, do you have any inputs in regards to what we proposed? Especially the fact that [inaudible] different meetings as opposed to [inaudible] whereas we could focus by finishing on the operation procedure first, and then once everything [inaudible] and then we can

now look into NCSG finances, action plans, fundraising and stuff like that, because [it would be] much more coordinated area to coordinate as opposed to doing everything all at once in one meeting. So that's the [inaudible] committee, which approach do you think is best moving forward? As much as [inaudible] submitted the meeting, because we're not even sure that we will submit it, but [inaudible] then great.

RAFIK DAMMAK:

Okay. Thanks, [and sorry.] Okay. So regarding the agenda for the meeting, I see that there are several areas that you want to cover there when you have just 90 minutes. I think the question here is what kind of session you want. Is it kind of working session for the Finance Committee, or you want to use it also to maybe come to some consent more with members that happen to be there during the ICANN meeting? They can be both, that's no problem, but just to think in terms of managing the expectation.

Also, regarding that time in Kobe, maybe some items will be kind of – not going to say outdated, but cannot [really discuss] anymore, we just can only give update. So for example, the additional budget request, I think maybe we should cover this as soon as possible during the call. It would be late at that time to discuss anything [inaudible] because we are supposed to have submitted them already, so we can only basically just give an update.

Regarding the budget, the ICANN budget, also, we should submit comment in next month, but I know that the Finance Committee is reaching all the groups, asking them if they want some session kind of

maybe to give them some update regarding the process, the ICANN budget and so on. So I think that we can schedule that. It will be more than just ten minutes, probably 15 or 20. So yeah, just I think some tweaking on the agenda to take into consideration, but yeah, so just this question, is what we want really to achieve in terms of what's your expectation in terms of goals and outcome of this meeting. I see there are several items you want to cover in 90 minutes, so I'm not sure how much is doable.

THATO MFIKWE:

Although, Rafik, [inaudible] but I did manage to share some of the comments. With this meeting, basically, it's to provide updates in terms of what the Finance Committee [inaudible]. Maybe there might be some differences – actually, there are differences within the community in terms of what the Finance Committee should be doing, so I'm hoping that this meeting would also be able to provide [inaudible]. And then it would be a working meeting in a way, because we'd really be trying to [inaudible] the charter and the operation [inaudible] documents.

And I understand that in this meeting, we need to cover the ABRs, but I think it would also be good [inaudible] public meeting, like the one that is coming, to also discuss this in [inaudible] with the community members so that we have a simpler way moving forward that everybody can be engaged in, and also to ensure that we recruit more members to participate within the Finance Committee as much as – yes, GNSO, it's mainly driven by policy development, but the Finance Committee itself needs to support that process of policy development. That's why we also need some people who might not necessarily be

[inaudible] Finance Committee itself, so these are some of the overarching objectives that we're trying to achieve with this particular meeting. But we are free to [inaudible] but as soon as we are able to get a confirmation about the meeting, we want to carry on, because [inaudible] another meeting before ICANN 64. Maybe that's where we can now finalize the structure of the meeting, but for now, it's just to [inaudible] and once get approved, then we can finalize the structure and agenda of the meeting itself as you had mentioned. I can see Stephanie's hand is up. Stephanie.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Thanks very much. I would recommend cutting the amount of time on the actual background and history of the Finance Committee, because not much has happened, and to my knowledge, it's in the charter as an entity, but it hasn't really been [occupied,] and none of these core functions have really been fulfilled. We've been operating with [Milton] managing the finances, and I've heard a lot of criticism, but – and I think it would be good to get on the record what has gone on over the years, but you could do that in a document and save yourself quite a bit of time, and then we'd have more time for a discussion of what I consider to be real and pressing issues. And those real and pressing issues are who is going to take on the financial responsibility for our operations and shoulder the liability.

So let me give you an example. Over Christmas, I paid the fees for the web development contract in the amount of 2400 U.S. dollars. Now, that is a forward payment. I am assured that ICANN is going to reimburse me, but I [have to] take that risk. If that company

disappears tomorrow with my money, it is not a certainty that ICANN is going to cover me at all, okay?

So at the moment, we are asking our elected officers to take on financial risks at their own expense, and ICANN is not under an obligation to pay me back. They have not taken on that contract, we have, at least as far as I can see, and I think this is a very big, burning practical issue, at least I see it that way. if that contract goes through fairly normally but then there are additional expenses that they incur and they [claim we] authorized them, etc., I am on the hook for it. I am the one who has paid it this year.

So it's kind of like – I don't know whether everybody's familiar with the game of passing the hot potato, but shouldering this financial responsibility is a hot potato. When I was in government, engaging in work with companies, unless I did something criminal, it was highly unlikely I would be on – I would not be on the hook for it.

Furthermore, if they sued the government through me as the agent signing the contract, I would be covered by legal services in that legal action. This is not the case with NCSG, either not as not being a legal entity, or in the future. And this could happen between us and PIR as well if they are transferring money to us for certain purposes. So I think as far as I'm concerned, these are very real, practical issues. And I would like to hear how Milton has managed it over the years. He is a professor – or was a professor at Syracuse, now he's at Georgia Tech. professors have a very flexible amount of – a kind of an umbrella coverage by the university if they're engaging in research activities. Similarly, he has his own separate grant money for the [IGP] project. They might cover him.

So in other words, I think it's unlikely that Milton ever figured that he was taking on personal financial risk to do these things. If the you know what hit the wall, he would probably be covered by one of the entities he's associated with. So this is, I think, an important matter, because, say – I don't know what Rafik's relationship with his company is, but usually, if there's an arm's length relationship between an individual who's volunteering at NCSG and their employer. Certainly, when I was still a member of the government before I retired, I had a very long and detailed conflict of interest statement that I signed, and it was pretty clear that anything that happened to me or anything I did for NCSG or NCUC, or ICANN in general as a member of a committee, that was my own risk, my own accountability, and it was done on my holidays, right? Not on government time. And I could be asked to declare that.

So I hate to be a sort of nitpicker here, but I think these are the real questions we have to ask very quickly. If we start talking about establishing an entity, establishing a bank account, fundraising – fundraising in particular, in the name of whom are we fundraising? And who is liable in the event that we make false – or that somebody makes false pretenses of what they're getting the money for and then spend it on something different?

So I'd like to see quite a bit of the agenda focused on those matters, because I have been associated with a few entities that do things over the years that talked about incorporation, and you go round and round and round, basically over legal liability and accountability for financial decisions. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. So to answer first Stephanie, I'm not sure what you meant by the question what's my relation to the company. If you mean the vendor for the membership [dataset,] I don't have any relation pertaining to any negotiation or anything on that matter, I just reviewed some of the documents and work, but not really closely, so I don't have any relation.

STEPHANIE PERRIN: Can I explain, Rafik? I was just using you as an example of a volunteer who's very active and you work for a company, you work for NTT, right? I don't work for a company anymore, so I'm not a good example. So I just pulled you out of a hat. It could have been anybody. So I wasn't talking about the company that we have a contract with, I was just talking about who has your back for any decisions that you make at NCSG. Probably not NTT. And I'm not trying to pry into your relationships with your employer. That's the only reason I used you. Sorry about that, I wasn't clear.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. Thanks, Stephanie. No, I think we are all participating on our own capacity here, and so that's why we have to be careful in terms of how we push things. So just getting [inaudible] ICANN working group and attending ICANN meeting, I think it's something. Starting to think about fundraising and other matters is something else, and I think it's a more issue for those who are elected. So I think when we talk about fundraising –always, my question is, for which purpose? I don't think we just think about getting more fund just for the sake of having it. It should be for maybe some project or something to do something. So I

don't think we are at that stage yet. What we're getting now is some – the [in-kind] support from ICANN, and it's not that easy to manage. And we have also to assess how much is useful for us, because I think we are getting [so much use out of it,] but I'm not sure about the added value for sometimes. For the PIR, I think it has some historical background, because before 2009 or 2008, there was no travel support at all, and so there was that [inaudible]

Okay. Oh, so can you hear me? Okay, thanks. [inaudible]

THATO MFIKWE: [inaudible].

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. So I'm going to –

THATO MFIKWE: [inaudible]

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. So –

THATO MFIKWE: [inaudible]

RAFIK DAMMAK:

Okay, so let's try to finish quickly. Yeah, so – alright, no, just my [photo frame was too right,] but yeah, so just maybe [inaudible] to respond. I think Stephanie, when you talk about Milton, [it is for] NCUC case, he managed bank account, and I think he, many times, really raised concerns on how we are doing [inaudible] because it raises, I think, several issues, and he was really kind of – in particular, for the last payment like this, pay huge amount to the vendor and getting reimbursed by ICANN. So I think he raised concerns, and I think he's like us, there is not anybody to back him.

So my thinking is we need really to check for what purpose we need any kind of fund. We have ICANN, we have PIR. If we want to have more, it's for which purpose? And it's better if we can get – like to avoid being involved in those kind of payment and so on, because it raises a lot of issues for whoever is the officer at the time.

Okay, so to be honest, I forget what I was going to say, but yeah, so let me stop here.

THATO MFIKWE:

Okay. Thanks, Rafik. [inaudible] comments, and [inaudible] Stephanie also came about in regard to the ICANN meeting [inaudible] we can cut out or we can decrease the amount of time [inaudible] Finance Committee, and as you [inaudible] mentioned, Rafik, about there being some issues, [inaudible] some issues around managing finances and stuff like this on behalf of NCSG and accountability in terms of financial decisions also needs to remove.

So I also [inaudible] on the issue, on the complaint of Stephanie in regards to moneys being [inaudible] by ICANN and stuff like this, and I think this is one of the issues that we can [inaudible] highlight with our additional budget requests to make sure that we do not have any support moving forward in terms of paying for development work, on membership, management-related costs and stuff like that, because [Rafik] mentioned that [inaudible] on behalf of NCSG, since NCSG is not yet incorporated itself.

So I think we have to [inaudible] these issues, because they've been there since last year, especially the bank account issue and the incorporation of NCSG, and also the finance issue in terms of someone paying for the monthly [inaudible] costs of [inaudible] already part of this agenda [inaudible] go into our very next agenda item under [inaudible].

So for [purposes of] us moving forward, I think we can just jump straight to the ABR processes and moving forwards, because the [inaudible] expenses is something that also needs to be [inaudible] whenever we're looking at spending within NCSG itself. And I'm not sure if capacity building is also still carrying on in the fiscal year 19 and fiscal year 20, but if so, if it's a priority, I think we also need to actually work on it.

And then [inaudible] sensitive issue around the participation of the Finance Committee in ICANN meetings. [inaudible] to work together. Not sure what is the current position of Finance Committee members around this [inaudible] Finance Committee members from last year, they were actually pushing for the participation of Finance Committee in ICANN meetings. [inaudible] there might be different ways of how

this can actually take place. Maybe it might be through [inaudible] or additional budget requests or – there are so many ways. But there are, I think, the main thing that came out of the Finance Committee is that there needs to be improvement in terms of the participation of the committee within ICANN meetings itself, and also within the community itself so that it can be more visible and they can be more [inaudible] who are participating or partaking in the activities of the Finance Committee.

So [inaudible] those are the only three things that I had so far, but I'm not yet in the ICANN organizational budget and issues. Because some of these issues, they tend to overlap, whereas some people might [inaudible] addressed through additional budget request, but there's also ICANN organizational budget issues which were forwarded from the last year's comments [inaudible] this year, but we'll be looking into that. But for now, it's more around the [inaudible] participation, the [inaudible] and capacity building, whether to [inaudible] around this as the Finance Committee, and then maybe we can get other inputs about other priorities from the community itself so that we are able to build a list of all these things, all these activities that the community wants to participate in, and then we can take it from there.

Hello, can you hear me? Okay, I can see some comments [inaudible] from Stephanie. Okay. So, is there any comments besides what I'm seeing on the chat from Stephanie regarding additional budget requests? [Yes, Rafik.]

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Hi, Thato. I'm not sure what we were talking about because of the interruption with the meeting going dead, but I think maybe send out a memo to the list saying we've put in a Finance Committee meeting, "Here's a draft agenda, what are the issues you'd like to discuss?" And at the same time, ask for proposals for the ABRs. As Rafik said, we've got to get those ABRs in very soon. ALAC has already done theirs. I was going to go over their ABRs and see what they look like. But we absolutely need to get those in, and I'm strongly motivated to make sure we keep requesting funding for the web development for that tech support, because obviously, I want to get my 2400 bucks back. Thanks.

THATO MFIKWE:

Okay. [inaudible]. Hopefully, [inaudible] that you get those 200 dollars or so back for the help that you've been providing on this membership management system. So as I was saying – but we were still talking about ICANN 64 meeting and the agenda, and then came up the issue around the [inaudible] when we jumped into the ABRs.

The ABRs, [inaudible] mentioned about the issues, but I wanted to put forward for this meeting is the Finance Committee participation, and making sure that moving forward, we have enough funds available for development work and also asking about the capacity building for fiscal year 19 and fiscal year 20, because there's been some quotes, recommendations that used to continue, as it's been [inaudible] for a lot of members to [inaudible] so that's what was [inaudible] moving forward. But I did take notes that we need to submit the ABRs before the end of this month, so that's one of the things, but we'll try and push as soon as possible.

But I think so far, we are [inaudible] for the rest of the agenda in 20 minutes. I'm not sure how efficient that is, but we'll see. So [inaudible] cover everything before I can move on to the next agenda item, which is ICANN organization budget and issues.

I saw that there was an e-mail that was circulated in the mailing list around ICANN organizational budgets, and there were some issues that were raised, of which I feel that most of them are very valid, because they did rise from last year, and [inaudible] this year, like for number one, the personal costs that are indicated on the ICANN [inaudible].

There's a [inaudible] with personnel costs also going for about 4.3 million USD. And then according to what I'm sensing from this [inaudible] is that as much as comments are [inaudible] ICANN Finance in regard to the ICANN budget, it seems like – I don't know, maybe they are not being [regarded,] because it seems like there has been no improvement or no movement in terms of the comments that have been submitted.

And then the second issue was around [inaudible] Portuguese translation disappearing from the budget item itself, of which I understand – not sure if Portuguese [inaudible] language, but if it's not, [inaudible] cut down on the Portuguese, because those main French, Spanish or English, those sorts of languages that are commonly used around the globe are the ones that usually take precedence over other languages.

And then there was also complaint about the noncontracted parties house intersessional, and that in 2019, it did not take place. And it

seems like in FY20, it's something that is excluded completely. And one of the reasons that I'm seeing, according to the mailing list, is it seems like there were people who rejected the funds without consultation with the new chair or the members, and so I don't know what [will be the solution] on this, because it seems like some members, they feel like it's very valuable to [inaudible] have the noncontracted parties house funds reallocated on the budget itself.

And then the fourth issue, it was around the ICANN office expense in the Los Angeles office. I saw some of the comments mentioning that that office probably have around 100 employees, which justifies the amount that is being spent on that office which is based in L.A.

And then number five, [inaudible] travel [inaudible]. This [inaudible] more around suspicion that the costs that are stipulated on the budget, they might also include [inaudible]. So a proposal was [that] there needs to be more clarity from ICANN Finance in regard to that, where all these costs are being absorbed.

And then number six, this was around the GNSO [inaudible] meeting, that it was absent from the budget. I have not much knowledge about it, but it seems, again, that members find a lot of value from the GNSO [inaudible] session.

And then number seven, we've got the CROP, which is not listed on the fiscal year 20 budget, so members feel that this needs to be reviewed so that we can see how we can [retain] the CROP to be back in the core budget of ICANN.

And then number eight, the Salesforce issue, instead of the CRM – because [inaudible] expenses of about 1.2 million USD, someone alluded that the Salesforce, I think – [I'm not sure what] I've heard around GDPR compliance if I'm not mistaken, but I also have that information that [inaudible]. It seems like there was some justification why the Salesforce figure is so high.

And then last is there are complaints about amounts that were spent for ALAC which are not justifiable because the GNSO is the one that is primarily involved in policy development, but ALAC, they [actually get] a lot of support from ICANN. I'm not sure how we can best address this particular problem from members, but I'd appreciate some feedback. And I can see that Ayden has joined us. Welcome, Ayden.

So yeah, in regard to the ICANN budget, it's just to [inaudible] comments that have been coming from the mailing list in terms of how do we move forward with all of these complaints, because they seem like they are rising over and over. Some of them are coming for the first time this year, or some of them, they've been there from last year, but it seems like they still continue to take place this year.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. Thanks, Thato, for – I'm sorry, I'm not sure you see my hands in Adobe Connect.

THATO MFIKWE: Oh, so sorry for that. Rafik, go ahead.

RAFIK DAMMAK: No problem. Thank you. So I'm not going to comment about these items raised in the mailing list, but just in terms of about the public comment. So just want, I think, want to confirm here. I think Ayden's volunteered to participate in the drafting, and I think we extend the Finance Committee to participate here. So just – I [inaudible] want to be sure from the Policy Committee standpoint that you are going to start the drafting soon, so just to have that on track, since also, I think we are now running late [inaudible]

THATO MFIKWE: Sorry for that, Rafik. Can you repeat that last statement [inaudible]?
Sorry for this.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Oh, no, just want to be sure that the Finance Committee will participate in the drafting for volunteers. We only have Ayden, and I expect Finance Committee members to participate in the drafting team for the public comment about the ICANN budget for FY20. So just want to confirm that you will start [inaudible] soon because of the time left.

Regarding – I see that you put [an] agenda item about the call for volunteers for strategic plan and the two-year planning process. I think that's also, for one of them, we have volunteer, but not for the rest. So I guess the Finance Committee also can participate in drafting, but I think for the strategic plan, it's not really just finance issue, it's really for the whole NCSG because that's setting the strategic plan for the next five years for ICANN, and that concerns policy and many other aspects, so that should be a kind of, say, [cross-wide] effort within NCSG, and we

should – I'd said in my e-mails to the list that maybe we need some kind of more consultation on that matter.

So at least I think [inaudible] volunteer for that one. For the process, for the two-year planning, we don't have, so any head would be welcome. It's more like process-wise, but we need to cover that. So I just want to comment on this if I had to leave before the end of the call. So, sorry.

THATO MFIKWE:

Okay. Thanks, Rafik, because I was about to go to that call for comments, but you've covered it very well [inaudible] strategic plan, the [inaudible] consultation on the two-year planning process. Because one of the things that we want to do is to [inaudible] participation in the Finance Committee so that we don't [inaudible] few members being flooded with a lot of work. But if we are able to form ourselves as a Finance Committee [inaudible] coordinate work within the Finance Committee, then we can be more cohesive and more effective as a Finance Committee. That's basically the comment on my side.

And then I saw that there is also – I'm sorry, but [inaudible] because I think that we've got about ten minutes left, because by [inaudible] we should be done with this meeting. So I saw that there is another call on the 9th around cross-community working group-on Auction Proceeds. That will be taking place on the 9th, so I encourage some of the members, if they are available, to also participate on that call.

And then there was findings on the PTI [inaudible] shared on the mailing list, but based on the [statement] from the Commercial Stakeholder Constituency Group, it seems like they had no complaints in terms of

the PTI, the comments and the submission that came from NCSG. It also did not indicate any complaints in regards to PTI, IANA, budget and comments and stuff like that.

And then the last issue that is very important [inaudible] some of them is the [inaudible] actions that are needed based on the last e-mail from Farzaneh, because what we were discussing looking at what has been happening with regards to the CIVICRM, there were questions whether – is it possible that we can [review] the current contract that we have with this provider, or is there an alternative provider that can equally give us a similar service, but maybe more cost-effective, or is this [inaudible] that we could do?

It's something that we also need to look at, because the membership management system is very important to ensure that everyone can keep up to date in terms of what is happening and then they are able to access [inaudible] within the system [inaudible].

And then [inaudible] financial focal point, I know Stephanie has just made a few statements with regards to the CIVICRM, but we need to find a sustainable way moving forward for paying these monthly [inaudible] fees for this development work. And then we also need a volunteer for [inaudible] and then to be a focal point on the CRM platform itself, and someone to also approve [inaudible] developers [inaudible] and this update. [inaudible] stuff like that.

So in a nutshell, these are the things that we are looking at currently. And Stephanie is commenting. [inaudible] I'm hoping that [inaudible] we can be able to go back to the recording and come up with a

summary [inaudible] action plans behind everything that we've discussed today, because it's quite a lot. Maybe it might take us two to three days to analyze this meeting and actually develop some action plans moving forward, and then that way, it will be much easier for us to start moving. But critically, as I've mentioned, that operational procedures are fundamental to everything that is happening. [inaudible] additional budget request as you mentioned, the comments [that we did] submit in regards to the project and stuff like that, but the operational procedure is really critical to the proper functioning and the effective functioning of the Finance Committee.

I don't know if there's any questions or things that you feel that we might need to discuss [inaudible] we only have [inaudible] minutes left until we close this meeting.

Okay, [inaudible] from Farzaneh regarding CIVI [inaudible]. So yeah, I think we do have [inaudible] but I think we need more members, because as we are sitting currently, we've got chairs of [different] committees, chairs of stakeholder groups, [some people,] and so everyone is flooded with a lot of work. So I think we still [inaudible] come and participate in the Finance Committee. Oh, sorry, Stephanie, you can go ahead, [inaudible] the comments [inaudible]. Stephanie, go ahead. I see your hand is up.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Sorry, old hand, Thato. I forgot to take it down.

THATO MFIKWE: Okay. So I don't know, if there are no other comments, I would like to close this meeting and thank everyone for participating, and I'm hoping that moving forward, you can still join us for [inaudible] in the Finance Committee, because [listen,] I'm not the Finance Committee, I'm just Thato, but I'm very open to us being able to work together. So thanks very much. Thanks, Maryam, and we can stop the call right now.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Thank you everyone for [inaudible]

THATO MFIKWE: Bye.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]