Transcription ICANN62 Panama
GNSO: NPOC – Members Session
Monday, 25 June 2018 13:30 EST

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Joan Kerr: Welcome, everyone. Thank you for being here. This is the NPOC Members Session on Monday, the 25th of June. We have an agenda, but we're going to adjust it a little bit. We have some discussions around some funding that was received and we have NPOC EC members, Juan Manuel Rojas, Raoul Plommer, and myself, Joan Kerr.

Remmy is our - Remmy Nweke is our Finance Representative from - in the Finance Committee, and we have some community members who will introduce themselves when they - if and when they speak, so welcome to the meeting.

At this session, we're going to talk a little bit about our go forward plan and some of the things that we've done which are plentiful as - and I think a lot of people may know about them. We've done some charter work, we're improving the website, we've increased our membership, and we have a pretty good plan of going forward.

But, today we're going to talk a little bit with Renata, who has - is visiting us and we're going to discuss funds that were received, and how we can utilize them, and come to an agreement for ICANN 63. So, if everyone is okay with that, we can go forward.

So, we have been - having a discussion off the record for a few minutes and we'll just continue in that vein. So, the question we have is we're talking about how much funding we've received and how it will be utilized.

So, Renata, if we can just continue and if everyone could please - if they have a question to - raise your hands and also identify yourself when you're speaking. Great. Thanks a lot. We have a question first. Yes, go ahead, Tapani.

Tapani Tarvainen: Tapani speaking. I just want to, for the record, clarify if my understanding of the situation is correct that PIR is giving funding to NCSG supposedly to be used by both constituencies and it's basically being paid to NCUC account because NCSG does not have its own account. And someone, somewhere, somehow has decided that NCUC EC is that - we'll be deciding how this money will be allocated, is that correct? And, I don't know who has decided it and how but that's what I'd like to know as well.

Joan Kerr: And just one thing I just want to say that I did agree with NCSG that NCUC received the funds on behalf of NCSG, just for the record, but not the operational sides of it.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: So, hi everyone. Renata. Well, first I want to remind you that it is in the full interest of NCUC to collaborate with NPOC and to work together to have more engagement in policy. I believe that we would definitely take too much more advantage working together than working separately in this.

And, one of the things that also is very important to highlight here is that I'm speaking as myself in the NCUC chair, but I have not consulted my EC or

NCSG chair who is managing the funds and NCSG EC who is also approving procedures. This is done via NCSG EC list.

What I have suggested, what I have received of information from NCSG is that NCSG will be allocating funds for sponsorship to ICANN meetings to those more engaged in policy whether they are NCUC members, NPOC members or independent NCSG members. And, NCUC has a bank account and has procedures, has a travel policy published.

That travel policy has about 10 or so criteria for engagement in policy, so it counts governance work. So, for example, if you are an EC, if you are a PC NCSG volunteer, if you are a Finance Committee volunteer, and it counts also working groups, public comments. So, all of these things counts to receive funding.

How is this process - how is the selection of mentee is done? A call is published, so before this NCSG receive the funding, NCSC receive the funding published the call and the EC would do a point system with all of this engagement in policy and - which is to people who are NCUC members.

However, whenever NCUC EC has to do a process that interfaces with other parts of the community, so in this case either with NPOC members or with independent NCSG members, we do a process that we've done before such as in the community onboarding program where we had a mentor who was already appointed. We ask for a report of advice on who to choose among the candidates.

So, the mentor had access to this list of candidates, the punctuation, and she pointed out who should be - who, in her opinion, should be the candidate. On this new process of NCUC receiving the funds and following the criteria for allocation, which was again was - this was all passed onto us by NCSG.

We proposed the following to NPOC and to NCSG to receive a report of advice from you with the candidate's - with your knowledge of the candidate's punctuation, and whether or not you agree. Because, of course, NPOC chair may know much better and NPOC EC may know much better, NPOC members than NCUC chair.

And, this advice is non-binding but only in the sense that if something really - if there's a great impediment for this person to come. So, for example, I don't know, a situation of - a breach of ICANN's expected standards of behavior or something like that, that the member may be involved in, then NCUC can go back to NPOC chair and say, "Please, you gave us this advice, but this member has incurred in a - in something - in a - in the breach of expected sense of behavior or something. Are you really sure this is your advice? Would you advise another member?"

This would be a dialogue. This is not - it's not binding on that sense, we want to work with you. And, I have to remember also that this is only for ICANN 63, so I don't think we should put very - fixed procedures on this, because NCSG EC will be doing that decision from 2019 on.

The procedures that NCUC EC had published were published again in NCSG EC lists, and were proposed to be adapted for 2019 by the NCSG EC.

So the NCSG EC can still have a say on what they want to do in 2019. So, that would be my information and what I have on this subject right now, the proposal, and of course as I've said, I would invite our sister constituency to be with us as well in our NCUC members session, and we get back to this topic with all our EC, because they are the ones who will be doing this analysis, and this dialogue with you.

And, as I've said, this has been - this was an experience, it has been successful before, and I am pretty sure it will be successful again receiving advice from NPOC and following their advice.

Tapani Tarvainen: Just a few clarifications, you say that this has been instructed by the NCSG as a whole, because as far as I know NCSG EC has not been discussing this, and how is this been documented?

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: It was discussed on NCSG EC list, I believe. So, I guess that's a question for NCSG chair.

((Crosstalk))

Raoul Plommer: …questions as well. So, okay, how much has the NCSG received from the PIR for now? Because, like, as I understand, it was like a lump sum for the financial year, so who has made the decision that it will be allocated to two travel slots per meeting? For example, I've not done that division, I'm in the NCSG EC, right?

Woman: Yes.

Raoul Plommer: I've not even heard discussions about it, who has decided that, and so does the NC - and this is just really like a clarification question that is - as it stands, is it that the NCSG gets to decide who travels or is it - it's the decision given to each constituency per slot, for example. So, is the ultimate decision with the NCSG EC?

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: Renata here. So our procedures, NCUC travel policy procedures say that for every meeting there will be a maximum of two travelers. Each traveler allocated $2,000. So, if there aren't candidates enough involved in policy, we may even have just one candidate allocated $2,000.

Now the amount that sponsorship - of sponsorship given annually, and how it does - how that's reiterated over the year. I don't have that for you, because that's on the treasury report, and I don't have these numbers on my mind.

And, we also really don't have a sophisticated yet system of internet or even internet publishing of our finances at NCUC.

So, we basically keep that on email (frags), and so...

Man: (Unintelligible)...

Man: Use the mic.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: Now to answer the other part of your question about the number of allocations. There is a - so there is a quota that the maximum $2000 per traveler right?

But, there is - if there are travelers asking for $500 for instance, if there are four travelers asking for $400, and they are qualified, we can have a bigger number of travelers.

But then, again, how would this be divided if there will be one slot of $2,000 for NCUC and one $2,000 for NPOC or one $2000 for NCUC and one $2,000 for an independent NCSG member, that remains to be seen because what is happening here is that PIR has given the funding to be distributed to NCSG widely. So, we will ask for NPOC advice, we'll ask for NCSG advice, if independent NCSG members apply.

But again as I've said this is a dialogue. I do believe that our goal here is to have our sister constituencies working together. So there is no sense in doing this, alienating NPOC from the conversation.

However 2019 how much will be the sponsorship and how it will be done in which procedures all NCSG EC.

Tapani Tarvainen: I think we can come up with a nice practical solution for this in the end, but the fundamental issue is we don't quite understand how this works. Let me

summarize my understanding. This may be incorrect, because I don't know the details.

It seems that NCSG chair by herself without consulting the ExCom of NCSG has decided that NCUC's procedures are good, maybe they are, without consulting NPOC or without reviewing NPOC procedures or asking for, considering the possibility, NPOC would be doing that.

And the end result is from NPOC's point of view, this looks like a bit odd, we're not consulted before deciding that NCUC gets to decide even maybe and NCUC's procedures are the better.

So, maybe this is a good decision in that sense, (for example), but coming up with decision without any consultation with NPOC or even with NCSG ExCom itself sounds more than a bit fishy to me.

Man: Yes.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: Again I cannot answer for NCSG Chair and for NCSG EC. But this is the information I got. I would definitely think that it's - it would be important then to have a conversation involving NCSG chair and this can be done in NCSG member session.

I think we can include NCSG EC and NCSG chair in those dialogue, at least NCSG EC, NCUC representatives in NPOC would be good to have this report, right?

And, I guess first of all, I do remember an email sent by NCSG chair on the changes, and the procedures, and so on and so forth. I do not remember if this was on thread or out of thread, but anyway and it's nice that our finance committee representatives got here, because this is also a decision that will involve the finance committee of NCSG.

So, I think we have to have all of those people on the record discussing about this. As NCUC Chair, what I can say, and I do not have the NCUC EC here with me to confirm this, but I'm pretty sure they would say the same, is that we have all of the interest in working with our sister constituency, and we have all of the interest in getting more new people engaged in policy, and we have all of the interest in receiving advice from you.

So, that's how we plan to work together for ICANN 63 and for ICANN in 2019 we will have the same challenges together. We'll probably have to reach out to NCSG EC representatives, and try to also work with some kind of dialogue for that selection, and if the NCSG will be overseen, how all of the allocation is done, also we will have to include them in this dialogue.

Dina Solveig Jalkanen: And Dina Solveig Jalkanen again, for the record, member for NCSG but speaking as NPOC EC Representative, I hear what Renata is saying, and I can see there's a lot of goodwill coming from the NCUC chair, but - and she shared the information she has, but to address this issue further, we have to bring it up with the NCSG and the NCUC and ask for a joint meeting, and ask because it was - for this to be resolved.

But, my question is for the next meeting do we want to talk about the terms of advice further or is there some agreement we would like to achieve with NCUC? Thank you.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: So to clarify, you mean some terms of advice, I think as I've mentioned NCUC has this procedures which is sort of a point system, like if you do public comments, if you are in working groups, but I do believe, of course, that NPOC chair knows NPOC members better.

So, that criteria can be applied as well, but also what is given to us, a profile of an NPOC members by an NPOC chair and NPOC EC will be what we will consider, which was the same process with onboarding and another selection we did that we received advice with (PIR).

Dina Solveig Jalkanen: (Unintelligible) respond, Dina Solveig Jalkanen again, when we think about the budgets, and we keep mentioning travel, but as I understand the NPOC is in a very interesting stage, we are optimizing, and streamlining the operations. So, the budget considerations have to go in the direction of possibly information and policy for NPOC to consider.

And, if I understand correctly, the issue with funding is also the issue of miscommunication or perhaps transparency, the amount which Renata cannot answer now, but it's somewhere. So, it's important for NPOC to receive information on time of the funding available and then forward its needs.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: I believe it was our treasurer, Renata for the record, that our treasurer Milton who stated that he will no longer manage the funds in 2019, so that would be with the finance NCSG committee to manage. And, yes, we don't have - on the NCUC, we do not have a system of account report well-documented and published mainly because we really just have one source of sponsorship, and there were - sometimes, we didn't even have two candidates to send.

So, it was all very a little low-key, I would say, low profile. We don't - we didn't need to have a lot of inquiry into those funds, because they were very little demand. But, again, we are on the same page for 2019. We are going to have new management of the funds with the Finance Committee of NCSG and we are going to have new procedures with NCSG EC.

It's only for these upcoming of ICANN 63 that we will have the sort of - I would say patch of NCUC EC doing it together with NPOC chair and NCSG chair this election. But, that was the information given to me by NCSG chair and that it was spoken with NCSG EC reps.

But then, again, I do advise us all to put the discussion on the record in NCUC session and most of all, what I think is important, and that we need to keep an eye on is that these funds can also be used for other things. These funds can be used for event. These funds can be used for projects.

So, if we are to manage the funds as a stakeholder group, then I think that's what we need to put forward as well for our NCSG chair to projects like courses and stuff like that. And, this is what, I think, as sister constituencies, we should propose.

Joan Kerr: I've got three people, I've got Remmy, I've got Juan, and I've got Tapani, so I just want to ask just to say something very quickly, I think you're caught in the cross fires of this. So, I just want to say that I understand that, but the - what I hear in the community is the word or the acronym NCSG being used all of the time.

And, if I'm correct, NCSG, NPOC, and NCUC, so decisions are made and we are not part of that decision-making model, so how is it NCSG? So, that's not your issue obviously, but that's - but you also do, do it. If you'll say to me, "NCSG says," and I'm like, "Oh, we're NCSG too."

So, it's just something that I think in - is in the culture a little bit, but I just wanted to say that, but anyway you're next.

Remmy Nweke: Thank you, madam chair. Remmy Nweke for the record. I must, first of all, appreciate Renata for joining us and also being on the fire line just like you said is was not deliberate, it's just that we ended to get some things cleared. Okay, so we can meet progress.

The truth of the matter is that there seems to be a lot of things that are not quite clear regarding transparency just like that - what was mentioned. There was a question asked by - about how much, I don't think I got response with

that in that respect. In sequel to that, the issue of managing the resource probably need to be renegotiated first.

You said it's from 2019, that means we still have some time to really work on the process, so that we don't have issues moving forward unlike you rightly mentioned NCSG is for all of us, and for us to make progress, all of us must be involved. There must be an element of transparency in dealing with all of that stakeholders within the NCSG, so that we don't have issues moving forward or we'll stop thinking that other people are attacking them unnecessarily, you know?

So, it is important that we negotiate the process moving forward. My request will be in the process of renegotiating the process, maybe our chair and our repo of the NCSG ExCom should also put it at the table agenda at every meeting to have a report from NCSG, so we can be all on the same page moving forward. So, thank you very much for the (troubles) we are pushing here. Thank you.

Juan Manuel Rojas: Thank you, Joan. Juan Manuel Rojas for the record. I just wanted to say something, it's - okay, I think that - I think from my perspective that these issue is - that this topic is like, "Okay, we are not going to help here." We need another people that is not here, so maybe we can in another meeting - beyond, maybe Barcelona or something like that, to - I don't know, invite to an NCSG finance committee to hear, to discuss, and explain us to these - all - and what - that meeting, also, our NCSG chair to discuss with them, but not here because we are - I'm sorry, but I feel that we are losing our meeting time for our member session, and this is important too, and we need clarifying, right?

But, I think that - I think from - and my point now is we should be moving forward in the agenda to continue with the schedule that we have. That's it, thank you.

Joan Kerr: Thank you. Great point. But, Tapani...

Tapani Tarvainen: Okay, so I just want to summarize my understanding of our situation again. So, from Renata's point of view, NCSG delegated the decision-making to NCUC ExCom, and that NCSG in this context means NCSG chair.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: NCSG EC, that was reference to (unintelligible) before 7th of June, but that's what I'm saying. I don't have this email on thread of off thread of the official list, but I do remember there was a reference to an email to NCSG EC.

And, I just want to say, again, that I am happy to collaborate to continue this discussion, but I do think Juan has a point that there are many actors that should be involved. So, perhaps NCSG list would be the best place for us to discuss that, and I'm here for whatever questions and information I can provide.

Joan Kerr: Great. So, I think that we can move on from there. But, I do want to, before I end the meeting, to do thank you for being honest, and I think we've been dialoguing, and I really honestly believe you're caught in the crossfire, and we've actually both put in a position that we should not have been put in, in the first place. So, I think we'll work it out, anyway.

So, I think you and I had discussed that we would maybe document some terms, and conditions, and way forward, and I think that's probably, for now, it's the best way to go forward. All right, let's move along, Mr. Juan. So, let's quickly go over some of these. Martin, how long do you have with us?

Martin Silva Valent: Five minutes for me to...

Joan Kerr: Five minutes. Oh, if I tell you it's going to be an hour, no...

Martin Silva Valent: (I'll try to be fast if I could).

Joan Kerr: Okay. So, 10 minutes then? I'm just going to do a quick overview and then maybe you can do your presentation and go, is that all right?

Well, again, welcome everyone. We just had some discussions around some funding and I think we have a path forward for that. So, let's talk about NPOC and - oh, welcome, Adam.

Adam Peake: (Unintelligible)...

Joan Kerr: Thank you. Thank you for joining us. So, if you haven't heard already, because we've been so excited about how far we've gone, NPOC is on the move. We're on the move and when I say that - I mean, some of you know that I love speeding, so this is not about this - the car that go slow, it's about the Ferrari, and so that's where we're going to go.

We've been working really, really hard to put the fundamentals of NPOC in place. And, believe it or not, it's never actually been done. So, we - and we see fantastic teamwork, I have to say.

We've worked on a lot of marketing material, defining exactly what NPOC is, what is it that our charter says we must do, what are the issues the - that operational concerns are defined as, what exactly does the mission mean, and, you know, you start to dissect all of those sections, and you go, "What the heck is this? What does it mean exactly?"

So, we've come through that work and I think that it's made us a better EC, I think. And, I don't have other constituency actually read their charter, but they should, because you'll learn a lot. So, we've done some charter work and he'll talk about that in a second. We'll let Martin speak before, but some of the things that we've been involved with in - other than sort of building NPOC as an organization is that we've really improved, and increased our presence, and different events.

Certainly, I know you've been at the IGF in Europe. I - actually, we were at the one in Geneva together, although separately. Yes, (unintelligible) in Toronto. And so, we will be - unfortunately, we didn't have as much presence in Africa, but we have tried to identify the different events that are, you know, our different regions to accommodate that, so that's going to be increased and obviously be more precise, but we accommodate as many regions as possible.

We have a new website that's being developed and I think it's going to be fantastic. It's going to be mostly focused on policy and members, member engagement, member profile, what our members are involved in, that sort of stuff. So, it's not just NPOC or the EC that's responsible for it, it's that our members are providing content, because content is king, like cash is king.

I think I'm going to stop there for a second and let Martin speak on our onboarding. I think it's a pretty successful program and maybe if you could point us on a way forward since the onboarding has ended and we can build on it.

Martin Silva Valent: Hello. My name is Martin. Okay, first of all, we have the onboarding actual appointees in the table, which is a Iona and Tapani. So, it's actually - and Destiny back there, and it's like - their job with us, what are the next steps, but I can tell you about the history, the past, and at least my major recommendation to work in the future. So, thank you for having me.

For those who don't know, the onboarding program was the program that the community asked us to kick off. This was a few years ago, two years ago, community basically said we need a way to get members meaningfully engaged with our work, because in - at least in our case, from the NPOC perspective, NGOs would come to ICANN, they will come to a meeting, they would go to a webinar, they would meet someone from NPOC, start talking about it, and doing the constituency.

But they weren't engaged meaningfully in policy development, which is the only thing we can really - as part of the (GSO), so - and the big question is, "What was happening?" I mean, why these people were getting to ICANN, I mean, for some that were entering into the ecosystem of ICANN, but they were not either understanding or working in the issues that they seemed to be interested, because if not they wouldn't have invested in getting into ICANN.

And the staff basically create this sort of framework where each constituency, whether it's NCUC, NPOC or IPC, the Intellectual Property Constituency. It could develop their own insight of what onboarding meant and what onboarding was about, what were the challenges. And, that make sense, because each different stakeholder has a different reality, NGOs has a different reality than intellectual property lawyers and law firms, you know?

So it make sense that NPOC got to define what onboarding meant, what does meaningful engagement meant for us, and why NGOs in our case weren't getting exactly what we want to get. So, that work undertook at least a year to try to define a cross-community definition of what onboarding was, and to start creating some basic materials.

And, again, everything is community defined or community (lead), staff always help us to have that platform, but each constituency decided what to do with that platform. Some consistencies actually reply and said, "We don't need an onboarding program. At least, we have one already, we don't need to have this external place to share or to develop." And I was like, "We welcome the (ADM). We actively try to develop specific ideas, materials, processes." This work was back with Agustina Callegari, the previous mentee of the onboarding program.

And, in the beginning was just mapping out, understanding what our stakeholder was, and that's something we didn't parallel with the first

discussions in the base where the new charter was going to be, and what was the NPOC exact mission.

Part of those debates also were, okay, then who is - if I have - if we have to define the whole scope of NPOC members or potential members, who are they? We mapped that out. We try to understand why NGOs that were already at ICANN weren't coming to us, which didn't prevent them, an NGO could be NCUC, and a large - and it could be an NPOC, that's not a problem why they're coming to us.

Because at the end of the day, may - in NCUC maybe they can have a perspective towards end users, rights? If they are interested in the end user rights, but the NPOC, we - we're about operation, it's - how do you, as an NGO, use your domain, your own domain name, your own name. Is your name that - it's not a - it's not commercial protected against confusion or again is trademarks being used to take your name away?

So, we try to develop basic tools like what things we must have and we don't, even if we don't know the full scope of the tools we need, what do we need as basic? So, we drafted a welcoming letter and we started the development of a toolkit. The toolkit today, I think, is 20 pages long, and it acts as a repository of information.

It has links, it has summarized, and it was all made by us. It's not - this is not a copy paste document, it's literally word by word written by NPOC members. And it tries to explain the whole ICANN ecosystem from an NGO voice, an NGO management perspective, and that was the idea, to have each part of the NPOC or GNSO reality from an NGO voice.

So, when we use that repository of information to draft an email, to draft a slide, to create a webinar, we have a consistent way of wording - a thoughtful way of wording. So, the NGOs could feel that they were - we were talking their language, and we were addressing exactly what their perspective was.

From that toolkit, we've used it to make slides, we use it to - we've created like a smaller versions of the toolkit, like the one we have in the previous meeting we printed out, we created a - Juan and (Shawn) helped it, and with the design as well on ICANN stuff, and we had - like a minimal version of the toolkit. It was actually beautiful.

Yes, but the idea is to develop a toolkit is to develop a knowledge guide on what does it mean to be part of NPOC and sort of toolkit or a (sales) guide. If you give the toolkit to a new member, as long as the new member continues to be interested, it can find everything he needs inside that toolkit or at least a lot of information, links.

So, with those two things, this is - the third part we didn't finish the development is the mentorship program. NPOC always wanted to have an official mentorship program, because we already have an informal mentorship program. All of NPOC leaders are mentors in their own way and in their own capacity. Some of them through specific programs like the fellowship or with - just by helping people in the community, so it's okay.

Why don't we make some sort of official guideline that allow us to have, you know, a due process on how to enter something that is light, something that doesn't becomes a burden, something that is voluntary, but that guarantees that if a member of NPOC or someone that arrives at NPOC is motivated enough is not going to fail in their engagement, because of the lack of information or the lack of help on mentorship.

That - we wanted to address those holes, so the toolkit gave information, the recommended letter basic guidance for day one, and then a mentor that could eventually help you with your doubts and help you navigate the ICANN ecosystem, if you may.

And all of these in ICANN (unintelligible) was always in the mind of meaningful engagement with the policy development process. That's almost as a mantra on what it meant to me - to be successful as an onboarding program. And, for those who maybe weren't in these talks before, this is not outreach, this is literally the other side of outreach.

It's once the outreach was successful and someone already got into the organization. So, it - with those things, we all - we would - I would say we're very close to start creating the mentorship, because all of the other parts were already done, and this is the update parties, the onboarding program is finishing in the sense of - at least, for this year, there's not going to be any more funding for the external platform.

That doesn't mean we don't have - we can continue. I mean, we should and we've, I think, NPOC ExCom agrees, we will continue on onboarding program inside this - inside our constituency. It will be anytime for the NPOC ExCom to think about for the membership chair to keep developing it and ICANN to start to keep helping us to create content.

But, that's - the new challenge is we already have or first push from this onboarding program in the outside and now it's time to bring it home and to continue pushing it on ourselves. Maybe in the future we still have a new version of onboarding program, because the community seems to be fond of it.

So, I don't - I do think that maybe in the future next year we may see it coming back in a new form, something maybe more aggressive in the sense of more effective with much more guidelines, but I encourage Ioana, Tapani, Destiny, and whoever participates in this task to continue the onboarding mission, because that's the life of NPOC, everything else becomes empty if we don't have meaningful members doing meaningful stuff.

And, if anyone has any question, I can address them. Thanks.

Man: Just one question related to - do you know of the reasons why they've decided to sort of cut the onboarding program?

Martin Silva Valent: Yes, the onboarding program was initially a pilot program, that it got extended. So, it never meant to be an eternal thing. It was a trial, if you may. So, that's why it ended. It was supposed probably to end before that but people continue to wanted to have it and with the budget cuts, they probably didn't push too hard. That's the reason.

Man: Okay.

Judith Hellerstein: Yes. Judith Hellerstein. Yes, I can also confirm and I was on a finance meeting, it was mostly the budget cut, because they were cutting everything right and left, and the community didn't really push for this (composer), they pushed for other ones, and so when the chips went, they funded only things that people were putting a large number of comments, so things that did not get commented on by others.

                        Or what happens is if you comment as a group, you don't get treated as one comment, while other groups are all commenting, and the higher the comments, the less problems you have.

Remmy Nweke: Well, my name is Remmy Nweke for the record. I want to thank Martin and the team for the job they are doing with the onboarding. But then, just for the sake of plan B, what do you think we can start thinking of, you know, while this other project is being rested? Is it possible that we can push further or can we create another alternative plan B moving forward? Thank you.

Martin Silva Valent: I think we don't have to wait for anyone. We already have a welcoming letter. We have a toolkit based on the page one that we need to update and continue to grow. We can create different versions of the toolkit addressing

different issues or different kind of NGOs, small ones, big ones, Asian ones, Latin American ones.

We can still try to figure out how to use the little leadership we have for a very effective mentorship. People like Ioana or Destiny are entering the world of NPOC, and I think this is the sort of motivation we have to address that we have to conquer, because if not, it doesn't matter what we do in (unintelligible) spaces. This is like the basic thing we need right now to have this sort of people engaging with us, and becoming - eventually, there's - and even if they don't become leaders, just - people - meaningfully (extended) their interest in the (DNS) space.

Joan Kerr: Well, thank you, Martin. Just for the record, Martin is the first NPOC member that became a GNSO counselor, so, yes.

Martin Silva Valent: Thank you.

Joan Kerr: And thank you for joining us. All right, next Raoul, would you like to talk a little bit about the charter just quickly?

Raoul Plommer: Yes. It will be very quick. Basically, we haven't done anything on the charter since 2nd of May when we actually reached the point of handing it over to the first external person outside of NPOC. It was (John Moore) who actually went through the (ALAC) review as well with good results. I mean, it was well-organized charter, that's what we're looking into like we want hours backing in an organized way as well.

So - but, I guess, really the good news since the last ICANN meeting is that we actually got it to that point. So, once it comes back from (John), I think, we'll have sort of the final polish on it, just to check everything is right, and so on. That will be fairly light process compared with the year that we were working on.

And, I think, as soon as it comes back, we'll be ready within a month to hand it over to the ICANN lawyers or no, public comment period, yes, that's right. Yes, so that's that.

Joan Kerr: So, just a quick - I'm sort.

Tapani Tarvainen: Are we going to have members discussion on that before going to the public comment period?

Joan Kerr: I believe what I'm told is it goes to staff. This is what Benedetta told me and she's not here, so I can say anything. No. What I - my understanding is that it goes to staff - in the data and they - the staff looks at it, the policy team looks at it, and advised us of anything, and then it goes to the members. That's my understanding.

Tapani Tarvainen: Okay. My understanding is a little different. My point was, are we going to have an internal NPOC members discussion on that before sending it to the stuff or only after that...

Joan Kerr: Yes. Yes.

Tapani Tarvainen: Which is which?

Joan Kerr: We're going to - we will send it to the members first for them to have comments and then set it to the stuff. That's what you're asking. Yes. Next, I think we talked a little bit about the website, so we can - we have membership marketing material, do you want to talk about a little bit Trello or you just want me to talk about it?

Raoul Plommer: Raoul for the record. Okay, so we initially planned to have Trello on our website to - so that it would actually show quite publicly in a transparent way what exactly we're doing like in a really detailed ways as well. But, we've actually, at least, the three version of Trello isn't - doesn't really let us do what

we want to do there, so we'd really have to look into the paid version of Trello if that will have those features that we're really looking for engaging our people at NPOC, but that's sort of still under research.

Joan Kerr: That's part of the website design as well. Remmy, do you have anything to say about finance committee?

Remmy Nweke: Thank you, madam chair. Remmy for the record. Well, after the - following the appointment, partially tried to push out the NCSG chair with respect to the committee schedule, but we haven't got any response. Yes, I think I've done that about twice now, so I was hoping that I will see her here, but unfortunately she's not - coming. But then we still have to continue pushing to find out when exactly is the committee going to see it and what probably could be on the agenda moving forward, thank you.

Joan Kerr: Okay, thank you. Well, let us know how we can help you and if you need any information. So, I think there's lots going to be coming for - certainly for 2019 anyway. Yes, Caleb, please go ahead.

Caleb Kow: Yes, I'm sorry. A quick question for you, have you considered using - Caleb for the record, have you considered using any open source alternatives since - for the Trello if the - I'm sorry, if the paid version is - the cost is too high, probably you could consider using an open source fashion of something else that could do the same walk as that of Trello.

Raoul Plommer: Okay. Raoul for the record. I think maybe we should work together with Juan and think about open source version, because - not only because of the money and in fact we have some $9,000 per year for our website which we're not really using at the moment, so it's really not about the money as much as us liking to use open source software, so that's actually a really good idea, and it'd be nice to have the civil society using open source tools.

So, I'm really game for discussing that with Juan who - we're building a website with.

Joan Kerr: Go ahead, Juan.

Juan Manuel Rojas: Thank you. Yes, additionally, what Raoul says before, like we have been doing tests to embed the Trello board into our website. It could - it can be possible at this time. It's not embedded in a code or something like that, so - and far as I understand, Trello, it is an open source platform where - like that - I'm wrong? I'm sorry. Okay. Okay.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: Just to give a suggestion, Renata for the record. The Internet Freedom Festival community uses a platform called Mattermost, which is an open session and it's very similar to Trello and Slack, and it's very easy to integrate. So, it's Mattermost I can share more later.

And, they also use a (Wiki) to - because they are - after all also they have an event once a year, so the (Wiki) setup the program part, but it's quite an interesting tool, just a suggestion.

Joan Kerr: Go ahead.

Destiny Tchéhouali: Yes, thank you. Destiny Tchéhouali for the record. I would just like to know if by the past you did - you ever did a survey to know what are the needs that we can address? We need to follow the community. Since the number of member have grown this - recently, I don't know if you think that a kind of survey could be useful.

Joan Kerr: A member survey, you mean?

Destiny Tchéhouali: Membership survey.

Joan Kerr: So, one of the plans that we have, there was a membership to survey that was done formally three years ago, before our EC. And, the overwhelming response to that survey was education. So we - that's what the EC at that time had undertook so - to do.

What we're going to be trying to do is have polls on our website, so members are constantly telling us the issues that they were facing and, you know, having that dialogue. We haven't exactly found out - agreed on exactly how we're going to do it, but it will be on our website that there is some sort of issue identification from our members. So, it was a huge discussion that we had, so thanks for the question, that's great.

Okay, so the next item is ICANN 63, which is Barcelona and I think we can leave that conversation and we can discuss that at a later time, maybe in our next meeting about what we're going to do, and maybe we can have Adam help us with any outreach or engagements or events. Perhaps we can send you something about the ideas that we have and feedback, does that sound fair?

Adam Peake: Adam Peake, ICANN Staff for the record. Yes, of course, and there are quite a lot planned for Barcelona. The restrictions are mainly around budget because meeting space particularly on the days prior are extremely expensive. And, as you know, the budget restrictions are coming into effect, and meeting costs are one of the highest that we do have.

So, in the past you would often see a day zero type of event, even minus one and so on and so forth, particularly for - what would be expected to be a big event. But, I think, you will see that the restrictions are just - it's just going to be tighter and tighter, because the budget isn't there, and it is a very, very large expense.

But do get - keep involved with the meeting planning for Barcelona. There's a meeting coming up, I know, on the schedule, and I think that this

constituency leaders, we're able to - it's not an open meeting, because it's an early planning meeting, but I think if you talk to staff, than you as the chair would probably be able to sit in.

I remember, Tapani, you as the NCSG chair would have been in those meetings when you were there, so it's important to sit in and hear what the plans are, and the reasoning for why things are available, and why not. Thanks.

Joan Kerr: Thank you. So we will forward that to you once we've decided. So, what our next focus on the agenda was to talk about our membership campaign and I really, really want to stress that going forward much of our time is going to be spent on policy, right, (Guy)?

Finally, I think we've finally gotten there where we feel so confident that we have the mechanism to do it and we can help our members, and market to them, and outreach, and just feel excited, and want to engage them without thinking, "Oh, my gosh, we don't have other things in place."

So, what we're going to be looking at, certainly, we're going to be asking our members for feedback, because that's what matters, but at least you have to have some sort of foundation or formula to engage them.

Definitely, a very strong regional focus, because that's where, you know, we want to get those issues, because every issues - every region is different, and who's going to know that, people who live there. Yes, so we've got four identifiable operational concerns. We'll have them on the website.

We thought that we would have some new members today and we had pages that people could sign up to be part of those expert that could provide us information, but that's not to say because it doesn't happen today it doesn't mean it's not going to happen onsite for the next month. We're going

to send it out and tie them to what's happening in ICANN, the comments that we need, identify the experts, and send them off.

So, look out for that sort of thing and please, please do help us. We're not being conservative in begging for help, right? We want the help. We - this is really exciting for us. So, I think, look out for that.

I wanted to give that a name and I was going to call it 'Phoenix Rising', you know, because I kept thinking that, "Oh, my gosh, a year and a half ago, we really thought NPOC was burned, dead." But I also came up with another concept of when you have a fire in a forest, most of you must know that I'm a farmer at heart, if you have a fire in the forest, do you know what happens? All of the trees burn down. The blueberries regrow. You'll have a field of blueberries. So I was thinking of calling it the 'Blueberry Campaign', but - because it's fruitful, but anyway, we have to decide that as a group.

So, any questions, comments or inputs? Tapani?

Tapani Tarvainen: Tapani for the record. Since we are about to boost up our policy work, I'm looking at NPOC charter about policy committee. I understand we don't actually have one now, only policy chair. So, how about actually doing something about that like issuing call for volunteers who want to serve in the policy committee and then waking it up?

It says there that as long as there are sufficient willing participants, the policy committee shall consist of the following in terms of like - I think, besides the chair, four other, and up to 10 - up to 12 others, so - but getting even one would be progress compared to the current situation. So, I suggest that we shall a call for volunteers to act in the policy committee and if there are willing volunteers started actually doing that.

Joan Kerr: Okay, I like - when there's actions, honestly. So, going forward, we're going to issue a call for what we did and is there anyone here that I can put down

right now? Oh, we got one here. So, anyone else? Policy chair? Thank you. Tapani, (unintelligible), thank you. Tapani?

Tapani Tarvainen: To volunteer (theme), right?

Joan Kerr: Yes.

Tapani Tarvainen: Tapani goes...

Joan Kerr: Yes, anyone else?

Adam Peake: Clarification, I volunteer for general assembly of the policy committee, not for any other specific roles. There are also (white share) in record and I don't want to be either of those.

Joan Kerr: For now we'll just form a committee and let the committee decide the structure, how's that?

Man: (Unintelligible)...

Joan Kerr: Okay. All right. Oh, my gosh NPOC has a committee. You want to be on it too? Websites, websites...

Juan Manuel Rojas: Yes, but - of course, I am in policy NCSG. I need to be within, of course.

Joan Kerr: Okay. All right, so we got - oh, my goodness, gracious me, we got four people plus the chair, and you, you want to be on it? Okay. Can I invite you to my other meetings?

((Crosstalk))

Joan Kerr: Thank you, Benjamin. I will put you on. Yes. Mr. Adam, please take note how - when we act, how fast it happens.

Remmy Nweke: Madam chair, please, permit me to just add Adam here. It is important to state that (Ben) was supposed to join us, maybe because of visa issues, he couldn't join us. He was turned back almost at the Panama Airport, you know, not only him, we also asked (unintelligible) other people like that who couldn't join us because of visa issues.

And, in fact, there has been a trend and discussion now in (NCSG) that visa issues should be considered as part of the condition for giving countries hosting rights of ICANN meetings.

So, I hope ICANN - Adams can take that up to other levels of management of ICANN to help in resolving that, because it's also affecting very drastically, especially those from Africa. Thank you very much.

Adam Peake: Yes, I'm aware of the issues because - and stuff we're trying to sort out, Benjamin, in particular, but there's nothing you can do when someone arrives in a country and then they turned away, and it turns out that he had a six-month visa, and the requirement was one-year visa, and that happens, if you have it wrong, it doesn't matter whether - which country he was from, if you got wrong visa, you won't get in.

The situation with us is exactly as you described and what I would suggest you do actually is to raise it at the public forum, because we've had people talk about visas before. Visa requirements are, you know, they are considered when meeting locations are selected and it's not a bad idea to keep reminding people, but at the same score, you want the meetings to rotate around regions, and you wanted - everybody wanted this to come to Panama because of the previous problems.

So, we have to, unfortunately, work with global rules that we may or may not agree with, personally. I mean, visas are as fact of life and you can add unfortunately to that if you like. I would, but that's, you know, how it is, isn't?

Unfortunate, I'm sorry, but yes, I would really raise it at the public forum as a very quick statement to say a disappointment that yet again someone from one of the developing countries has found it difficult to come to an ICANN meeting.

They're an important volunteer who's serving on one of the most important policy councils, that kind of thing, to emphasize that this is not just - it's not just somebody who's a newcomer, someone has a desire to join ICANN, but somebody who's devoting significant amount of time to one of the most important policy organizations we have, so I would raise it at the public forum if I were you.

Tapani Tarvainen: Just for the record, another remote volunteer for the policy committee, (Dina Jalkanen).

Joan Kerr   You know, no one is going to steal a penny NPOC ever, so that's wonderful. So, we have a pretty strong number of people on our policy and that's the meat of what we're going to do, so that's fantastic. And, of course, we'll have a great marketing team as well, so this is wonderful going forward. It's - I mean, this is more than we envision, right?

So, anyway, any questions, comments or suggestions?

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: I think one suggestion about this is because we also had (Shahu) who was the previous and who was the (offer of the) NCSG project. Maybe there is some way we can make this - also, on 2019, have it on the criteria like not, of course, obligating people to have the visas previously, but have it that somehow they have a support.

So, part of the funding to ask ICANN to also help with the visa process or something like that, because ICANN now has a visa agency. So, it seems crazy to me that your pain is huge amount of money to a visa agency and not really - and these things keep happening.

Joan Kerr: Go ahead, Judith.

Judith Hellerstein: Yes, Judith Hellerstein for the record. I think that also ICANN - I know as - in the case when - in that large, when we have people, ICANN doesn't buy the ticket until they get the visa, and then sometimes they get the visa too late that they can't find any routing for the person, and that's also - and then that - what happens then is that the money then gets wasted, because you can't put someone else or the other things.

And, so some of these issues, I think, need to be - but, also the - I want to remind people that the travel guidelines are up comment, and these are all great ideas to put in the travel guidelines comments, and that could be going - the first thing on the policy committee is writing governance comments on this...

Joan Kerr: Yes, I deal with it with other conferences as well, but one of the ways that we do with it is the host organization will have a relationship with the embassy and they send a letter that says - and we do this every time. The host organization sends a letter saying, "We're hosting a conference and this is the date."

And, they develop a relationship and they apprise the ambassadors or workers that a number of people are going to apply for visas, so that they're aware, and that there's some identification. So, it can work but, you know, there's different ways.

Judith Hellerstein: Right. Yes, and that's I think an excellent comment that we could - you could put in the - in your - in the NPOC comments to the travel guidelines of trying to adopt that.

Renata Aquino Ribeiro: Expect - Renata for the record. I would definitely expect to be (a massacre) (Kobe) and Montreal in terms of visa, because of Toronto. There

was also - and one of the interesting things also that happened, Panama has yellow fever vaccine requirement or either you are allergic to eggs, so apparently there's a - there's quite a simple procedure to be allergic to eggs and you can enter the country, but the yellow fever vaccine there is only a specific type from a specific agency, and so on and so forth, and so on.

So, all of these things, these are things through specializes agencies to let us know, because beforehand and especially developing country it's going to be really hard.

Joan Kerr: Go ahead, Adam.

Adam Peake: I think this might be something that you could take up at the NCSG level, because the chair is particularly passionate about visas for obvious reasons. The issues are extremely complicated and one of the things that I did say at the meeting and probably - I think it may have been Helsinki some time ago was that we need to have a community review of what visas mean to the meetings and so on. And, the examples you give are interesting.

I mean, yellow fever, you need a yellow fever vaccination to go to South Africa, because I remember going from Nairobi and not having mine, so having an ejection at the airport, the meeting in Nairobi we held five, six, seven, eight years ago was one of the most difficult for African country residents to get into, because Kenyan visa requirements are extremely difficult and vice versa. It's very difficult often for African citizens to get into the - visas for other African countries.

It's just ironic that this is a problem that is not north-south-east-west, it's something that we can try and consider as an organization. And, of course, unlike the UN, we don't have the power of influencing government agency as sometimes the IGF does, for example, but probably a little bit more influential than, say, (Rights Con) was in Toronto recently.

So, work with the organization and probably ask (Fasanay) if you can, you know, put something at the stakeholder level to begin a discussion again about what visas mean for ICANN and ICANN's meeting policy, that may be something. And, remember, that it isn't necessarily north and south, of course it's very difficult for people from developing countries, but the issues are really - are global, so a good time probably to have a discussion.

Joan Kerr: Great, thank you. Any other comments? So, I have the last comments, I guess, I just want to say we - NPOC is in an election. Please visit and vote if you haven't. Vote for the right people. Do read the - first of all, I want to say is this is the first time in NPOC's history that we've had competition in the positions, so I think that's like - that says a lot about us.

And - but, anyway, please do remember to vote and I think that's it, I think. Thank you so much for being here. I think there's been a great meeting and thank you to the EC for all of their work and Remmy who's always here and Tapani for giving us our policy committee.

So, there - I'm - if I don't - I don't usually drink, but I'm going to go - have a - some champagne, because I'm so happy. Thank you. Okay, (Mary), you're on to say bye, to wrap up.

Oh, by the way, thank you for all of your work, and all of your support, and all of the, you know, nodding.

END