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David Olive: Greetings everyone and welcome to our Pre-ICANN 55 Policy Webinar Update. My name is David Olive and I have the pleasure of working with the policy development support team and as well as General Manager of the ICANN Regional Headquarter Hub in Istanbul where I am broadcasting this webinar to you, our community.

I want to thank you for taking the time to join us. And I would just like to at this stage recap. The webinar will be looking at some of the highlights of what we are now calling the Meeting A ICANN meeting, a new structure that will add some different programming to what we're used to at the regular ICANN meetings.

Secondly, I'd like to talk about the policy development process. The who, the why, the how and the tools we use to support you, the community, in your activities of policy and advice development.

Three, of course I would like to introduce the staff who work with you on a daily basis on the - with the various supporting organizations and advisory councils and the work of policy and advice development.

We will of course look forward to your questions, which you can place on the chat in the chat room. And at the end of the presentation, we'll have time for questions as well. We'll try to answer the questions within the chat at the end of the conference.

And finally, the slides and recording will be made available. And that way you can review and look at them at your leisure again. I will provide that URL at the end of this session.

So with that, I want to thank you. And I will proceed to basically some overview of the Meetings A, ICANN 55 Marrakesh. This Saturday, the weekends will be busy with various intercommunity works across the supporting organization's advisory committees.

Monday of course is the opening session with the President's speech and other dignitaries who will be there at the opening session. And the new part of the Meetings A will be a public forum toward the afternoon of Monday where the supporting organizations and advisory committee chairs and others will be able to highlight some of the priorities and work that they'll be doing within the week of the ICANN meeting.

Tuesday of course is the important constituency day meeting for their money - meetings of the various stakeholders and constituency groups, as well as their meeting with the Board of Directors. A lot of intra and inter community work being done.

Thursday they'll have again further work with the community. The public forum will happen toward the afternoon. And there will be an ICANN public board meeting to complete the process on Thursday.

So obviously some of the highlights are the GAC high-level governmental meeting will also be taking place on Monday. This is an event that happens

every two years to highlight the importance of the GAC and to acquaint other ministers of the activities of the governmental advisory committee.

There will be many sessions on the IANA stewardship transition and implementation, as well as the cross community working groups efforts and proposal on accountability.

Wednesday is generally the Council day. And here we have the governmental advisory committee meeting with the board, the GNSO Council and CCNSO Councils will meet on that day. Thursday there will be more work on the accountability and the GNSO wrap up session.

In terms of policy development at ICANN, it is a primary role for us to coordinate policy development related to the global Internet system's unique identifiers. This is done in an open and transparent process by you, the community.

I like to show this slide because the who is the who does development and policy and advice development at ICANN, it's obviously the three supporting organizations -- the GNSO, CCNSO and the ASO for global policies affecting the domain name system.

And the advisory committees-- the GAC, the At Large, the RSEC, the SSEC who also interact and provide their inputs to the policy development process, as well as provide their own advice to the board and at times to the ICANN community.

You are involved with many of these elements and participate, I'm sure, in many of the working groups of the various supporting organization and advisory councils, or may want to. And we encourage you to follow the developments here of the topics that may be of interest to you to get involved or remain involved.

Policy development of course, the how is through a multi-stakeholder bottom up process and open and transparent procedures that are welcoming to all to hear inputs and come to a problem solving solution that could be recommended to the board that is effective and implementable.

The why of course is to assist the community in creating these policies and guidelines through a participation - participatory and fair and balanced approach. We support the community and making sure that they know about the issues, they're able to contribute an input into the process and we help manage the process so that it is effective and efficient to benefit the global Internet community.

The tools some of you are familiar with on this call, the working group models, teleconferences such as the one we're on at the moment, in person meetings at ICANN meetings, inputs into the public comment procedures of policy and other matters, collaboratory mechanisms of working together on these issues as well as publications and webinars.

The staff to support this is the policy development team. Many of the people who will be presenting on this webinar are involved in the day-to-day operations of supporting your work in the various groups that you may be involved with.

We have 29 full-time employees, subject matter experts and support services in five time zones across nine countries and in support of 13 languages the last count I had. So this is the group that is primarily helping and assisting and facilitating your work in the policy and development activities of ICANN.

With that, I will turn you over to the experts in the various areas. And ask Marika Konings the generic name supporting organization's support staff to start off the briefing on the substantive issues before the GNSO at ICANN 55. Marika the floor is yours. Thank you.

Marika Konings: Thank you very much David, and welcome everyone from Costa Rica. So as David already said, my name is Marika Konings. I'm currently based in Costa Rica and I'm the Senior Policy Director and Team Leader for the GNSO.

In addition to some of the work that David already referenced to you and an introduction in relation to the IANA stewardship transition, as well as enhancing ICANN accountability, there are also numerous other projects that the GNSO is working on, including a 13 policy development processes or PDPs in their various stages.

And it's not possible to cover all of these projects in the type we have allocated for this webinar today. Our contribution is going to focus on the three PDPs that have recently kicked off, and for which we're still looking for volunteers or for which we will be looking for volunteers in the very near future.

The first one of those is the next generation gTLD registration directory services to replace Whois policy development process. So as many of you know, Whois was created back in the 1980s as a collection of publication of domain name registration data service and by Internet operators to be able to identify and contact individuals or entities responsible for the operation of a network resource on the Internet.

Although ICANN's requirements for domain name registration data collection acts as an accuracy for gTLD registries have undergone some important changes, including for example the registration data complication service specification within that 2013 registrar accreditation agreement or RAA.

The newest policy and the underlying protocol have been a subject of debate for nearly 15 years now. And so the comprehensive Whois policy reform remains a source of long-running discussion related to a battery of issues such as, you know, the purpose of the data collected, accuracy, privacy and a limited cost, policing, intellectual property protection, security, et cetera.

So to try and address some of these issues, the ICANN board launched an initiative back in 2012, which it recently reconfirmed as a board-initiated policy development process to define the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data.

And to consider safeguards for protecting such data using the recommendations that have been developed by the expert working group on this topic as an input to and have deemed appropriate by the PDP working group as a foundation for a new gTLD policy on this topic.

To this end, the final issue report was published in October of last year and - which contains a wealth of information on this topic. All the relevant background information has been covered or is linked to. And it also provides an overview of the process framework that was developed jointly by the ICANN Board and the GNSO Council to deal with the many significant and interdependent policy areas that have been identified.

So following the publication of the final issue report, the GNSO Council adopted the charter for the PDP working group in November of last year. The charter basically follows that the process framework, as I just mentioned, which basically breaks the PDP down into three distinct phases.

Namely Phase 1, which focuses on the policy requirements. Phase 2, which focuses on the policy of the functional design or actually policy development that some have called it. And Phase 3, we would focus on the implementation and any co-existing guidance that should be included.

Following the call for volunteers, which was launched at the start of this year, we've now had over 130 members sign up for this alpha effort, together with nearly 100 observers, which really demonstrates the broad interest that exists in this topics. And just as a reminder, all GNSO working groups are open to anyone interested to join, so.

The working group is still in the early phases of its work, but it has already identified its leadership team with (Trombones) as its chair. And it's currently working on the development of a work plan.

So what are the questions that the PDP working group is expected to answer during the first phase of its work? As a starting point, it is expected to identify the fundamental requirements for gTLD registration data, without concern for the model that may be delivering such requirements. As part of this effort, it's expected to consider users and purposes as well as associated access, accuracy, data elements and privacy requirements.

Once the PDP has completed its inventory of fundamental requirements, it will need to ask the question whether a new policy framework and next generation RDF is needed to meet these requirements. Or whether the current Whois policy framework can meet these requirements in its current form or with modifications.

For each of the phases, the PDP working group is expected to consider at a minimum these different elements as part of its deliberations, with the focus of each phase.

So for example in Phase 1, with the focus being in requirements, the question for, you know, the element users and purposes will be who should have access and why. Gated access, what steps should be taken to control data access for each user purpose and so forth and so on.

Before handing it over to my colleague, Steve Sheng, I wanted to briefly show you this graphic which depicts the overall framework that is expected to guide this PDP.

As mentioned before, there are three distinct phases that each focus on a specific aspect of the discussion -- requirements, policy and implementation.

At the end of each of these phases the PDP working group is expected to report back to the GNSO Council in the form of a final report based on which the GNSO Council will decide whether sufficient progress has been made to move on to the next phase.

If you're interested in this topic and would like to contribute to the deliberations, you can still sign up as a working group member or as an observer to this effort by contacting the GNSO secretariat. In addition, input will be sought through various phases of the work in the form of a public comment as well as an informal means to provide contributions.

And the working group is also planning a face-to-face meeting during the ICANN meeting in Marrakech, which will be open to non-members to observe. And that is scheduled for Wednesday, the 9th of March from 1600 to 1800 local time. And the meeting will also have remote participation possibilities. And with that, I'll hand it over to my colleague Steve Cheng.

Steve Cheng: Thanks Markia. My name is Steve Sheng. I'm a member of the GNSO support team and I will be talking about the new gTLD subsequent procedures policy development process.

So the purpose of the new gTLD subsequent procedures PDP is to develop policy recommendations related to new gTLDs. However, it should be kept in mind that the new gTLD program is a result of existing policy recommendations from the introduction of new generic top-level domains that was developed by the GNSO in 2007.

Those recommendations were designed to produce a systemized and ongoing mechanism for applicants for those new top-level domains. And so what that means in a practical sense is that in the absence of new policy recommendations from this PDP there would be existing policy recommendations from that 2007 final report that would remain in effect.

However, in the more likely scenario where the PDP working group determines that changes are needed, they're expected to take the form of clarifying, amending or overriding existing policy recommendations. Or, of course, there could possibly be new policy recommendations.

And so the working group is at the beginning of its journey, but a number of steps have already occurred related to this PDP working group. Proceeding this effort was the new gTLD subsequent discussion group where the community considered their experiences from the 2012 round of the new gTLD program and identified a set of issues or subjects that should be considered for possible policy development.

Those subjects, of which there were approximately 38, formed a basis for a preliminary issue report that was requested by the GNSO Council. From there staff followed several steps that are required as part of the policy development process, including publishing that preliminary issue report for public comment. Then incorporating the public comment received into the final issue report. And providing to the GNSO Council for its consideration.

The GNSO Council initiated the PDP new gTLD subsequent procedures in December. And adopted the workgroup charter in January. Staff then issued a call for volunteers in late January. And today there's been a high level of interest in this PDP, with approximately 90 members and around 40 mail list observers.

And as Marika opened - mentioned earlier, GNSO PDP efforts are open to all. And so as we are in the early process, if there are others that would like to join, we would welcome your contributions.

So the working group held its first meeting on this past Monday, on the 22nd of February. And the second meeting is schedule for the 29th, this upcoming Monday.

And for the next steps for this working group, and so as I mentioned the working group is really in its early stages with that single meeting that I mentioned. However, in terms of leadership the group has seemed to be (coolest) around a set of three co-chairs who are Jeff Neuman, Avri Doria and (Steven Coats). So that still needs to be formally approved by the GNSO Council.

The next big step for this group is to develop a work plan to determine how it tends to organize the approximately 38 subjects that I mentioned earlier before it can really begin its substantive discussions.

So when that work plan is developed and as the group begins its deliberations, it should do so with its collective head up, making sure to consider other efforts and reviews related to new gTLDs are considered, which notably would include the competition, consumer choice and consumer trust reviews that are currently underway.

And the working group should seek input from the community along the way to better ensure that the working group's eventual recommendations are as consensus driven as possible.

And so this last slide, it just touched on a bit of reference materials. And so the first link is the final issue report, which discusses the scope of this PDP. The next link is the working - the wiki where you can keep current with the efforts of the group.

And then finally is a link to the working group meeting, face-to-face at ICANN 55. It's going to be on Tuesday, the 10th of March from 9:00 to 10:30 local time. And that's all I had for that. So with that, I'll and it over to Mary. Thanks.

Mary Wong: Thank you Steve. Hello everybody, my name is Mary Wong. I'm a Senior Policy Director with the Policy Team primarily supporting the GNSO. I'm

based in the United States, although being originally from Singapore, I do get the opportunity to spend time in the APAC region as well.

Together with my colleague, Lars Hoffman, who you will hear from later in this presentation, we are supporting the newest of the three policy development processes that were recently launched by the GNSO Council.

And this is a PDP to review all rights protection mechanisms in all the gTLDs, meaning those that that existed prior to the launch of the new gTLD program in 2012, as well as those new gTLDs that continue to be launched under that program.

Unlike the other two policy development processes that Marika and Steve has just talked about, this particular PDP is not yet at the working group phase. You see here a slide that takes you back to where this started and shows you where we are at this point.

This PDP is interesting for a number of reasons. First, in 2011, prior to the launch of the new gTLD program there was an issue report that was prepared for the GNSO Council at its request.

As you may have gathered from our various presentations, many of the PDPs started in the GNSO originate in an issue report where the staff scopes out the issue and identifies particular topics that can be tackled. And then based on public comment after the publication of a preliminary issue report, makes a recommendation upon which the GNSO Council then takes a vote as to whether or not to initiate that PDP.

In this particular case there was a recommendation that it might be preferable to wait to do a review, at least of the uniform dispute resolution policy, which is long-standing consensus policy protecting the rights of trademark owners to wait until after the new gTLD program has been launched.

So consequently, there was a request for a new issue report this time not just on the long-standing UDRP, but on all the rights protection mechanisms, meaning that this would include those that had been developed specifically for the new gTLD program.

As I mentioned, this would be first a preliminary issue report, which was published for public comment. Several public comments were received, including from groups and participants who are on this call today.

And the final issue report taking into account all those comments was submitted to the GNSO Council in January. And just last week the council voted to initiate this PDP.

So where we are now is that the PDP has formally been launched, but the council is currently discussing the scope of the working group charter. The charter is a very important document because it sets out the scope and the limits of the work that the working group will be undertaking.

Of course one of the questions of scope is what are the specific topics? And in this particular case, obviously what are the rights protection mechanisms or the RPMs? So on this slide we've set a summary of the RPMs that have been identified as being possibly up for review in this PDP.

You'll see in the bottom right-hand box in the bright orange color the UDRP, which I mentioned earlier, which applies to all gTLDs. The other few boxes refer to those RPMs that were developed for the new gTLD program. And in concert, when this working group is formed they will be expected to review all of these RPMs and hopefully ultimately do not just look at each of them and how they have worked, whether or not they need to be amended in any way, but also overall to develop hopefully a uniform and consistent framework for RPMs going into the future.

One of the questions that the GNSO Council is currently discussing with regard to the scope of the charter is how to conduct this PDP, bearing in mind not only the number of RPMs in question, but the fact that one at least is a long-standing consensus policy, but also the need to align the work of this PDP with other ongoing work elsewhere in the community.

This would include the PDP on new gTLD subsequent procedures that Steve has just highlighted. And so in light of all these factors, what staff did in the preliminary issue report was to outline three options and invite public comment, not just on the three options, but also on alternative and additional ways in which it would make sense to do this PDP in an effective and efficient manner.

You see here on this slide what the various levels of support were. Essentially though however, the recommendation that received the most support was to do it in two phases. At the moment the staff recommendation stands at Phase 1 to review those RPMs that were developed specifically for the new gTLD program with Phase 2, focusing on a review of the UDRP.

However, it is important to bear in mind that regardless of whether the PDP is ultimately conducted in phases, and if so which phase focuses on what the ultimate objective would be to develop a consistent and uniform framework.

In this particular slide, which I will not go into because these materials will be made available on the GNSO Website after this webinar, the features of the recommended two-phase PDP that staff thought we should highlight so that you can see at a glance how this particular PDP might pan out.

Following the council's discussion and deliberations on the working group charter, which we expect to continue into ICANN 55 in Marrakech, it is currently anticipated that the vote by the council on approving the final form of that charter will also take place in Marrakech.

In which case, with the charter in place, a call for volunteers will then be issued with the aim to hold a first meeting of the PDP working group sometime towards the end of March, but at the very latest in April.

So as I mentioned earlier, this PDP is just starting. And we await the council's vote on the form and the scope of the charter. And following that the call for volunteers.

Before I hand it off to my colleague, Bart Boswinkel, for the country codes names supporting organization, I'd like to mention that in Marrakech there will be a session that will touch on this particular PDP.

It is not a specific working group meeting, unlike the other two PDPs. Obviously because we don't yet have a chartered working group. But rather it is a session that will be held in combination with a session that also deals with rights protection mechanisms, specifically the ongoing review of the trademark clearinghouse.

We are in the midst of updating the Marrakech calendar to reflect this. So please look out for that. At the moment it is currently scheduled for Thursday morning. So thank you very much. I'm going to turn it over now to Bart for the CCNSO, Bart.

Bart Boswinkel: Thank you Mary. So as you can see, my name is Bart Boswinkel. I'm Senior Policy Advisor for the CCNSO, also a Senior Policy Director and Leader of the CCNSO team. So I'll take you through some of the topics that will be discussed and high on the agenda of the CCNSO in Marrakech.

Before going into the topics themselves, I want to explain a little bit on how the CCNSO is structured so you'll understand it a little bit better on say some of the slides I will present to you.

So the CCNSO consists effectively of two different entities. One is the CCNSO membership. And the other one is the CCNSO Council. As you heard David say at the start of this webinar, the CCNSO Council will meet on Wednesday afternoon, late in the afternoon. That's their only meeting.

The rest of the week, and particularly Tuesday and Wednesday for the CCNSO members and CCTLB managers who are not a member of the CCSO. So with this in mind, let me sketch you want will happen in Marrakech.

As can be expected, the IANA stewardship transition process and the accountability will be very high on the agenda. I will touch a little bit on either sessions and the CCNSO meeting days on Tuesday, Wednesday, touch on ongoing CCNSO work items and one new one which may be of interest to you.

And that concludes then my presentation. So only accountability stewardship process. As you all know, the CCNSO is one of the chartering organizations on both the CCWG accountability and the CWG stewardship.

What it means in particular is that the CCNSO Council will make a decision at the end of the day. But this decision will reflect the views of the CCTLD community at large. Ultimately the CCTLD community support for the proposals is needed. This happened with the CWG stewardship proposal, and the same process and procedure will be followed with respect to the new CCWG final supplemental proposal.

So focusing on and zooming in on the stewardship transition that CCWG accountability sessions in Marrakech, the CCNSO meeting days we'll effectively spend over four and a half hours discussing the CCWG final supplemental proposal.

First there is on Tuesday a session which is called Block 1. It sets the context for the final proposal, also in light of what is happening with the ICG, proposal and submitting sort for the timelines. And dependencies and there will be a first overview of the final proposal itself. And a discussion on elements of it. This session is open for everybody, and so that's on Tuesday from 11:00 to 12:30.

The second session is more related to the CWG stewardship. And it's around implementation issues on the final proposal of that group. First of all again, general discussion on overview of the general progress made it today with regard to the implementation.

And then specifically what the CCNSO itself needs to do to make this happen for example, around the CSC. And have some CCNSO specific elements that the CCNSO needs to implement themselves to make the transition happen. So that will be the focus on the first session on Wednesday afternoon.

And that the third session, Block 3, that's probably the most important one. It's the sense of the CCTLD community presence either in person or online on the CCWG accountability proposals. And this then will be followed by the CCNSO Council meeting late in the afternoon on Wednesday.

So this is what the CCNSO is planning to do with respect to the CWG proposal. So if you want to attend these meetings, you're more than welcome.

Other sessions during the Marrakech meeting, which may be of interest and that's why we included them in this presentation is a little around marketing and the marketing activities of CCTLDs and their experiences with it.

I've included an example, as you can see. And another session, a CCTLD new session, this is where the CCTLDs share information and practices on

local latest developments, and local meaning the registration policies, for example, of CCTLDs and whether they've changed.

And a final session that may be of interest is around the legal issues CCTLDs are facing either individually or in a specific region. The example I've included is say is the latest what is, excuse me, what is happening in Europe.

So then moving on to ongoing CCNSO working items, as you know, the CCNSO strategic and operational planning working group will meet at the ICANN meeting in order to prepare for its input on the fiscal year '17 drafts operational plan and budget and on the five-years off span updates.

They will most likely share this again with the broader community once they are done, but at the meeting the business goes, unfortunately they're working group will discuss its initial assessment of the five years ops plan update and fiscal year '17 ops plan and budget.

A second group that will meet and will present at the CCNSO meeting is what's called the CCNSO guideline review committee. This group reviews all internal guidelines and rules of the CCNSO in order to reflect the change in practices since the current guidelines have been developed, and that's since 2008.

And the first set of updates will be presented to the community. And then submitted to the CCNSO Council to full adoption. The paradigms that will be submitted are the CCNSO updated version of the CCNSO work plan and triage process (unintelligible).

I'm sorry. The second one is around roles and responsibilities of the CCNSO transfers and on the establishment of CCNSO specific working groups.

Moving forward, one of the major new work items that will be launched and discussed at the CCNSO meeting on Tuesday is a discussion on the CCNSO

policy development process for the retirement of CCTLDs and on the review mechanism for decisions and delegation. The location will be timed with CCTLDS.

The first one is to fill a current lack in policy that this lack has been noted some time ago. But there were more - the framework of interpretation was more considered of a higher priority. But now with the IANA transition well under its way, at least the proposal is well on its way, it is time to fill the - this lack of the policies.

And the second one, the review mechanism, as some of you will know, the decisions on the delegation location retirement of CCTLDs are excluded from the CCWG proposals and the CWG pro - CWG stewardship proposals because the CCTLDs felt they needed to launch - that a policy needed to be in place first and then see whether they can use that mechanism or not. But that's for a later date. So this is time to start that discussion as well.

And that's my brief update. I want to hand it over now to my colleague, (Carlos Rayos). (Carlos) go ahead.

(Carlos Rayos): Thank you very much Bart. My name is (Carlos Rayos), and I support the ASO, the address supporting organization. Within the ASO, the ASO Address Council is the body that oversees and manages global policy development.

The Address Council has 15 members, three from each region. Two of those members are elected by the regional policy forum of each regional Internet registry. And one member is appointed by the Executive Board of HRIR.

As I mentioned, the ASO Address Council oversees global policy development as it relates to IP address issues and other Internet member resources. But what is a global policy? The scope of the ASO Address Council is very narrow.

And that includes policy actions or outcomes that require IANA attention. All five RIRs must approve a global policy, which is then submitted to the ASO Address Council for ratification. After that the ICANN Board takes action.

Recent examples of policies that have been implemented through the global policy development process of the ASO include post-exhaustion IPV allocation mechanism. This was in 2012. And allocation of IPV six blocks to the RIRs. This was in 2006.

There are currently no global policy proposals. However, there's robust regional policy development activity including two specific areas relating to Internet number resource transfer policies, that's for both IPV4 addresses and autonomous system numbers and IPV6 allocation policies.

Apart from this, the RIRs are also ongoing operational improvements. Each RIR has undertaken an independent review of their accountability mechanisms. And together they have also created a governance matrix, which provides an overview of the various governance frameworks that each RIR has in place.

Currently, actually today the last day of (Apricot 2016), this is where policy development happens in meetings and at the RIR level. And the Asia Pacific region had a meeting recently and focused on some policy issues including (Atina Keuz) data accuracy, among other items.

The ASO Address Council will not be meeting at ICANN 55, however several members will be in attendance and members of the NRO Executive Council. Those are the CEOs of the five RIRs.

Some of their work obviously ongoing discussions on the CCWG accountability report, as well as coordination with ICANN. Also the selection process for Board Seat 10, which started recently. And there's a joint workshop with the GAC on IP Whois.

Right at this point we'll transition away from the supporting organizations and to the advisory committees. As you know, the advisory committees provide advice statements to inform policy development at ICANN.

Now the root server system advisory committee advises on matters relating to the operation, administration, security and integrity of the root server system. The structure of the RSAC is outlined in the ICANN bylaws. There are 12 board appointed root server operator representatives, three root zone partner representatives and three liaisons.

The current co-chairs represent the University of Maryland and VeriSign. The RSAC meets monthly, as well as at ICANN meetings. Since its recent restructure, the RSAC has established a compass of 71 technical experts to carry out the essential work of the RSAC.

In recent years they have published a variety of documents including RSAC001, which provides service expectations of root server operators. And RSAC002, two version of that document which provide measurements of the root server system.

There are currently three work parties underway within the caucus, including one on the history of the root server system. And my colleague, Steve Sheng, will provide an overview of some of this work shortly.

If you're interested in joining the caucus, there is a membership committee that reviews statements of interest and then makes recommendations to the RSAC. And with this, I'll introduce my colleague, Steve Sheng, to provide more details on the publications of the RSAC, Steve.

Steve Sheng: Thank you (Carlos). I'll provide a quick overview of the RSAC publications since ICANN 54 and its ongoing work. Since ICANN 54, RSAC published two reports, two advisories and one report.

The first advisory focused on service expectations of root servers. The RSAC completed this report in 2015. The report was held intended to publish with the related IFC from the Internet Architecture Board. And now that IRC7720 is published, the RSAC officially published RSAC001.

Next advisory on measurements of the root server system. This RSAC published the first version of 002 also in 2015. Currently nine out of the 13 root server operators already publishing these statistics.

Based on implementation experience, RSAC002 is updated to clarify several measurements and to make it less ambiguous for both the beta implementer and the beta consumer.

The implementation of these measurements help meet the requirements of RSAC001 and provide valuable data regarding the ongoing extension of the root zone.

Finally, the RSAC conducted its first workshop in September 2015, discussing issues related to the evolution, accountability and continuity of the root server system. The workshop report document some of these consensus outcomes of the workshop.

As (Carlos) mentioned, there are three current ongoing work within the RSAC. The first one is a technical study on the root server naming scheme. As you recall, in 1995 a renaming of root server names was done to all root servers from their individual names to their root-server.net zone.

For example, the M-Root, which is operated by the wide project, after the renaming it was M.Root.server.net. Twenty years has passed, although the naming scheme has served well, the RSAC would like to know whether changes are needed to this naming scheme.

So it commissioned a work party to look into this issue. The scope of work includes documenting the history, consider, you know, including the existing naming scheme, you know, any alternative naming schemes.

The pros and cons of those schemes, in particular the impact on the primary responses. And perform a risk analysis and then make a recommendation to the root server operators, root zone management partners in ICANN on whether changes should be made to the naming scheme.

The next work party is an update, the third version update on the advisory of measurement of root server system. The background here is while working on the second revision, a number of more substantial issues came to light. And the RSAC would like to devote a full caucus work party to update the measurement document.

The charter listed seven work items ranging from zone size metrics, low time metrics, the response call volume metrics, traffic volume metrics and just, you know, any other metrics too that needs to be clarified are included in the measurement by root server operators. We had our first meeting yesterday. And this work is expected to wrap up in June or July timeframe.

Finally, in collaboration with root server operators, the RSAC has produced a report on the history of the root server system. The report contains a chronological history of the system from its origin in 1984 to its current structure, divided into major historical periods.

The second part of the report contains a description of current operators and their histories in operating the root servers. Those are provided by each operator organization. The report is currently in review in the RSAC caucus until March, 2016. And is expected to be published soon afterwards.

If you are interested in participating in any of these work parties, please consider joining the RSAC caucus and join these work parties.

Looking ahead of ICANN 55, the RSAC will participate the (how you work) tutorials by giving two tutorials on how the root server system works. It will hold two working sessions, as well as joint meetings with the CTO office and the Board of Directors. The public session is on Wednesday, 1400 to 1530 local time.

As I also support the security and stability advisory committee, I'll start off with a quick update and hand over to my colleagues. Since ICANN 54, the RSAC has published five documents, two advisories and three comments. There are also two in the pipeline that I expected to be published before the Marrakech meeting.

These - the advisories focus on the shared use of the global domain name space as far as issues relating to registrant protection, protecting the registrant credentials.

The comments focus on gTLD marketplace health index, the CCWG accountability proposal and also a request from the international telecommunication union established in new certification authorities.

We will cover two in this webinar. The first one is SAC77, the SSAC comment on gTLD marketplace health index proposal. The background here is ICANN has developed a proposal on the marketplace health index and put it up for public comment.

The overall feedback from SSAC is ICANN is approaching the KPI problem backwards by starting with data that is ready - that is easily available. And the SSAC things the approach should be the other way around.

There are some specific recommendations in this comment. For example, the SSAC recommends ICANN collect and disseminate information about known

categories of registration abuse that's not just limited to phishing that is currently in the ICANN proposal.

The SSAC supports ICANN's proposal to report number of security breaches and recommends adding types of breach, number of similar breaches and number of affected users to make this KPI more effective.

Other recommendations including recommending ICANN to consider integrating external source of information on the SSAC in new TLDs. Showing the sign domains per TLD and by registrant. Currently all the top levels are signed. The question remains is, you know, a statistics published on the number of sign domains per TLD at the second level.

And finally, the SSAC recommends ICANN should include a frequency impact of TLD registries or registrars going out of business or merging with other business. So that's a quick overview of SAC77. Now I'll hand over to my colleague, Andrew to talk about another advisory, Andrew.

Andrew McConachie: Thanks Steve. My name is Andrew McConachie, and I'm going to be talking to you about SAC078, the SSAC advisory on uses of the shared global domain name space.

The purpose of SAC078 is to raise awareness to the ICANN Board and to the ICANN community that the DNS name resolution system coexists with other name resolution systems that also use domain names. These names depend on the ability of DNS name resolution interface conventions to be recognized, but they need to be treated in some special way.

To make it clear, here are a couple of examples. The top example, Facebook cord wwwi.onion has no meaning in a DNS context. This is actually a tour identifier for a tour endpoint, even though it looks like a DNS name. The second example, mycomputer.local is an identifier for multi cache DNS.

And it also looks like a DNS name. And the thing about these names is they exist in the domain name space, but they use resolution methods other than DNS.

Lastly, the SAC0078 points out that there's ongoing work in multiple venues to more fully define exactly what a name space is and how we can avoid potential side effects. Thank you. And now I'll turn it over to my colleague, Julie Hedlund. Julie take it away.

Julie Hedlund: Thank you very much Andrew. And welcome everyone. I support the SSAC and the GNSO out of the DC office. Just very quickly, here are the SSAC activities at ICANN 55.

We will have the GN SSAC for everybody, a beginners guide session on Sunday, March 6 from 4:45 to 6:15. And the DN SSAC workshop on the 9th of March on Wednesday from 9:00 to 3:15 pm. And then the SSAC public meeting on the 10th of March in the morning from 8:00 to 9:00 am.

In addition, the SSAC will be meeting with members of the community, including the At Large advisory committee, the ICANN Board and the GNSO Council. And here are some links for additional information on the SSAC. And now I will turn things over to my colleague, Olof Nordling, for the GAC update. Thank you.

Olof Nordling: Thank you very much Julie and good evening. I'm Olof Nordling in Brussels. So we're across the ocean. And a few words about the governmental advisory committee, formally known as the GAC, which is a growing committee.

Much thanks to our colleagues in the government engagement team, we currently count 161 governmental members and 35 IDOs as observers. And the GAC is always busy, but at its busiest during ICANN meetings.

So starting already on Saturday in Marrakech and concluding at Noon on Thursday. And the role of the GAC is to contribute with the public policy aspects for ICANN's work. So providing advice to the ICANN Board.

So what were they up to in Marrakech then? Well, the first and foremost, it's a matter of the IANA stewardship transition and ICANN accountability. And in particular to review the output and the proposal from the CCWG, the cross community working group on accountability where the GAC, as a chartering organization needs finalize its position on that.

And this has the highest priority overall for the GAC. And the GAC will devote the maximum of time to straighten out some remaining question marks that the GAC has regarding that report.

They're also, well still remaining issues for the new gTLD program, like implementation of GAC safeguard advice where the GAC has several views that they think they would like to discuss with the Board, for example.

And there will be reports by the GAC working groups on what they've been up to in their intersessional activities regarding geographic names is one, (numerizing) is national laws and other public safety is one which I think (Carlos) mentioned that they will also have a separate meeting with the NRO.

And underserved regions, all of them much oriented towards planning for future new gTLD rounds. So that will feed into much of the work that the GNSO is currently starting up.

And well in particular ways which Marika will tell you about later during this webinar. They'll also meet with the supporting organizations and the other advisory committees, and of course with the Board. They have this on Wednesday morning and it's usually sold out, pretty packed.

So that's not all though. Every second year a high-level governmental meeting, so called HLDM is organized and chaired by the host country for a particular ICANN meeting. Last time it happened was in London in 2014. And now it's that time again. On Monday, the 7th of March there will be a high-level governmental meeting chaired by the Moroccan Minister, (Ellalame).

And of course it's hosted by Morocco with the GAC as vice-chair and there will be four sessions with short introduction and a lot of interaction with the present delegation, many of which are headed by ministers.

There will also be internal GAC work, like the review of the GAC operating principles and the preparations for the next ICANN meeting which will be the first of the short so called V meetings.

And it deserves to mention that the GAC sessions, all of them, are open and also the high-level governmental meeting on Monday. The only exception is the communicate drafting session on Wednesday afternoon. And you can follow it by physical presence if you like or using the usual remote participation tools.

There will be simultaneous interpretation, so you can listen to the proceedings in six UN languages and Portuguese. So very much welcome to the GAC meeting room. And the name of that one is (Trace Stal). And that's all from me, so let's now cross the Atlantic and go from GAC land to ALAC land over to Heidi Ulrich. Take it away Heidi. Thank you.

Heidi Ulrich: Thank you Olof. Hello everyone. My name is Heidi Ulrich. I'm the Senior Director for At Large and I am based in Los Angeles. I'm delighted to give you a brief update on the activities of the At Large advisory committee or the ALAC and the At Large community.

And I'm taking place between the ICANN meetings in Dublin and Marrakech, as well as provide the preview of At Large activities that are being planned to take place at ICANN 55 meeting.

But first, for those who may not be familiar with the organization of the At Large community, I would like to take just a moment to review its structure. At the base of the At Large community are the At Large structures or ALS's now membering 197.

ALS's are organizations that work closely with local end users throughout the world on ICANN-related policy issues. They provide input to ALAC policy advice statements and are active in outreach activity. The five regional At Large organizations or the (RALO) serve as the umbrella organizations for the ALS's in a particular region.

And then moving up the chart or from left to right, the ALAC is a 15-member body within ICANN that represents the interests of the Internet end users. They develop policy advice statements in response to public comment and also frequently send the policy's advice statements directly to the Board.

A total of ten members are selected by the (RALO). And the remaining five are appointed by the NomCom. And beginning in 2010, the ALAC and the (RALO) chairs elected one director to the ICANN Board. And currently (Ramalia Abdul Aheem) is the Board Director Selected by At Large, sitting in Seat 15.

And now I'd like to hand it over to my colleague, (Arial Lang) to discuss the ALAC policy device activities since ICANN 54. (Arial).

(Arial Lang):   Thank you. Hi, this is (Arial Lang), I'm the Policy Analyst supporting the At Large community and I'm based in ICANN's Washington, DC office. Since the end of ICANN 54, the ALAC submitted seven policy advice statements. And I will highlight two.

First, the ALAC commented on (unintelligible) proceedings related to the new gTLD program. Regarding the gTLD marketplace health index proposal, the ALAC suggested to add metrics to track how active the domains are and ask registrars to help contribute data about resellers.

The ALAC also pointed out that proposed index is restricted to the market purchasing sell and resell of new gTLDs and does not reflect the wider (DMS) help including the stability of the names of them and end user's perception of it.

Regarding a preliminary issue report on the PDP to review all the protection mechanisms, the ALAC is concerned that the RTMs seem to focus on protecting intellectual property rights of corporations, and their structures and costs create barriers for end users.

So ALAC suggested the PDP working group to consider and address those barriers, as well as to review the accessibility to trademark clearing house for individual private trademark holders and trademark agents in developing countries.

Second, the ALAC submitted six statements on the topic of Whois and two of them are about registration data access protocol. The ALAC holds the position that the contracted parties must include a monetary feature and provisions that support authorization framework and differentiated access to registration data.

In addition regarding the implementation of GNSO stakeholder consensus policy requiring consistent labeling and display of IDDS outputs, the ALAC is concerned that the current proposal seems to include no target date except for Phase 1 of the implementation. And ICANN will soon enter the sixth year of this work.

Thirdly, the ALAC commented on the proposed implementation of GNSO PDP recommendations or inter-registrar transfer policy Part B, and stressing for clear and accessible information on the transfer process and a dispute resolution mechanism for non-compliant transfers of ICANN websites. (Unintelligible) published ALAC policy advice statements by clicking the link on this slide.

Next, I want to share one piece of exciting news. (Today) the brand new website of the At Large community was released. And you may click the link on this slide to visit the new Atlarge.icann.org.

Over the past year, the At Large community and ICANN staff had provided dedicated efforts to create a more engaging site. The goal is to make this site a one-stop shop for finding policy advice, news and events, regional activities and ways to get involved in At Large.

So you find the new Atlarge.icann.org with a fresh look and easy to access information about the At Large community. Now I will turn the floor over to Heidi who will brief you on At Large work on the IANA stewardship transition and the ICANN accountability process, as well as highlights for ICANN 55, Heidi.

Heidi Ulrich: Thank you very much (Ariel). I'd like to briefly go over some of the key topics that ALAC and At Large will have during ICANN 55. There are three main topics.

The first is the CCWG. The work of the ALAC on the CCWG has been informed through weekly and sometimes more frequent calls of the At Large ad hock working group on IANA transition and ICANN accountability, as well as the work of the five At Large members of the CCWG.

In December, the ALAC submitted a statement on the draft proposal on Work Stream 1 recommendations. And they are now reviewing all aspects of the

final CCWG proposal. In preparation for their face-to-face discussions in Marrakech, the ALAC is holding four hours of teleconferences this week on the CCWG proposal.

And like most AC's and SO's, the ALAC will be spending considerable time on this issue in Marrakech. In fact, the ALAC has nearly ten hours of their face-to-face time scheduled to discuss the final CCWG proposal over Saturday, the 5th of March and Sunday the 6th of March.

The ALAC currently expects to vote on the ratification of the CCWG proposal on Sunday, the 6th of March. And depending on the results of the discussion, the ALAC may prepare an accompanying statement which will identify possible issues.

The second key topic is the issue of At Large structure criteria and expectations. And since mid-last year, members of the At Large community have been reviewing ALS criteria, which is what is needed to become an ALS, as well as expectations, what is expected of an ALS once it joins the AT Large community.

And in Marrakech, the ALAC and regional leaders will continue the process of reassessing both the criteria and the expectations of becoming and remaining an At Large structure. They will be discussing this topic on Saturday the 5th of March between 10:00 and 11:00 local time.

One of the aims of this work is to ensure that the ALS's are more fully engaged and can contribute effectively to the work of the At Large community. And this is particularly relevant because of the third main topic, and that is the At Large review.

And because this organizational review is focusing in the (RALO)s and ALS's, the work of the criteria and expectations concourse is particularly important.

The At Large review working party will discuss the timeline and objective of the review, as well as tasks that may support the independent examiner. And the At Large review working party is scheduled to meet on Sunday the 6th of March between 1730 and 1830.

And now I'm very happy to talk about the At Large outreach and engagement activities of ICANN 55 that are new due to the Meeting A format. The first relates to the FL Marrakech NGO program. And this will include five representatives from (FLO) NGOs or non-governmental organizations which will take place - take part in the Marrakech (FLO) NGO program.

The (FLO) NGO program will feature a series of capacity building sessions for beginners. And these sessions will take place Saturday the 5th of March through Thursday the 10th of March. And the full program is available on the wiki page link that is on this slide.

In terms of outreach there are a couple of activities that At Large will be taking part in. The first is that they will be welcoming 60 university students from (Arbot) who will be participating in a series of At Large events on Monday and Tuesday at Marrakech. And in addition, these students will join selected members of At Large at an outreach event at the University (KD IAD) Marrakech on the 8th of March between 1500 and 1700.

And the activity at the University includes an open discussion on the outreach and engagement within ICANN and the ICANN multi-stakeholder model with the university students from the local university as well as those from Mar - those from (Roba). And I would now like to hand the floor over to my colleague, Sylvia Vivanco, who will provide an update on the activities of the regional At Large organization during ICANN 55, Sylvia.

Sylvia Vivanco: Thank you Heidi. Hello everyone, I am Sylvia Vivanco, the At Large Regional (offers). I am based in Peru. And I will talk about the (Ralo) meetings in Marrakech.

At (Ralo), we hold the (off Ralo) African joint meeting on 8th of March from 11:00 to 12:30 on the same (unintelligible) ICANN accountability. The CCWG final proposal.

Eighteen (Ralo) members will meet on 6th March from 8:00 to 9:00 am. Agenda includes, among other issues, the reviews of activities (Ralo) has taken jointly by GSC and AP (Ralo) under the AP (Ralo) (AC CAP) framework.

Not (Ralo) will hold the monthly meeting on 8th March from 11:00 to 12:00. This meeting will review this year accommodations, challenges and upcoming projects.

And the 9th of March the five (Ralo)s will hold the regional (synchronized) meetings. (Ralo) meet as customary to discuss issues over (Ralo)s collective themes if an action is required.

The main topics include a discussion of the document development file program and a discussion of the (unintelligible) work on the public interest. And know I would like to invite you to preview (unintelligible) showcase connecting the next (meeting).

This event will take place on Monday 7th of March at 1900 to 2100 local time in the (Orial enter). There will be special treatment to (unintelligible) including (unintelligible) senior staff, board members, At Large members (unintelligible).

This is a brief presentation of (unintelligible) and local entertainment and refreshments will be available. Please come and join us at this (unintelligible) to learn more about (Ralo) objectives. And now I'll turn it over to my colleague, Mary Wong.

Mary Wong: Thank you Sylvia. Hello everybody. It's Mary Wong again. It's my pleasure now to take you through some of the cross community efforts that are being supported by the policy staff.

These of course not all of the cross community projects that are taking place, but they are ones that we have some updates on that we thought would be of interest to this audience.

The first is a group that's more affectionately known as the CWG Squared because this is a cross community working group that was chartered by the CCNSO and GNSO Councils to develop a framework of uniformed principles that will guide the formation, the chartering and the operations for future cross community working groups.

I think as everyone on this call knows, the use of cross community working groups is increasing given the increasing number of issues and topics that cut across the different parts of the ICANN community.

The one piece of information and the update that I'd like to draw your attention to about this project is in the middle block at the bottom in the dark blue. The CWG in fact has published its draft framework for public comment. This happened on the 22nd of February. The public comment period will be open until the 2nd of April. And there will also be an open community session at ICANN 55 that will be intended for the group to present the highlights of its recommendations for community discussion.

Again, because of increasing reliance on cross community working groups at ICANN, this effort is something that the CWG Squared would very much welcome your input on.

Many of the recommendations are based on the experiences of past groups, in particular the two most recent cross community efforts on the IANA stewardship transition and accountability of ICANN. But there are also some

open questions that the group came up with particularly concerning the follow up to the work of ACWG.

So please stop by the session in Marrakech or participate remotely Wednesday morning Marrakech time. Please do take a look at the draft framework and do submit public comments if you can so that the CWG can finish its work and send its final recommendations to its chartering organizations no later than May of this year.

Thank you very much. And I think now Lars will talk to you about a different cross community effort, Lars.

Lars Hoffman: Thank you Mary. I'll try my best. I'm going to talk about the cross community working group on the use of country and territory names as top level domains that was chartered by the CCNSO and GNSO to assess in fact two character codes, three character codes and full name TLDs as they relate to country and territory names.

The group has preliminarily agreed already to maintain the status quo with regard to two letter codes. And so they would probably remain reserved exclusively for CCTLDs.

The CWG will meet face-to-face in Marrakech on Monday the 7th of March at 10:30 local time. And that will be in fact the first time that the group is going to discuss issues related to three character codes based on a forthcoming strawman proposal.

The meeting is open to everybody of course. And however, if you cannot make it be sure to look out for the group's initial report that is (in the village) to be published in time for ICANN 56. And with that brief update, I'll passing it on to Marika. Thank you very much.

Marika Konings: Thank you very much Lars. Last but not least, a brief update on the work of the GAC GNSO consultation group which was created jointly by the GAC and the GNSO as a way of looking at mechanisms to facilitate early engagement of the GAC and GNSO policy development activities.

And it comes we're basically organized (to) different work streams. One focus on day-to-day ongoing cooperation and how to ensure regular exchanges of communication and regular updates between the two groups.

And secondly, early engagement in the PDP. What our options currently stands and what kind of enhancements or improvements could be considered to facilitate the participation of the GAC at an early stage of the GNSO policy development process.

(Some) improvements have already been implemented to date. And there's currently a GNSO liaison to the GAC pilot project and provided the GNSO has appointed a liaison to the GAC and with the main function being sharing of information and providing updates on the different policy development activities and pointing out opportunities that the GAC has to provide input or engage in those activities.

And there's also the (critical) mechanism which has been introduced as a mechanism for the GAC to provide early input during the initial phase on policy development process. Basically allowing the GAC to indicate in early stage whether they're of the view that the topic under discussion will have or is likely to have public policy implications.

And by providing that indication, it should give a heads up to the GNSO that it's likely a topic that the GAC would like to engage on or perhaps will provide input on.

And the group is still working on a number of items at the moment, so basically it's reviewing the liaison function implemented as a pilot. And they're

expected to provide recommendations to the GNSO and the GAC on whether that should become a permanent feature.

And similarly they're reviewing the experience to date with a quick look at mechanism. And are likely to recommend a couple of tweaks that may make the process a bit easier and more fluent.

And then they're also looking at some of the remaining stages of the PDP and exploring whether there are additional opportunities there to facilitate early engagement and participation of the GAC.

If you're interested to hear more about this activity, there's a joint GNSO GAC session that is scheduled for Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00 local time. And you are welcome to join that session to hear more about this activity. And with that I believe I'm handing it over to (Carlos).

(Carlos Rayos): Thank you very much Marika. At this point we invite participants to press Star 1 if you'd like to join the queue to ask the team any questions. We also have our team monitoring the chat if there are any questions there.

And it appears that as of right now there are no questions. So I'll briefly cover just two questions we received ahead of time. One was on the revised new gTLD program implementation review reports and next steps around that.

The staff summary report of the public comment proceeding has been published. And that will inform the work of the competition consumer trust and consumer choice review team. More information is available on the slide there in the announcement.

We also received a question about ICANN's engagement work with civil society. ICANN has been - an internal staff team has been developing a civil society engagement strategy. And there's a work session dedicated to that at ICANN 55. So we encourage everyone to attend that if that is of interest.

I don't think we have any questions. So with that, I'll hand it over to David and we will conclude the seminar.

David Olive: Thank you very much (Carlos). I'd like to also thank all the participants on this webinar this evening for our opportunity to brief you on the highlights of the policy and advice activities expected in Marrakech. In essence, all your hard work in moving issues forward in discussions and in various councils and working groups.

With that I want to thank my team for preparing this seminar for you. And looking forward to welcoming you in person or if not remotely to the various policy and advice activities at ICANN 55 at Marrakech.

We're expecting about 150 sessions from the SOs and the ACs. Again, an active and busy time in Morocco. And we welcome all your participation in person or again via remote.

And with that I'd like to wish everyone a good evening, good afternoon or good morning, wherever you may be. Safe travels if you're traveling to Marrakech or online remotely. We look forward to welcoming you. And again, available to answer any questions or help direct you to the proper groups or working groups for this busy ICANN 55 meeting.

With that, thank you very much. Good bye.

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