GNSO Working Session
28 October 07
ICANN Los Angeles Meeting
http://gnso.icann.org/meetings/agenda-28oct07.shtml
11:00- 12:00 Strategic plan discussion
Doug Brent

The Strategic Plan may be read at:
http://www.icann.org/strategic-plan/draft_stratplan_2008_2011_clean_en_v1.pdf

AVRI DORIA: Hello, hello, we've got microphones again and I'd like to start so people, please find your seats. Okay, that was one time.
 Hello? We're going to start the session now on strategic plan so everyone that's interested in that particular session, please find a comfortable seat.
 The microphones are working again. They've replaced the whole system so that's really good. I babble on a bit until I find that people have actually gotten to their seats so it is just, basically, the talking that seems to motivate things.
 Anyhow, Doug Brent has come in to, basically, speak to us about the strategic plan overview and to give us an opportunity to comment on it. And we've, basically, dedicated the next hour to this topic.
 So, Doug, I invite you to start.
 >>DOUG BRENT: Thank you. Can everyone hear me okay? I use my deep radio voice here to try to reach out.
 Craig told me that I had to inject big energy into this because you have had a couple -- two tough hours. I will say I also think it was bad to start Sunday of an ICANN meeting a little tired, so I will do my best.
 Just quickly introduce myself. I am chief operating officer of ICANN. I have been at ICANN a little less than a year and often I think people say, Well, feels like five. It feels like four months to me. It has just been an intense time of deep learning. And this is my third ICANN meeting.
 It is my first time through this strategic planning process. Sitting behind me and to my right shoulder -- I don't know if that positioning is symbolic -- is Patrick Sharry. Patrick is a consultant who has worked with ICANN over many months on a bunch of different projects and has been heavily involved in the past in the strategic plan process.
 This year he and I have sort of run it together, and I will probably be taking a bigger lead going forward in running the strategic plan process.
 So with that intro, I will just dive in. So what my hope would be through this next hour, and I would guess the presentation I have will take about 25, 30 minutes if I don't get too discursive and really looking for your feedback. But if I had to say anything in terms of what my goal would be, would be to spark your interest on behalf of you all, the constituencies you represent, is to read the plan, get your feedback and there is still time to get feedback.
 So I may say this a few times. My personal goal would be that people do get an opportunity to read the plan. It is posted. The draft is posted right now.
 So we'll definitely take direct feedback. I have asked Patrick if he can scribe down notes as we get it from you.
 Additionally, many of you know that there are several consultations planned in person for this week -- so obviously we're meeting now with you now, GNSO Council -- SSAC, registries, registrars, NCUCs, ISPs this week are all set up as well.
 And so I think probably many of you -- I was going to use Kurt Pritz's six-month arrow chart but if I show the full planning cycle and use that, I have to pay Kurt a royalty. So I chose not to use that chart this time, but I think you are all quite aware that ICANN goes through these two six-month planning cycles.
 First, the strategic plan cycle. We are in that right now. Starting January 1 we will be in the an operating plan cycle and these things feed into each other. We are currently finishing off on the strategic part.
 In San Juan, consultations began on this strategic plan, multiple languages, posted comments and that happened in the early summer months, early summer in northern hemisphere months. The responses were put into an issues paper. That issues paper was posted in September.

We actually reached out to some constituencies. This is off the top of my head. I'm looking at David. I think we talked -- wherever he is. I think we talked with the registries and registrars at that time. That's my recollection. But, anyway, we did do several telephone consultations.

Posted a draft of the strategic plan on October 19th in six languages simultaneously and seeking comment now as some of the forms already mentioned to you. In addition, there will be a multilingual session on Wednesday.

Just so you know sort of how it fits into the process, on the 10th of November we will close input on the plan. That means if, for example, constituencies still wanted to hold a teleconference -- I think people would be pretty tired -- but if people wanted to hold a teleconference after the ICANN meeting before November 10th, we could certainly do that or take any of your individual comments before that time.

A final plan will be prepared and presented for approval to the board in December, in the December board meeting.

So, again, with my focus to be sparking your interest to actually read the plan, why should you care? This is a little bit of a bottom-up view. At least my experience at ICANN so far has been that -- I'll say at a staff level, at a community level, board level, I think at many different levels, people are looking for greater clarity about what ICANN is committing to do and what we actually get done. It seems like sort of basic goals, but I think that's very important to the community.

I will claim, although I don't think you will have seen a lot of this yet that we're building on past good work. We are making a lot of progress there.

That sort of basic accountability of promising to get things done and then actually getting them done at an individual or a functional level is really tied up to this idea of an operating plan that we agreed to as a community.

And that operating plan is driven by the strategic plan. I would like to think that the strategic plan could become a community roadmap for ICANN that would be driving the operating plan, individual, community, constituency and staff action.

I'll tell you, I have never been involved in my life in a strategic plan process that wasn't top-down. So I think a big challenge that ICANN faces is how you adequately represent community interests and input.

I think I read in some of the GNSO improvement work people are considering how a GNSO strategic plan would fit in with an ICANN strategic plan. And I think an interesting question is, what's the right place to start there? Is it to start with an overall ICANN strategic plan or to use a GNSO plan to inform the overall ICANN plan?

But, I guess, I'm saying the reason why we should care is ultimately -- and we will get better at this every single year -- that this strategic plan should be our roadmap that will be driving our work.

The format of this plan looks very much like previous plans and let me just sort of lay it out for you so you can have that in mind as you read it.

It is, first of all, looking at sort of the core mission vision values of ICANN. Somebody said it looked a little bit to them like a Soviet five-year plan where you were giving fealty to the party. I actually think it is important to include those mission, vision values as an important part of how you get started in forming the plan.

The second looks at environmental and organizational challenges. So you will see a section in there on that. That's been there.

This year we've put a new emphasis -- in fact, I think the ISP constituency gave us this very clear feedback, to really see if we could really put priorities in the plan and have made an attempt to do so. You will see a section in there on priorities.

Then what I almost like to consider connective tissue in the plan which is some specific operational deliverables that you could look back at those priorities and say, These priorities shouldn't be just a seance or shouldn't be a tea leaf reading to figure out what these priorities mean in terms of actual action. So starting with the strategic plan context, the environmental and organizational challenges that are identified are much the same as last year. I don't think that should be a dramatic surprise.

I think the thematic difference you will see this year and -- certainly, this has been feedback from everyone I have talked to about the strategic plan -- is the impact of new IDNs and the new gTLD process.

You know, given that I am a man, this is maybe not the exact right comment to make, but my wife went through this experience of when we were having our first child, all the focus was on labor and deliver. Then you realize you have a child that you will have for the rest of your life to take care of -- and I don't want to say that was the easy part but that was the more deterministic part. The next 18 years are a little bit harder.

I think as a community we have been looking at this new gTLD process. And, obviously, the people in the role have played a great role of leadership there. It is very, very hard to get that done.

In this three-year time frame, we are really looking beyond that to where this will be implemented and the challenges of making this a routine process for really working for the community, same goes for IDNs.

Within this -- I think an interesting sort of context piece is within this strategic plan time frame, we'll be moving away from planning for these things. These will be an operational reality and the impact it will have on ICANN community from a multilingual port of view, from a scope and scale point of view, from an efficiency point of view in terms of achieving a goal where -- I think I've heard Bruce Tonkin say hours would be an appropriate time frame for getting a new TLD operational and approved.

I would like to say maybe days or some kind of reasonable target in this time frame.

In terms of the plan priorities, I will go through these in a little bit more detail and then again go towards discussion.

Bruce, did I misspeak?

>>BRUCE TONKIN: Keep going. That's fine.

[Laughter]

>>DOUG BRENT: Thank you. So strategic priorities, number one is this idea of implementing IDNs and new TLDs. Hopefully, that's a way from planning for or planning the process of but during a three-year time frame implementing them.

This idea of continuing to improve core operations is essential. And I think that certainly all the people I talked to about ICANN want to see us be a well-run, efficient operating organization and I'd like to see that up there. You can also check my mail status as I talk.

This is sort of what I wake up concerned about every day in terms of my day-to-day work.

Strengthening the multi-stakeholder model. I think one of the challenges again will be demand is increasing on work. I saw an interesting comment not -- it wasn't on the strategic plan but on the management operating principals by the Canadian government officials saying, I see additional transparency and accountability in the ICANN model but there is just too much work.

We as a community can't focus on all of the work. We need priorities. I don't think I have ever talked with someone associated with ICANN who felt like they weren't busy enough.

So I think this -- strengthening the multi-stakeholder model in a way that can handle the scale of work ahead is important.

I think security and stability we have here as the fourth item in this list, again, I would say in terms of the individual consultations I have been involved with, the number one that comes up is new TLDs and IDNs. Number two is security.

And then, finally, the areas of accountability and governance. And as I said, this sort of strategic priorities I think is two pages long, pages 10 and 11 maybe to be -- is my recollection.

So if you didn't want to read anything else, I would go back and read page 10 and 11 and give us your comments based on that.

The remainder of the plan are these sort of bullet points -- operationally oriented bullet points just so you can sort of tie those strategic priorities to something more real.

I'm going to click through just one level into each of these top-level bullet points implementing IDNs and new TLDs. I don't think there is anything that I can say to anyone in this room about the challenges there. I think you're all well ahead of me on that.

But the basic points are to support the necessary policy development implementation. I think that it would be great if we could state a community goal around these implementations so it is more than implement.

The words we use so far is rootinize the new TLD and IDN process. Make that part of our normal course of business and so it is not a major ad hoc piece of work to get something done.

The policy development implementation. Have processes internally to support that so when you think about even simple things like would we have an application. I say "simple." It is on Craig's list. What would be the application process look like? How could we enable that to be fast and efficient? Sort of the day-to-day processes necessary to support these things, the computer resources and people. Obviously, resolving remaining technical issues and questions. And in the context of what could be -- I know there is different views all over the map, much greater scale and certainly a challenge of the multilingual Internet.

I am personally excited to see these dot test strings in the root. I think we have already gotten good feedback and some really good test results out of that.

I think it is particularly interesting that even with a lot of checking and lot of thought ahead of time there was debate about how to spell "dot test" in Arabic. I think that's just emblematic of the fact of the

challenges ahead of us. And I'm so glad I am sitting next to Cary with what I say, I think that's so important. I do.

This idea of continuing to focus on core operations. It is the candidates that you would expect to see. Internally, it is IANA, registry, registrar and contractual compliance.

Again, what I think you'd hope to see from ICANN there are ever-more defined sort of goals for processing times for the kinds of requests, more rootinized requests, more automated systems to support those things in the context of growing scale and scope.

This third priority in terms of strengthening the stakeholder model, there is a bunch of elements. Obviously, the GNSO Council right now is heavily involved in this review process.

Probably participation is number one. And who our community is is likely changing during this three-year time frame as well. So as we get more and more multilingual, I know the ccNSO this week is going to be talking about outreach they did around IDNs, which cc's were interested in what kind of response. I have seen some preview of these results and it is striking the difference in sort of intensity among the English sort of ASCII world and the non-English, non-ASCII world in terms of the importance of IDNs. I think our community is going to be changing. How we get the right participation from that -- those new groups is going to be very important.

An item on the strategic plan that's been there for many years is capacity building but through local partnership. Obviously, ICANN is not going to be in the business of building fibers, which is capacity buildout. But the idea that still ICANN has contributed through the regional liaison network to government interactions as well as -- government interactions as well as supporting CCs and training and other activities.

Looking at organizational systems internally within ICANN, how can we be more efficient. One of the -- I.T. is part of my responsibility to ICANN and we have a long way to go. One of the questions I always ask is what could we being do better in terms of simple things like setting up conference calls for GNSO Council meetings or more broad outreach with technology and technology systems.

And then organizational capability which I think starts with better organizational capability within ICANN staff, but I think that there is some interesting connection points beyond the staff into the community for how we could develop an overall community organizational capability.

Security and stability. I'd say this is an interesting one because I think it is within the first few words of ICANN's core mission that we're about the security and stability of the DNS.

It is also true, I think, of all the consultations I did, this came up within the first few words as a key area. I think where there's not, you know, an uniform view within the community is what exactly ICANN's role should be. And I think that certainly during the time frame of this strategic plan over the next three years, the threat environment is changing. I think also it is very important for us as a community to decide what ICANN's role is and what we should be doing when.

The easy ones are -- certainly the first three letters of DNSsec are DNS. This is a critical capability for ICANN to implement and provide some leadership in. I don't think there is a lot of debate around that.

You know, we have this -- just announced this week that the "L" root -- the multi-cast implementation of "L" root was accomplished and ICANN has done some additional work there. Really good question whether ICANN should continue to grow that or not, but that is another obvious step of where we are in becoming an adequate and capable root server operator.

I think there is an opportunity for analytical work in looking at data from root server operation and other areas in terms of examining issues of DNS, stability and resilience. And playing a role -- again, my feedback in talking to several people in the community in these consultations is, again, not clear yet what that role should be in terms of the IPv4 to IPv6 transition. It is definitely in conjunction with the RIRs to reach some kind of view on that and within this strategic time frame

This notion of accountability and governance, again, as a guy that has been involved with ICANN for less and year, I have certainly heard the word "accountability" probably more times in this last year than in my entire commercial life. I think it is a key element of what we're trying to do internally and I think as a community. We have a March midterm review of ICANN's JPA arrangement with the U.S. government. That will be an important checkpoint and I think an opportunity to review again public accountability.

But I don't think -- this will be -- this is what I call a hygienic engagement. It is something that will never end for ICANN. We will always be looking to get better in terms of transparency and accountability. And again in the plan it identifies as many areas of possible focus.

An ongoing question being what is ICANN's appropriate global nature and role and how do we play that?

So just a couple of observations. I will say this is -- maybe falls more in the category of personal observation than necessarily representing a community view. But some personal observations in my interaction with people on the strategic plan is -- I think people are recognizing that there is going to be

a far-reaching impact of both new gTLDs and IDNs and probably in ways that we haven't even thought of. It is both -- scale in everything we do.

One of the things I note is how many delegations get done through the ICANN board per year and you start to think about the kinds of activity levels we're going to need to really enable new gTLDs. It will be significant.

I think I've mentioned this already, but the security and stability concerns are on the forefront and determining ICANN's appropriate role is of significant interest and concern to the community. How we interact with the non-English speaking world in terms of contracts, complaints, compliance will be a major issue. And I think it is just clear, you know -- I will say taking one part of ICANN that I think is pretty undebatable, IANA has clearly improved its operational performance to the point where one of their objectives for this -- for this meeting is to roll out a beta version of an online root zone management tool. And it has been very difficult to get country code operators to sign up for the beta of this tool because, basically, their view is it is working pretty well right now. So the demand for the tool was dysfunction. And at this point, it is functioning well enough that it is hard to get people to sign up.

I would like to make that true for all areas of ICANN, that we're seeing that kind of improvement in our operational performance.

Just some high-level feedback. There is quite a bit posted on the Web site already. Some of it has come from the constituencies of the GNSO, some from outside. And I expect we will see more.

I think this idea of priorities is very important that ICANN needs to identify priorities. Wants and evolution toward accountability globally beyond the current U.S. engagement with the U.S. government and as a California corporation.

There is a rapid pace of domain market changes and will ICANN be able to respond in a timely way to those changes.

And then I think that there is an overall question, you know, that one of the comments online was the plan is not a plan. How do you evaluate a plan like this? And I think ultimately how we measure the success of the strategic plan -- I think the operating plan is a little easier. The operating plan says we're going to get it done by this time, and that's easier to measure.

How we judge success within the community of the strategic plan itself is a good topic for discussion.

So that was about my half-hour.

>>AVRI DORIA: Thank you. Basically I'd like to start taking a queue now on people that have questions, comments. Where would I like to start? I see Marilyn. Anyone else? Okay. Marilyn?

>>MARILYN CADE: Thanks, Doug, and I should say also thanks, Kurt. For some of us we've come a very long way since the first meeting in Amsterdam when the community received the first strategic plan after I think it had made it to Version 19 before we saw consultation and outreach and we've come a very far way to the point where this is an instantiated process and there are a number of iterations and opportunities for the community to provide input.

So I want to start out as I hope I always do by thanking all of you for significantly strengthening and improving the process by which we can provide input.

I do want to make a comment about a couple of things in the strategic plan that I am concerned about. Looking across all of ICANN as a member of the business community -- not as a member of the business constituency, but a member of the business community, one of the things that I think we haven't properly done yet as a community is to incorporate into our active work and thinking assessing what's in here, what it means about changing and guiding ICANN's directions and really making sure that we are then participating actively in responding and developing input on programs.

There's lots of shifts and changes, and all good directional changes that are reflected in the strategic plan, but we as constituencies or as participants haven't fully yet incorporated your process into our time cycle, so I say this because I think it's something for all of us to be aware of, and then to think ourselves about how we can better contribute.

There's a call for increased participation with other stakeholder groups. Many of the participants in ICANN have a lot to contribute in terms of helping to identify who to do outreach with or who to draw into participation, and that's something that I think, you know, we have to take seriously and think about how we can contribute to that.

On the question of ICANN's proper legitimate and pragmatic contribution to the larger question of CIIP and cybersecurity, that's another area that I think takes further thought by all of us, not necessarily within this room, by the way, but more broadly.

And it's a question that's being debated right now by business generally everywhere: What is the role of business? How do we deal with bot net attacks, how do we deal with the significant growth in the placement of malware through on line advertising? All of those things. How do we deal with fast flux?

So I'm hoping that perhaps for something like this, which is not yet defined, you might be thinking about a specific in-depth forum at which that topic could be scheduled and it would be possible for many of us to then reach into our companies and bring the chief security officer or the CTO or, you know, a broader group of parties who have specific interests and expertise and heavy involvement already in that area, because I do think it's going to be important to figure out where ICANN participates and how it participates, realizing that it will have a very limited but very critical contribution, and a lot of it is going to be then done through a circle of friends, and participating with a circle of friends.

>>AVRI DORIA: Please do.

>>DOUG BRENT: Can I just respond? So thanks very much. You know, for those comments. Just two quick responses. One which I forgot to mention that if you look at the posted comments on the strategic plan that are on the Web site posting right now, there are several specifically related to security and security more broadly, so that may be -- you know, that may be something to point people's attention to as well.

And while -- well, Marilyn this is not exactly on point with what you said. I think this whole idea of how the community gets engaged early in all of these processes is really important. Concretely in terms of the budget and operating plan in this next cycle, we're going to do the budget and the operating plan, at least thematically at the same time. So what's happened previously is we've done an operating plan, then done a budget, then approved it. The goal is that by the -- by the time we hit our February meeting, to have a high-level view, a thematic view of operating plan and budget, to get -- so the community can have more time to review that.

If we can think of other ways -- we've really, I think, made a lot of effort, you know, work that others have done -- not that I've done, but made a lot of effort to get this early input into the plan. Still, I think the reality is, until the community sees a written plan, they don't feel like they have much to react to and feels time-crunched at the end. So if somebody has some -- you know, I would love to get great ideas on what we could do better in terms of that input, but anyway, I just want to provide those two comments. Thanks.

>>AVRI DORIA: Are there any other comments? Questions? Issues that people would like to address at this point? Marilyn?

>>MARILYN CADE: Sorry. I have one comment that is specific to the GNSO that I think does have budget implications, and that is, for some time now the -- it's my view that the GNSO is significantly under-resourced and there's been a lot of -- there's been a lot of effort to change that, but I'm just going to give you an analogy.

I think somewhere around 70 plus percent of the revenue to ICANN comes through the GNSO. I don't believe --

[Speaker is off microphone]

>>MARILYN CADE: I would have thought it was more like 90 as well, but I was --

[Speaker is off microphone]

>>MARILYN CADE: Okay. So it's more like 90. Okay. Well, I'm even more worried.

There's a lot of improvements in strengthening the participation in the GNSO that need to come around, including more expense in budget, and that includes, I think, creating a stable travel fund for participation by representatives from the stakeholder community within the GNSO to the face-to-face meetings and to intersessional meetings.

I think it includes establishing a dedicated legal support team to the development of the GNSO's work. You know, not just drawing on resources that are there, but really looking at if -- if this is a business unit, if I were running a business and if 90% of my revenue came from one of -- one business unit, every day the thing that would worry me is the structural support that's needed in order to help my business unit perform at an optimal level.

So, you know, I don't -- and we've talked for a long time about the need for a travel budget, et cetera. I don't know if it you need more work from us to define what that would look like and what the policy would look like or if it can come the other way, but I think it does have budget implications and I think, you know, we've all benefitted from the support you've already provided, the fact we have realtime transcription is a major contribution to helping the GNSO reach not only our English-speaking participants who can't come in person, but non-English-speaking. There's a lot of support you're already providing.

But establishing a travel budget and a stable travel budget and providing the kind of stable, perhaps centralized, support to -- that's proposed in some of the GNSO review clearly has budget implications and perhaps the question is: You know, do you need more work from the GNSO community or do you want to come at it with a proposal that comes the other way?

>>DOUG BRENT: Yes. So I think the answer to that is: We'd love to work with probably not everyone at the same time but some subset of the GNSO as we get to putting the budget together for next period.

 So the sort of short, easy answer to that question is: Yes, Marilyn, I think that's a great idea. I think that the specific answer to that question -- again, probably everyone here has more ICANN history than I do, but my sort of understanding of history is, ICANN didn't have my money so it was really he easy to answer the question, who should -- what should ICANN pay for? Well, we don't have any money, so it's an easy answer.

 I think that, you know, now that ICANN has greater financial resources, I think it's going to be important for us to have well-thought-out answers to the question of who ICANN pays travel, under what circumstances, and how, and that's a bigger question than -- it certainly it's very important for the GNSO but I'd say that's, you know, broadly an important question.

 Just within the last week, we updated and refined an internal staff expense policy, and it's my personal goal -- although I think this is reaching high -- that in the next couple of months, we get that for the board and for all constituency groups and be able to answer the question in a -- not an ad hoc way, but in a principled sort of parametric answer to who travels when.

 Obviously that's not a -- that's not a staff decree. I'm just saying I think we need to collect that and make that clear. But we're -- but we'd love to work with you on budget for next year, too. And I think the -- I don't know who the appropriate -- I mean, I guess the right sort of senior staff contact for that would be Kurt.

 >>AVRI DORIA: Okay. And certainly as a GNSO we'll talk about coming up with a small group of people --

 >>DOUG BRENT: Yeah, that would be great.

 >>AVRI DORIA: -- you know, that could do that with you, as opposed to trying to talk to all of us about it at the same time.

 Are there any other questions or comments for Doug at this point?

 Okay. How many of us have read the strategic report at any time?

 [Show of hands]

 >>AVRI DORIA: That's really good. I mean, you can't always have read the latest version of it, but...

 [Laughter]

 >>AVRI DORIA: That's what I meant. Not that you read it in any year, but --

 >>MARILYN CADE: [inaudible]

 >>AVRI DORIA: Oh, so it's getting easier.

 >>DOUG BRENT: Just read Pages 10 and 11.

 >>AVRI DORIA: Okay. That's a good start. And so if there are no other questions or comments at this point, and there aren't, I thank you for coming and talking to us, and I'm hoping that people will follow up with comments and so on. Thank you.

 >>DOUG BRENT: Great. Thank you very much.

 >>AVRI DORIA: Okay.

 [Applause]

 >>AVRI DORIA: Okay. We've finished that a bit early, which is good. Now the next thing we had on the agenda -- and I don't know if we're ready for it or whether we should -- because some of the people aren't here yet, is working on the preparation for the discussion.

 But one of the things that I do have on the schedule for later, and that I perhaps -- while people are sitting here -- would like to take an opportunity to look at, is I did have that blank "any other business" chunk of time.

 Now, I don't want to start on those issues now, because people may be planning to come here for that then, but I basically wanted to see what issues there were that people would like to spend some time on in that time slot.

 Now, one of the things we do need to do is go through the slides that I've been preparing for the GAC joint meeting, and I've reserved a half hour for that.

 Now, one of the things that is in those slides, at least that I'm proposing putting in those slides, is our -- a summary of responses to the ccNSO GAC board questions about IDN ccTLDs, so it occurs to me that it might be worth spending a little bit of time in that "any other business" looking at the work that the group went away to do some wordsmithing on, and see if the general group is comfortable with that wordsmithing. I understand that it's just been sent around to the members of the council, so that will be one chance to basically look at that.

 We might want to talk about GNSO reform a little. Not so much the specific issues, but how we want to start thinking about approaching a response. Certainly the constituencies will be responding in their

own way, in their own manner, but whether there is something that the council as a whole wants to try and produce a response on, and how we want to go about doing that.

For example, it may not be on particulars, such as voting balances and such as that, because that might be tough to do in the council at large, but certainly we might have something to say about how a transition plan might be set up, and how all of that sort of not getting into the details of the "what" but starting to look at sort of the "how."

We could certainly talk some more about, you know, whether we want to or how we want to set up a small group to deal with strategic plan issues.

Do people have other -- any other business issues that they think we should try and at least touch on in today's meeting? We can certainly talk a little bit about some of the things that are going to be on the issue Wednesday, just to make sure that we know what we're up to.

Any suggestions from others?

>>CHUCK GOMES: I can pop up the executive summary, maybe.

>>AVRI DORIA: Okay. We could actually pop up the executive summary and look at it now, since we're sitting here and have 20 minutes until our next thing and it's not we had lots of spare time for getting things done.

I'm really grateful to the people that went off and actually spent time outside of this meeting, given that we've spent so much time inside this meeting, doing the wordsmithing. Yeah.

[Speaker is off microphone]

>>AVRI DORIA: Oh, you were just waving to Chris. Okay. So that -- because Chris was the last person we were waiting for?

>>CHUCK GOMES: Uh-huh.

>>AVRI DORIA: Okay. So before moving to talking about the session on new gTLDs and letting everybody that's not interested in that and have a nice long lunch, are there any other items that people would like me to put on the "any other business" topic. I mean I'll bring it up again when we're opening that section of the meeting at 2:00, but in the meantime, also what I'd like to do, if it's okay with people, is I'd like to sort of switch around and since I'm including some of the things on the slides, at 2:00 start with the GAC GNSO slides, because that may bring up some issues because the things that we've got on the agenda there are status on domain tasting, status on IGO domain names, status on WHOIS, and then open discussion about IDN ccTLDs.

So perhaps in just going through the slide set that I first created, it will bring up issues that are kind of like any other business issues. If that's okay with people. Does anybody object to my shifting around the agenda that way?

Cool. In which case, if there are no other things to add to the "any other business," I'd like to end this part of the meeting. I'd like to thank the transcribers who have been with us for the day and a half but won't be with us starting with the next set of meetings. And stop long enough to regroup and then start our -- that wasn't me.

[Laughter]

>>AVRI DORIA: Really, it wasn't. And then start our preparations for the workshop.

>>CHUCK GOMES: And just a comment in that regard. I certainly would appreciate it if all the councillors at least stayed for the preparation session. Obviously, the panel members are really important, but all of us, as councillors, it's important that we're all on the same page in terms of the -- how the workshop comes off on Monday afternoon, so if you can, anyone else is welcome, so don't feel like it just has to be restricted to those, but panelists, first priority, and all the council members certainly would be encouraged to attend.

>>AVRI DORIA: And he's chairing that meeting. So in which case, thank you, and those that are going for lunch, bon appetit.