ICANN

Moderator: Gisella Gruber-White
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07:00 PT

Coordinator: Thank you for standing by.

All participants are in a listen-only mode for today's conference call.

As a reminder, to ask a question over the phone today, please press Star 1. Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted.

To withdraw your request, you may press Star 2.

Today's conference call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time.

And now I will turn the meeting over. Thank you. You may begin.

David Olive: Thank you. Welcome everyone from the ICANN community. My name is David Olive, Vice President of Policy Development Support. I will serve as moderator. You heard that to ask a question please press Star 1.

The program will be as follows. We'll have opening remarks by the Chairman of the Board, Steve Crocker, followed by remarks by Fadi Chehadé, CEO and President of ICANN, and then questions and answers.

The total time for this call will be one hour.

Again, we thank you for your participation on such short notice, and I now turn the floor over to the Chairman of the Board, Steve Crocker. Steve, please.

Steve Crocker: Thank you, David, and thank you everyone for joining us, particularly on such short notice.

Yesterday was a historic announcement from NTIA. It's been a long path leading up to that, and what must be said very quickly is a long path that follows from here. This is a very important point, but it is not the end. It's - to borrow Winston Churchill's words, it's the end of the beginning.

Fadi will go into considerably more detail, but I want to say this is a very good day. We will have a period of open discussion that follows not just today, but continuing, in which issues and principles are put on the table and then a successive after that will be a discussion about possible mechanisms, and arrangements, and solutions leading eventually to a workable arrangement (unintelligible) community and the involvement of the community going forward.

I think this is one of the landmark times in the 15, 16 years of existence of ICANN, and it's been a real privilege to be involved at this point. Let me turn things over to Fadi.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you, Steve. Thank you. Thank you. Hello everyone. Wherever you are, thank you for joining us today on such very short notice.

I don't think we can use enough big words to describe the importance of this event, and I think the celebration is warranted because as I said yesterday, the NTIA announcement is a time for the multistakeholder community, is a time for the ICANN community, is a time for every staff member, every Board member, every community member, every volunteer who for the last 15 years made ICANN what it is today.

We are here today because it is indeed the culmination of everyone's work that led NTIA to make a decision at this point that the ICANN community, the Internet community, our sister organizations in the technical organization space, the IATF, the IAB, ISOC, the RIRs, we are all ready to carry this important responsibility without the ongoing stewardship of one government, but rather the accountability that we have built into our systems, into our processes to the whole world.

This is really indeed a moment to celebrate.

Unfortunately though, like a big moment of celebration, we have to very quickly as a community move into the responsibility that this entails. And the decision by the NTIA indeed puts us now in an important light. In a light that entire world is watching.

Those who want the Internet to be governed by all stakeholders and those who want the Internet to be governed by a few, everyone is watching us, we, the community. How are we going to respond to a decision by the government that has stewarded with great distinction, I will say - with great distinction, has stewarded our efforts and has assured the world for years with confidence

that we are performing the functions that are so vital to the functioning of the Internet.

But now, that one government is graciously passing the baton to the planet, and they've asked ICANN to convene, guide, and engage everyone - everyone - not just those within the ICANN structures, but everyone, especially those who have not helped as part of this, especially those who have felt marginalized in this process - everyone is going to be sought to come into this process and participate in changing this guard from the one that has led us to this point to a broader community that I think is amply ready for this day.

It therefore rests on us to ensure that this transition, this incredible responsibility that has been placed on us is met with an equal level of calm, of maturity, of responsibility, and humility because it is not, as some people might insinuate, an effort for ICANN to gain strength, to expand its scope; none of the above.

It is about ICANN showing the world what multistakeholder - what the multistakeholder spirit is.

In talking to Steve Crocker, in talking to the (unintelligible), in talking to the people who were in the '60s thinking about all of this, enabling us to be here today, they described some very simple but yet powerful principles that made them design the Internet the way it is. This incredible, most open, most democratizing resource that's ever been invented by man.

And now we need to use these same principles, these principles of openness, of inclusivity to bring the world and show them who ICANN is and what ICANN can do.

I want to also say that this is not just about ICANN. In the last few weeks, I've been very engaged with the leaders of the other technical Internet organizations, and I must tell you there is an enormous wealth of real partnership - a spirit of working together, a spirit of strength, of confidence, a spirit of understanding that we have fulfilled our roles.

And that our roles, whether it's in policy making, or specification development at the ITF and the RIRs, or it is a role of implementation, as we do at ICANN for these registries, these roles remain unchanged.

Be clear about that. And, we have issued on the same day as NTIA, a powerful common statement confirming that we are committing to each other to continue in our roles and to continue doing what we should be doing.

What is changing is that the US government contract that provided that confidence to the world is now going to be replaced by a confidence generated through proper review mechanisms across our community.

Some of these already exist. The way we perform our duties in implementing the protocol parameter registry for example for the IATF community. It works well. They review us. I attend these reviews. Our team attends these reviews. And, they ensure that we are faithful and performing in implementing the protocol parameters at the service of the community.

So some of these are there. Can they be strengthened? Can be enhanced? Of course. And, this is the effort we're starting. It's very, very important that you appreciate that the roles that we have that our fellow technical organizations have will remain unchanged. What will change is the strengthening of the mechanisms to ensure global accountability.

The other thing that will obviously change is that we will enlarge the tentative people that are in these review mechanisms, and ensure that no one in the world can claim that we are performing these functions at the benefit of one group versus the other, or under the control of one party versus the others.

We need to make sure that all who wish to participate in this process, all who wish to have a place at the table in the accountability of ICANN and the organizations within our ecosystem are able to participate as equal partners, governments, private sector, civil society, everyone.

Finally on a personal note, I want to assure you that today's - yesterday's announcements are not the work of one person, are not the work of even one moment in time. I must assure you that we have to pool many people within ICANN, outside of ICANN, people who have been at ICANN, the wisdom and the work of people over 15 years is truly the generator of this point in time - period.

So let's not dwell on who and what. Let us show the world who we are and continue this journey together in the days and weeks ahead. Everyone will be watching how we will behave. How we will take this responsibility, and so I wanted this call this morning more than anything to ensure that all of us appreciate the gravitas of this moment, the gravitas of our actions in the days and weeks ahead. We need to be ready.

And that's why I'm delighted this happened before Singapore, because that that gives us a chance right there in a few days to take hold of this new responsibility along with our fellow Internet organizations who will all be there with their leadership so that we can show the world that there is absolutely no vacuum here. That we are confident, we know what to do, and

we will show the world how this new state of things will actually deliver what the world needs for a fair, open Internet governance of our activities.

I will finish with a few practical things. First of all, some of you are saying you know why were we not briefed ahead of time? How come we didn't know?

You should know that this was not entirely in our hands. The activities that led to this announcement by the US government were completely you know in their hands. And in fact, we were surprised by the timing. We didn't expect this to happen yesterday.

Now we had prepared for this day over the last few weeks because there were indications, and so we were preparing ourselves, and luckily we were somewhat prepared for the announcement.

I actually personally did not know that announcement will happen until an hour and a half before it happened, so we had planned - for example, tomorrow there's other calls with the community - all of these things had been planned to pre-brief our community prior to the announcement. But of course, the announcement happened without frankly - you know, not entirely in our control.

So, I hope you appreciate that this is how this came down.

Also, another practical note for you. We are going to change some things on the first day of the meeting in Singapore on Monday. In order to start immediately the process of responding to the US government's call in their press release that ICANN convene the community and start building a process. We do not have a preset process.

Even the process of replacing the role of the United States as the steward of the IANA functions, the mechanisms, the accountability mechanisms that will replace that, these - the process of doing these will be bottom-up. Will be multistakeholder.

So, we are - we just put a framework of time and so on and so forth, but the decisions on that are ours as a community, and we're inviting every one of us to be there in person or remotely to participate in shaping the accountability method. The process by which we will define these accountability mechanisms moving forward.

So I look forward to see you all, and I think at this point I will ask you, David, to open the floor. I'm sure many people have questions and I'm happy to answer them along with Steve Crocker, who's with me here on the line.

Thank you.

David Olive: Thank you, Fadi, thank you Steve.

Again if you want to ask a question, press Star 1, and a list will be created.

Operator, would you please start calling those people who are on the list?

Coordinator: Thank you. One moment.

And our first question comes from Mr. (Rick Lamb). Sir, your line is open.

(Rick Lamb):   Hello. Hi. Congratulations, gentlemen. That's - this is truly a wonderful day.

My question is part of the machinery that's in place, was there - do you know anything about the root zone manager function currently performed by VeriSign? Is that - was that discussed at all, or is that part of the long road that lies ahead of us?

Thank you. I'll go back on mute.

Fadi Chehadé: The US government announcement is clear that they plan to end their involvement as both the contract in both the functions of the IANA that are defined in the contract as well as their role as the administrator of the root zone process. And therefore, yes, that whole regime is going to change in a way.

We have not - no decisions have been made on how we go from here, but ICANN -- as is clear -- has been asked to lead that discussion and to convene the parties to start that.

I have been in touch with Jim Bidzos at VeriSign in the last 24 hours several times, and I must say I'm frankly deeply impressed by Jim's involvement on this and how he is helping us navigate this. We are both equally committed without a question to the security/stability of the root zone, and to continue to work together to find the right way forward.

And I have no doubt - I have no doubt that VeriSign, who for decades has as a community service performed that role, will continue doing it with distinction.

And I want to also emphasize, just so we're clear, that none of what - nothing that was announced yesterday has anything to do with the .com agreement between us and VeriSign. So this - that agreement and the functioning of that agreement and the service it brings to the world is untouched by what

occurred yesterday. This is I'm sure clear to most of us in this community. Maybe not to others. But, I wanted to clarify.

So up for discussion is the short answer. We are not going to do anything quick. We have no need to. It is working. It's worked for a long time. We will continue working with that system, but we need to rejig the relationships in order to make that work well.

Thank you.

David Olive: Thank you. Next question operator.

Coordinator: Yes.

Our next question comes from (Ko Kai Calacoxi). This is - your line is open.

Fadi Chehadé: Maybe they're on mute.

David Olive: Operator, can we unmute that line or go to a next question and put him back in the queue?

Coordinator: Next we have Evan Leibovitch. Sir, your line is open.

Evan Leibovitch: Hi, Fadi, this is Evan calling from Washington.

I wanted to ask you what effect this has on the NETmundial meeting? I've been reading some of the submissions and it seems like although there's been hundreds of written submissions already, it seems like nearly half of them are going to be made redundant by yesterday's announcement.

Could you tell me how the agenda of the (unintelligible) meeting is going to change and how you expect that now to if into the evolution of how this is going to play out? Thanks.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you, Evan. Thank you very much for your question. This is an important point and I'm glad you bring it up.

This announcement is going to in fact affirm the original agenda of the NETmundial meeting. The NETmundial meeting was never about ICANN or IANA. It was about charting forward beyond ICANN and IANA, and much bigger than ICANN and IANA. A framework for Internet cooperation and governance that is rooted in the principals we all believe in.

Now because the ICANN and IANA functions are very visible to the world and have been in many ways central to the functioning of some of the technical layers of the Internet, a lot of the submissions, in fact a little close to 62% of the submissions out of the 189 submissions to NETmundial are going to be rendered somewhat - in a way not irrelevant - extremely relevant, but (unintelligible).

So we can move the agenda back to where it needs to be, which is what do we do about Internet governance beyond ICANN and IANA? And I hope this will happen. I trust with your help and the help of our great community we will shift back into where we need to be and make sure NETmundial ends up being a beacon - an important place where we show that as a global community, we need to start shaping how Internet governance works way beyond the names and numbers and the things we do in ICANN.

So I hope this helps, Evan, clarify where we go from here.

Evan Leibovitch: Thanks, Fadi.

David Olive: Next question please.

Coordinator: Mr. Olivier Crépin-Leblond, your line is open.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond: Thank you very much. It's Olivier Crépin-Leblond speaking. Can you hear me?

Fadi Chehadé: Yes.

David Olive: Yes, indeed.

Fadi Chehadé: Hello, Olivier.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond: Thank you. Hi.

So just less than a month ago there was an announcement and the Board voted for the creation of the President's Globalization Advisory Groups, and this I gather was probably (agreed) to be explained over the meeting - the forthcoming meeting in Singapore. But I wanted to find out how these globalization advisory groups are now going to - what is their place effectively with the announcement that we've had today? And, how is that all going to fit together?

Fadi Chehadé: That's a very good question, Olivier. Again, we clearly did not anticipate some of these events.

Having said that, let's discuss as a community in Singapore how all of this should work. I think the five tracks of the advisory groups were designed so

that we can frankly start the community dialog on these five tracks. And, that dialog needs to happen. It is not a dialog that needs to happen in a vacuum.

Frankly between you and me, of course between you and me here is a few hundred people on the phone, I hoped we didn't call these the President's Advisory Groups. It's a really community advisory groups, and the Board has been gracious to support me in starting to engage with the community to have a dialog. That's what they're intended to be. They're very, very much so, and I assure you of that.

Now how do we practically go from here? One of these five advisory teams or groups was about IANA globalization, so I look to these Board members to help the community, and me, and all of us advance what just occurred and make this part of their roadmap to bring back some ideas.

And remember, these advisory groups were very temporary. They should've engaged with the community from here to London, and then they would go away. And, we will do that mostly starting here in Singapore.

Now the other four deal with four other related subjects on our globalization, and these four will also engage with the community. I think there will be some time on Monday also assigned to this - for these groups to engage with the community on these four other important tracks for the globalization of the - of ICANN.

All of them relevant, and I want to assure you again - everyone, not just Olivier, who I know appreciates that, that these are not groups that will own any recommendations or any decision power. These are just facilitation teams made up from our Board members and they are designed so that we can reach

out into the community and engage everyone in these dialogs and still relate the discussion.

The big event yesterday just makes one of these particular advisory groups busier than others in the next few days, but that does not lesson from the importance of looking at the other four areas as well.

Thank you, Olivier.

Steve Crocker: Let me chime in a little bit and emphasize a point that you've made, Fadi.

The term globalization is applied in a multiple context, and in particular, there is IANA globalization and there's ICANN globalization. Yesterday's announcement is very much focused on IANA globalization. The five advisory groups cover a mix of the IANA globalization, that's one of them. And other aspects that are focused on the broader topic of ICANN globalization.

And, those of course still need to proceed, and the IANA globalization of course needs to proceed, but not it proceeds in light of yesterday's announcement.

And then to emphasize the other point that you've made, Fadi, these groups, although they're composed of Board members, are not decision-making. They are intended to facilitate communication and gather ideas, and facilitate two-way discussions so that it's not a change at all to our bottoms-up, multistakeholder approach.

David Olive: Thank you very much.

I'd just like to remind all participants that if you'd like to ask a question, press Star 1 to get in the queue.

Operator, we do ask the next person for questions.

Coordinator: Yes sir.

Next we have Mr. Kurt Pritz. Sir, your line is open.

Kurt Pritz: Hi, Fadi and Steve, I hope you're both well.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you, Kurt.

Kurt Pritz: Good.

I have a comment more than a question on behalf of the Domain Name Association, but I'd welcome a response.

The Domain Name Association, you know, welcome the deliberate thoughtful process you've described Fadi, inclusive of all stakeholders' views to determine the future of IANA, as our members are some of the most widely recognized customers of IANA will be playing an active role in the process moving forward.

The US government performs admirably in this role, and it's important that any new oversight mechanism performs as reliably and consistently, and in a manner that prevents the Internet from onerous regulations or content controls.

Thanks very much.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you, Kurt. It's great to hear from you, and it frankly is great to hear that your great membership is ready and engaged, and appreciates the importance of your participation. And certainly with you being there, Kurt, I have no doubt there is clear understanding of what this means and how you need to help them navigate to ensure that we don't end up with anything onerous here.

Some - as I said, some of these mechanisms are already in place, and they're working fine. We - do they need strengthening? Fine. Do they need more inclusive participation? Fine. We will make sure all of this happens together, so please, please indeed participate, engage, and be here, and you know that you will be an equal partner like everyone in this process.

Thank you Kurt.

David Olive: Thank you very much. The next question please.

Coordinator: Next we have Mr. (Zerland) Cade. Sir, your line is open.

Marilyn Cade: I think that must be Marilyn Cade.

Fadi Chehadé: Hello, Marilyn.

Marilyn Cade: I should probably introduce myself by saying my name is Marilyn Cade, not (Zerland) Cade, but perhaps we could just improve on who I am by changing my name.

Greetings to all.

I got in queue to make a comment and to make a request of all of you. It surprised me to read in the announcement about this meeting that there was always an intention to make an announcement, it sounded like on Monday, and that you were going to have calls with people on Sunday.

Here's my surprise. We as the community beg, plead, post, invite public comment, we beg the Board and the staff, and you Fadi, to ensure that the meetings are developed well enough ahead of time that we can work with communities of stakeholders and prepare them to attend and participate productively.

So we're coming into Singapore. I hear certain statements, I'll evaluate them on my own about how I assess them, that this was sprung on ICANN, but then I see a statement that says you always intended to have calls on Sunday.

So there was clearly - this is a very important announcement and it deserves attention, but the rest of the work of ICANN deserves attention. And we're going to be just scrambling as community leaders to brief members and to prioritize how we make sure that the rest of the work that is about what ICANN should be doing - not just this important work, but the rest of the work is fully attended to.

So here comes my question. The cross-community working group came from the community. We've done a lot of work as the cross-community working group. I suspect the two co-Chairs Olivier and Rafik are both on the call, and many members are. We ask for a meaningful timeslot. We worked on submissions into NETmundial, and now I think we're probably in the pile of things that's going to get reoriented and refocused.

And, I'd like to ask your thoughts on how we ensure that bottom-up activities (unintelligible) cross-community working group don't actually get totally lost as new speed it up priorities, as important as they are, come forward.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you, Marilyn. Thank you.

So just a couple of comments, first on your last point, the cross-community working group will have its slot exactly as was planned on a very prominent day, on Monday. So, no change there. Unless you heard otherwise, I'm not aware of it. So, no change in that.

Number two, we did not know for a fact when it will be. In fact, about seven days ago, it was not going to be for six months. So just to be clear with you, we - that date kept shifting and it wasn't even under the control of the folks we were talking to. There were people in other places, including the White House, very involved in setting that date, and it was being managed by them, given the global geopolitical kind of news environment.

So, we had no idea. No idea when it will happen. It kept shifting. Then it was potentially Monday, then it was we're not sure anymore. So please appreciate that we - this is something that was not in our control. We were - at some point we were saying, "Okay. We have to inform those who need to be informed, and first we have to get permission to do that, by the way, so it was not entirely in my hand when we could inform people, even within the staff and the Board. Many people did not know until hours ago because we were not permitted.

So not something in my control. I hope you appreciate that. You've lived in Washington for awhile, so you appreciate how these agendas work.

But moving forward, what is very, very important, and I will count on you, Marilyn, for that, because I know you can (unintelligible) what happened. We need to energize our community. This is the moment when we are being asked to continue the tradition of coming together and of showing the world that we can - that we actually can coalesce and build these mechanisms, as we've done before, to serve the global community.

And I know especially for you, your ability to bring people from the edges of this planet into the process is nearly unparalleled, and I'm going to count on you to help us in that, because without this, we will again have a process that is not inclusive of everyone.

Thank you, Marilyn.

David Olive: Thank you. The next question, operator.

Coordinator: Next, we have Mr. Mike O'Connor. Sir, your line is open.

Mikey O'Connor: Hi all. It's Mikey O'Connor here.

Fadi Chehadé: Hello Mikey.

Mikey O'Connor: Hi Fadi. This is all quite a bit above my pay grade, but I thought I would throw in sort of a practical comment, which is first of all, amazing news, a great day, very exciting and I don't imagine I'll be terribly involved, but to the extent that I can help I'll be happy to do that. My observation for those who do do this is two-fold. First, treat this like a project as a result and make sure that the charter for the team that does this work, this really important work, that the charter is really good and really well defined in advance.

The other is sort of the opposite, which is while this project is going on, all of the ongoing functions of ICANN, all of the other things that go on forever, the constituency stakeholder groups, the administration, et cetera, is already quite busy. One of the things I think you Fadi as the CEO could do is help by thinning the agenda just a little bit. We've got an awful lot of things running simultaneously here.

To the extent that you could point us at some things that we could take off of the list to free up the cycles to do this work, not so much people like me at the bottom but you know, others? I'm concerned right now that there is so much going on that people are going to find it really hard to focus. I think right now is a really great opportunity both to move this agenda forward and to focus just a little bit on all the other stuff that's going on. Thanks a lot.

Fadi Chehadé: Steve, I'll invite you to help me ensure that we strike that balance that Mikey's asking for. I will start by saying, first of all Mikey you say, you know, this is above whatever grade, but let me tell you of our community members, you have put more in my ear about the importance of working groups than anyone, period. It has opened my eyes to the importance of working that way, as opposed to the ways I come from. So, I thank you for that and this is a time you need to keep doing this with me and with everyone here to remind us that this is how our community works and where we need to invest.

Your contribution is important. Please, please keep it coming. In terms of your question about prioritization, I agree with you. My engine is overheating, our staff's engine is overheating, our board's engine is overheating, and God knows our volunteers who give their time like you and Marilyn and many others, your engines are overheating. There is just so much we can all handle.

The agenda is quite loaded right now. I see the agenda breaking into three big circles. I'll talk about these in Singapore.

You have, of course, as you said the core ICANN administration operation functions. You know, the core job we have to do everyday to keep ICANN, the trains on time? There is a second circle of activities that was started in the summer of last year related to global Internet governance. Again, in that particular circle we've been now engaged, and we've been pulled into areas of engagement that frankly are beyond ICANN's core role, but we did them to protect ICANN as I described before.

It has put a major load on us as a community to participate in a much bigger debate like the one in Brazil for example, much bigger than ICANN. We are investing and working hard to ensure that that new environment is growing and happening in a way that mimics the principals and is based on the open principals of ICANN. Then, the third big circle that just opened up to all of us is the circle related to the ICANN globalization activities.

We see now that the first one of these five globalization tracks that the board had outlined a few weeks ago as Olivier reminded us is now burst completely in the open. It will require a lot of effort. So, we have three major sets of activities that I second what you said. It is a lot on our plate. Having said this, I must tell you that good, focused management, broad participation, and prioritization is something we need to do together.

You asked me to point to places, but really I'm going to Singapore largely to listen to all of us, to all of our community members, our leaders, the SOAC leaders are meeting with me tomorrow again, so we can go over this together. Then we all need to prioritize and frankly divide a little bit our efforts between the various tracks where we can most contribute. Unfortunately, I don't see

which of these things, I can't pick. I remember in the movie Amadeus when the king, the Emperor of Austria told the young Amadeus, he said that he loved the opera, but there we too many notes.

Then young Amadeus told him well exactly which notes would you like me to remove sire? There is just so much that is on the table, but we also have to be careful not to upset this important symphony we're building in order to build a great future for ICANN and for the Internet users who benefit from our work. We'll work on it together Mikey, you have my word. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. Steve you're my wisdom. Do you have ways to help me and Mikey here so that we can give the community some comfort?

Steve Crocker: Well I think the point that you've emphasized is that it does actually have to be inclusive, so it's not above anybody's pay grade. It is a very large amount of work that we have in front of us. Your point about the symphony I think is spot on. The work on the (I Anna) arrangement in particular is going to one of the main focal points, but as Marilyn emphasized there is our regular ongoing work and we must not take our eye off of that ball.

Then there is the globalization of ICANN overall. Then also we have this larger drama unfolding with Brazil and general issues of Internet governance. That's a pretty full spectrum of things and more than enough to keep everybody busy.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you Mikey.

David Olive: Thank you for the question and response. Operator the next question please?

Coordinator: Yes. Our next question comes from Mr. (Norris Ganoben). Sir your line is open.

(Norris Ganoben): Hello Steve and Fadi. My name is (Norris Ganoben). I'm also from the GNSO. My question and comment a little in the direction which Marilyn and Mikey already were talking about. It is about this process. From the NTIA announcement I see at the end a kind of deadline for this process, which means September 2015 ending the existing contract, (I Anna) contract, that's what I understand. It is a kind of deadline set. I would like to know how you see this in light of establishing the process and going through all of this community debate right now, you know?

As we all know that process establishing takes a lot of time, a lot of debates within ICANN and (unintelligible) design it's already a short time. In this respect I have the question, I have a suggestion, it would be really helpful I think to see something already in Singapore, kind of let me say really rough-structured draft with regards to that process.

A structured idea must come, I would say from ICANN's staff at the beginning, just as a very rough basis for discussion. Rather than just you come to Singapore just for listening and starting, let me say like you did in Buenos Aires, starting a new (unintelligible) platform. I would like to go through that whole process as (unintelligible) from Buenos Aires to start and to find structure in that debate. That would be very helpful I would say that if a structure could be put up and then just for debate in Singapore. My question is, is that possible?

Steve Crocker: Wolf you make some good points. Fadi you've been closer to the interactions with NTI and the specific points that Wolf raises. Obviously, this "deadline" related to the contract, perhaps you could speak to that? Then I'd like to say a word or two about the process because I think Wolf makes some very good points, yet there is a bit more nuance to add to that.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you Steve. Wolf you are right that we cannot just go into a complete, complete blank sheet and hope that 1000 people and potentially thousands remotely participating will be able to draw a picture in a few hours on Monday. You are right. We've been working hard to find a balance between leaving that canvas completely white and putting some edges because we want to respect to the utmost that this process is built bottom up.

Remember there is a very delicate request here by NTIA to ensure that when the process is all done, it is completely bottom up. So, we've been discussing with them, you know, how to ensure that we put enough so we can be successful, but not too much. If you go to, for example, our Web site right now, on the front page with the announcement of this you find a very clear link that says public consultation processes.

If you click on that link, you'll find I think a page with information that gives you some background on the process of consultation. It provides very clear dates of activities that need to happen. There is a minimum amount of framework, so this is not completely, you know, open for frankly potential derailment. Now, one last comment on the date, the U.S. government in their announcement did not use the date as some kind of a finality date.

They said look the contract naturally expires in September 2015. So, it'll be good, you know if we can move forward towards readiness. Remember there is readiness on multiple fronts. There is readiness on the accountability mechanisms that will ensure that ICANN performs its functions. There is also operational readiness on the (root zone) management activity that needs to be also revised. Today the U.S. government has a specific role when we manage the (root zone) that role will go away. We need to operationally replace that and there is work to do that.

There are pieces that need to be done. There is no curtain closing on September 2015 that would force us to do the wrong thing. We will work with the U.S. government. It is clearly their intent to ensure that we do this bottom up, we do it calmly, we do it well and when we're ready, we will--and if it needs an extra month or two or three after that date, we will have it in order to ensure that we do not jeopardize the process or take away from its legitimacy or certainly affect the security and stability of all of these systems. Steve?

Steve Crocker: Thank you. With respect to the date, that's a natural date but it's not the only possible date. I understand that that looms as a specific sort of milestone or signpost in the process. The delicate aspect, which Fadi covered very, very well, I want to emphasize is that there is this balance between having a vacuum, which needs to be filled on the one hand, and saying too much and making it look like we're trying to control the process as opposed to having it be truly engaging and inclusive bottoms up multi stakeholder approach.

It is vital that the community be fully engaged. My own thinking is that there is a kind of common sense, generic path forward, which in my mind comes out to be the following: We're going to have a period, I don't know how long it'll be, I don't know exactly what the form will be, but fundamentally two key things I think need to emerge. One is a set of principals, and the other is a set of issues or problems to be solved.

I think we will hear many voices. I think that the ideas will be expressed in many different ways. At the end of the day, we should be able to extract from that dialog, as I said a handful of principals and a specific set of issues or problems to be dealt with. Then intermixed with that, but I think emerging as the primary focus subsequently, will be a candidate mechanism or arrangements that will be the replacements of the U.S. government's role.

The test for those arrangements will of course be to what extent do they adhere to the principals, and to what extent to they address the issues or solve the problems that have been identified? I expect that there will be quite a lot of diversity in those proposed solutions, and one way or another we'll settle on how to move forward. When we have made those decisions, and we'll make those decisions of course as a community, the implementation begins.

We have to put the mechanisms in place and we have to get them up and running and working to the satisfaction and observation of everybody. All of that is a precursor to the actual transition. You can compute your own timelines for these things, but it does suggest that the dialog has to proceed briskly and that the ideas should be put forth on the table as quickly as possible. We shouldn't take too much time to get the basic shape of what we want to accomplish.

David Olive: Thank you very much. We have about a little less than ten minutes left. We have a few more people in the queue. Operator, the next question?

Coordinator: Thank you. Our next question comes from Mr. (Caleb Fatell). Sir your line is open.

(Caleb Fatell): Yes. Thank you. Good morning Fadi. Good morning Steve.

Fadi Chehadé: Hello. (Caleb). Hi.

(Caleb Fatell): First of all Fadi I think congratulations are in order for your efforts. I don't think the U.S. government's announcement of this transition could have in some ways upheld tremendous trust in your stewardship in leading this transition. So, I think congratulations are in order. However, I think

celebrations are a bit premature. The thoughts that I had in mind and the question is as follows, this is momentous and it's an opportunity that should not be squandered.

As you probably recall, Steve will also recall, and many of the Internet communities will recall how long I have actually tried to believe, I was vocal and critical of the oversight of the Internet for just a single country. I always believed that a transition to an international, to a community not to a government, which is NCIA research groups, is key. Now, here is where I would like to highlight what needs to be looked at very, very distinctly. One, currently half of the Internet is in Asia; the users of the Internet in the world are in Asia.

The next month a billion Internet users will come from emerging markets and emerging colonies, and they are citizens of all other countries. What is key for this process to actually develop and become legitimate to ensure the buy-in with these future and current Internet users is it needs to be highly transparent, highly democratic, very representative, and at the heart of that I believe we need to re-visit the (Unintelligible) and the (Unintelligible) list, which is a part of U.S. laws that governs the (unintelligible) and could govern also the new Internet that we operate under.

It is fundamental for people to see that this is not just an attempt to offset the NSA's (unintelligible) scandal, the stock revelations. The damage, the trust in the multi stakeholder model becomes only seen as an attempt. We have a great opportunity I think in making sure that this actually becomes something substantial to ensure the buy-in of the billions of Internet users around the world. That's my take. Over to you.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you (Caleb). Thank you. Indeed, you said it, but I will say it as well, you know, you get the credit for a voice, you know, sometimes a voice in the desert for some, but for many of us who hear you, you've been a very strong voice that has proposed for a long time that some of these events we are watching happen, and they are happening now. You're absolutely right that this is the beginning not the end.

In a way you've answered Olivier Crépin-Leblond earlier when he asked okay so what happens to these five advisory teams that we created? This is just the beginning and we need all of the community activity now to focus on these five areas that address some of what you've brought up. How do we carry on in truly globalizing ICANN at every level, our legal structure, our policy structure, our government structure, our formation of commitments, all of these things need to be addressed. We cannot just stop here.

This train has left the station, and I look to you and to all of the leaders in our community who for a long time have been waiting for that opening, this is the opening. Let's just start working together and advance this. It is not my job. It is our job. I look forward to working with you on that.

David Olive: Thank you. Operator, the next question?

Coordinator: Mr. Olivier Crépin-Leblond your line is open.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond: Thank you very much. It's Olivier Crépin-Leblond. Can you hear me?

Fadi Chehadé: Yes. Yes.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond: Hi. Hello again. I've got another question. Also, with regards to what gets affected with all of these new developments. The question relates to both the affirmation of commitments and to the ATRT process. How are these affected by these latest developments?

Fadi Chehadé: Steve do you want to address this or should...

Steve Crocker: Sure. Olivier, thank you. The affirmation of commitment remains the bedrock to our commitment to the community. It's written as a bilateral arrangement with the U.S. government, but it was always intended, and we treat it as a broad scale commitment to the community. As you know, the affirmation of commitment calls for four reviews on a periodic basis. The lead of those reviews, the first among the equals if you will, is the accountability and transparency review of the ATRT.

We are well into the second round of that review. Recommendations have been received from the review team. We are now processing those reviews, doing careful evaluation and assessment. We will respond in due course within the allotted time as part of that. That whole process is absolutely fundamental and continues without change, or if there is any change, it'll come through, not through the process of figuring out the oversight of the (I Anna) process, but as part of the evolution of ICANN as a whole. We'll go into the direction of strengthening not weakening those reviews.

Fadi Chehadé: I couldn't agree more with Steve. In fact, to put my color on it I would say Olivier what just occurred makes the ATRT and the AOC even more important now. If we do not show the world our deep and continued commitment, and how we're going to bring this whole community to engage in the mechanics of accountability, then we fail.

So, while we're going to be talking about accountability mechanisms to replace the particular U.S. stewardship pro, our other accountability mechanisms which are here and are working and we've not got some significant recommendations, must be embraced with vigor, with commitment unparalleled. Everyone will be watching us on all fronts now, especially when it comes to our accountability.

Specifically, on the AOC I recall one of the five advisory groups that is going to start discussions in Singapore will look at the AOC. I mean clearly to be clear, and I'm sure the community knows this; our AOC document is a commitment to the world. It is not a commitment to the U.S. government. It is designed to be our commitment to the world, to all stakeholders. Now, if through the course of history it was signed between us and the U.S. government due to the relationship, the unique involvement of the U.S. in these processes, that may be something that has to evolve to have go to become a more globalized document, a more globalized set of commitments.

We have an advisory group focused on that, so let's engage, let's talk about the (unintelligible) on how to do this. I also want to keep in the back of my mind Mikey's voice that we should be cautious as to how many things we try to go after at the same time. Let's be careful, let's prioritize, let's ensure that we're all focusing at the right things at the right times so that we can get through this important phase together. Thank you Olivier.

David Olive: Thank you. We're running a little over time. We'll have time for one last question, and then any closing remarks by Fadi or Steve. Operator, the last question please.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Mr. Evan Leibovitch. Sir your line is open.

Evan Leibovitch: Thanks a lot Fadi and over from the triangle section of ICANN, which is the (a lack), we do our stuff in multiple languages interpreted. I'm hoping given the nature of the evolution that is being envisioned that starting with this teleconference, with this session, that you're going to do an interpretation into multi languages, and give even more attention to taking the work that's being done going forward and making it multi lingual and taking extra effort to reach outside the usual suspects in really envisioning what this needs to be. I think a big step in that is going to be making ICANN far more multi lingual than it is right now. Thanks.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you Evan. You know, how committed I am to this. One of my small chagrins yesterday in the midst of all these announcements was because we were surprised we did not have a lot of the materials in multiple languages. Our team has been working overnight, through the night to get a lot of our even press relations and all of these things ready in multiple languages.

You're talking about something bigger than that, you're talking about, you know, embracing as a whole, as a community the multi lingual ism that then leads to multi cultural ism and multi and inclusive participation. I'm with you on that. You know how expensive this is to do, but we need to do it. This is central to globalizing ICANN. It's not just the contracts and the agreements. It's really also our posture. I'm a fan there. Let's keep working together on investing in that area.

David I want to thank you for motivating this call. I will just say a couple of words then hand it back to our chairman Steve Crocker. Simply, once again to--I want to thank the community for getting us here. I want to assure you that in the days and weeks and months ahead I'll be working diligently with you as far as I can and as best as I can bottom up, so that we can all be one in showing the world who we are. This is our moment. This is our moment.

The ICANN community is going to be very closely watched. I'm confident. I'm really confident that we will rise to the occasion and not focus on the small things, but actually focus on the big, strategic directions that will set the course for the future for the ICANN community in this work. I'm counting on you. I'll be working with you. I'm humbled by this moment. I'm sure we all feel the same. Let us just make it a springboard for an even higher place for all of us.

I thank you for that very much. I look forward to seeing every one of you in Singapore. I hope. Steve?

Steve Crocker: Thank you Fadi. A couple of things, first of all just to add to the response to Evan on multi lingual ism, one of the panels Fadi that you convened led by (Beth Novak) looks at additional mechanisms and improvements in mechanisms for running complicated organizations like ICANN. Certainly how to support and facilitate participation by a linguistically diverse community is one of the challenges and perhaps we will have some improvements and some breakthroughs there. Evan it remains very much on our minds and is one of the many threads that we try to pursue.

With respect to the focus of today's call, this is as it's been said already an historic moment. I want to highlight the enormous amount of effort, and the incredible amount of skill, and really the words fail me, but watching Fadi has been one of the real treats in my professional life, as well as having made a close personal friend in the process. The orchestration and handling of a myriad of very delicate issues has been very masterful.

I consider myself fortunate and on behalf of the community I think we're all very fortunate to the leadership. He will be quick to say that it's not just him.

We have a really all-star team that has functioned at superlative levels, with unflagging energy. This has been one of the really excellent efforts that I've ever had the privilege of being involved in.

This is, as we've said not an end point, it is a significant milestone along the way. It is really the beginning of now what will be a very vigorous and engaging process for everybody. Thank you.

David Olive: I'd like to thank all members of the community for their efforts and participation. Thank you Steve Crocker. Thank you Fadi Chehadé for your comments and answers. We will be posting the transcript and the recording hopefully early next week. We'll also put that into translations so that people can have it in the six UN languages. With that, I'd like to thank everyone. See everyone. Safe travels to Singapore.

Fadi Chehadé: Thank you. Bye-bye.

Steve Crocker: Thank you. Bye.

Coordinator: That concludes today's conference call. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.

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