ICANN74 | Prep Week – Policy Update
Thursday, June 2, 2022 – 20:00 to 21:30 AMS

TERRI AGNEW: Hello, and welcome to the ICANN74 policy update session. My name is Terri, and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form, as I've noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session.

Interpretation for this session will include English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Russian. Click on the Interpretation button on the menu bar in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session.

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With that, I'll hand the floor back over to David Olive. Please begin.

DAVID OLIVE: Thank you very much, Terri. Again, I'm David Olive, and I have the honor of heading the Policy Development Support Team at ICANN. Indeed, this is in preparation. Normally, we do a policy update before each ICANN meeting, but in this particular case, we are pleased because ICANN74 is a policy forum, which of course, as you know, will be held on the 13th through the 16th of June in The Hague in the Netherlands. It'll be the first time in more than two years that ICANN will come together in person to discuss matters relating to the domain name system. Also, it is the 7th policy forum in the sequence, so we're very pleased to note that.

The SOs (Supporting Organizations) and Advisory Committees have taken the lead in developing this four-day program, and we are pleased to present some of the policy and advice activities that will be discussed at ICANN74. And you will also be seeing some faces that work behind the scenes or work with each of you in the supporting organizations or advisory committees in preparing your work. And so we will focus really on the themes that we expect to hear more of at the meeting.

And, finally, we have interpretation, and we're very happy for that. And we'd like to thank them in advance.

I now turn it over to Andrea, who will be our moderator for this session. Andrea, the show is yours.

ANDREA GLANDON:	Thank you so much, David. Before we get started with our panel conversations, I want to tell you a bit about how the webinar will run.
	Today we will have four panels focused on different topics relevant to ICANN74 and the ICANN community more broadly. We will touch upon topics you will likely have heard about throughout this prep week. We have policy team members as panelists who will discuss how the communities that they support are tackling a given topic.
	After each topic, we will have a brief Q&A. And in between our panels, we will spotlight additional information relevant to ICANN74.
	Today we are in a regular Zoom room, so you will be able to ask questions in two ways. You may place your question in the chat by using the format that Terri has shown in the chat. You may also raise your hand. Any questions that we do not get to please make sure to add to the chat, and we will be sure to follow up after today's session.
	We are also very happy to provide a resource document for the participants today. Terri will place this link into the chat as well. This document contains links and information that will follow the flow of our session. Please open the document and follow along and refer to it throughout today's session.
	Before we begin, I would like to give a bit of a background on how the policy team fits into the broader structure of ICANN. ICANN's policymaking is based on the multistakeholder model. This is a decentralized-governments model and allows for community-based, consensus-driven policymaking. ICANN supporting organizations and

advisory committees participate in this policymaking work. And the Org policy team—some of whom you will meet today through the webinar— support the work of these SOs and ACs.

So let's get started. To discuss our first topic (new gTLD subsequent procedures), we have Benedetta Rossi, who supports the GAC, Steve Chan, who supports GNSO, Heidi Ullrich, who supports At-Large, and Steve Sheng, who supports SSAC.

I will now hand it over to Benedetta Rossi to get us started and give us some background on SubPro. Benedetta?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you very much, Andrea. So in terms of background on new gTLD subsequent procedures, the first new gTLD program launched in 2012, and it was based on the GNSO policy development process from 2007. And that served as the basis for the program.

As you may be aware, the GNSO Council then initiated the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group—it's a mouthful, a very long name—which is more commonly referred as SubPro. And that's pretty much what you probably have heard it referred to. And that was launched in 2015. So the PDP's purpose was to determine whether changes or adjustments to the existing policy recommendations from the 2012 round were needed for future rounds. And the PDP concluded its work and delivered its final report to the GNSO Council in early 2021. And as you are probably aware, ICANN participants from various supporting organizations and advisory committees followed and still

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continue to follow or be interested in the topic of subsequent rounds and the PDP working group recommendations and outputs. The ALAC and the GAC, for example, provided input to the SubPro PDP and continue to be engaged, as you'll later hear in the panel from my colleague, Heidi.

So once the final report was finalized, it was submitted to the Board for review, and then in September 2021, the Board approved the initiation of an Operational Design Phase, or ODP. And as you may know, the ODP is a fairly new process within ICANN, and the SubPro PDP is indeed the second such process to take place; the first one being the System for Standardized Access or Disclosure (or SSAD, as it's more commonly referred to). And the purpose of ODPs is to provide information to help the Board determine whether PDP recommendations are in the best interest of the ICANN community and ICANN.

So back to the SubPro one, after a three-month ramp-up period, the ODP started earlier this year, in January, and the Board instructed ICANN Org to deliver its final output, which is the Operational Design Assessment (or ODA) within ten months of its start. And this final output will provide the Board with an understanding of the operational impacts of the recommendation, including potential obstacles, expected costs, and the timeline for implementation.

For more information on the ODP status, if you weren't able to join, you may wish to review the recording from the ODP Team webinar, which happed during Prep Week. And the recording will be posted on the ICANN74 schedule. And, additionally, the ODP Team at ICANN74 will

also facilitate a multi-stakeholder session to describe the work in progress and gather community feedback on items relative to SubPro.

So while the SubPro PDP has concluded its work, and there is the ODP in progress, there remains other SubPro-related work. So I'll turn it over to my colleague, Steve, to provide further information on this work. Thank you. Over to you, Steve.

STEVE CHAN: Thanks very much, Benedetta. As Andrea mentioned, my name is Steve Chan and I support the GNSO. And as Benedetta [says], even when you seem to be done with the work, sometimes there's still work to do. So that's the case here.

So I just want to talk about a couple of topics. The first is going to be about closed generics. In this case, the ICANN Board identified closed generics as a topic requiring further work. As in this case, the SubPro PDP did not reach consensus on policy recommendations. And there's also GAC advice in 2013 that, generally, or at a high-level, states that, for strings that are representing generic terms, [exclusive] registry access should serve a public interest goal.

So as a way forward, the ICANN Board suggested that small focused team with subject matter expertise from both the GAC and GNSO could collaborate, supported by a facilitator, to try and develop a framework for closed generics for the immediate next round.

So in March of 2022, the ICANN Board reached out to the GAC and GNSO chairs to identify interest in this process and, at this point, both have

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responded affirmatively. The GAC and the GNSO will need to agree to the roles and responsibilities, the process, and the expected timing for the facilitated dialogue before it can start. In that regard, the GAC has already provided suggestions on the structure of the facilitated dialogue, while the GNSO Council has convened a small team to prepare for the dialogue. At ICANN74, the GAC and the GNSO will be holding a bilateral meeting, where the topic of closed generics and the facilitated dialogue will be a topic for discussion.

So this is looking way, way ahead, but in the event that a proposed framework is actually agreed upon—and that is an "if"—it must be considered through the appropriate GNSO policy development process, with which it comes all the openness and transparency that you would normally expect for such processes.

So that is the first part of the extra work beyond the primary work. The other is a potential GNSO guidance process. So in this case, the SubPro final report and its recommendations envision some level of substantive work that would be completed during the implementation phase.

So a few months ago, ICANN Org expressed some concerns that the level of substantive work may not be limited to just implementation. And so the council recognizes the issue and is actually contemplating the best way forward, could indeed be that GNSO guidance process. And if it does go down this path, it would be the first time the mechanism has ever been used.

So in addition to the aspects of the SubPro final report identifying specific items that require substantive work, the ODP that Bendetta mentioned has identified other areas of the SubPro final report that they believe warrant additional guidance to facilitate eventual implementation.

So at this stage, in terms of a status, the council is still considering the scope of the GNSO guidance process and really whether or not it's warranted at all. So no actions have been taken. The conversation is still in progress.

So those are just the two additional items I wanted to raise. And with that, having heard from Benedetta on background and the operational design phase and the closed generics and the GNSO guidance process, I know that the At-Large has been paying close attention to SubPro overall, as well as these specific topics. So I'm passing it over to my colleague, Heidi Ullrich, to talk about ALAC's view. Thanks.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you, Steve Chan. I know we have two Steves on this panel. So the ALAC's view is contained in the ALAC advice to the Board on SubPro of April 2021 and the ALAC statement on the SubPro PDP Working Group final report of January 2021. Both of these statements were developed through the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group's position development process.

Now, the ALAC supports movement towards a new round but seeks improvement from the previous round. The ALAC believes that it's

important for ICANN to assess the New gTLD Program by reexamining the program's objectives and also evaluating how they are being met as to ensure that any expansion of the domain namespace will be beneficial to all stakeholders while not compromising the stability, security, and resiliency of the DNS.

Now, this SubPro ODP is welcomed by the ALAC, as it allows the ICANN community insight into how the SubPro outputs are being considered for implementation by ICANN. The ALAC also recognizes that there remains some aspects of SubPro outputs which require further work by the ICANN community. Certainly of interest to the ALAC are implementation aspects related to the Applicant Support Program, limited public interest objections, and the lowering of thresholds for succeeding in community priority evaluations.

Now, regarding closed generics, which you heard about a little earlier the ALAC is holding a session during ICANN74, and that will take place on Wednesday, the 16th of June. And the aim of that session is to help define the ALAC's vision on closed generics.

And I believe that the GAC is also working on closed generics. Benedetta?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you, Heidi. Yeah, that's exactly right. The GAC, like At-Large, remains actively engaged on SubPro matters and will also hold a plenary session at ICANN74. And the session will be focused on reviewing GAC positions on priority topics to the GAC. And this

discussion will also include closed generics, which Steve mentioned earlier in the panel, which remain a hot topic for GAC members, especially in light of this upcoming GAC and GNSO dialogue.

Additionally, the GAC regularly reports on GAC positions on SubPro matters in their GAC communiques. So for more information on the topics, you may want to refer to recent GAC communiques on the matter.

And I believe that also the SSAC has published their views on SubPro-related matters. Is that right, Steve? I'll hand it over to you to take us through the SSAC views.

STEVE SHENG: Thanks, Benedetta. The SSAC has indeed published its views on the SubPro, and its SAC114 and its addendum, which is a comment to the SubPro final report.

I think, overall, from an SSR perspective, the SSAC remains concerned about proceeding to delegate new TLDs without addressing some issues related to the SSR of the domain name system.

So there are two issues I want to highlight here. I think there's the full report. And the SSAC will have interactions with the community at ICANN74. One issue in the short term is regarding DNS abuse. So the SubPro report chose not to address DNS abuse, where they thought that the abuse is not limited to new gTLDs only. It's TLD problem, and it encompasses ccTLDs in addition to gTLDs. So it wants a holistic

approach to addressing DNS abuse. I think the SSAC agreed and applauds such an approach.

The SSAC's concern here is that waiting until efforts to address the whole problem ends up losing opportunities to address some specific issues. And there is some evidence that there is some concentrated abuse in some of the new gTLDs. So in anticipation of that, the SSAC felt that DNS abuse should be addressed as part of this program, which is an opportunity [inaudible].

I think the larger concern for the SSAC is somewhat what it called the ad hoc nature of the recent expansion. I think the community is moving towards getting rid of rounds. So I think the SSAC in that regard is not concerned about adding particular TLDs—one, two, three, or maybe hundreds—but is concerned about further rounds of expansion without a clear understanding of such rounds of expansions' impacts on the stability and utility of the DNS.

I think the impact of the namespace from the SSAC opinion impacts the operation of the DNS, which is the other part of the DNS ecosystem. In line with that recommendation, it asks for some studies to be done on impacts on user operations, the impact on overall DNS operations, and also how previous rounds' metrics for success were met.

So I think that's the SSAC's comments summarized here, but it's expanded fully in SAC114 and its addendum. I believe the SSAC is interacting at least with ALAC and other communities where these issues will be brought up. So I invite you to those discussions. Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Steve, and thank you for all of this great information about SubPro.

I will turn it over to Terri now to see if we have any questions either in the chat or any hands up.

TERRI AGNEW: Thank you. And once again, if you'd like to ask a verbal question, please raise your hand using your Reactions on the tool bar at the bottom. Or if you would like to type your question or comment, please see the chat for the proper format.

At this time, we do have one question verbally. Jeff Neuman, please go ahead.

JEFF NEUMAN: Hey, guys. Welcome to … I love that table there. So I guess my comment is kind of similar. And I know that, Steve, you're just up there as kind of the liaison to the SSAC. But what I've been trying to push SSAC for is that there have been other root server studies, root scaling studies, and others over the past few years, all making certain findings that there's been no real impact. What I have not been able to get out of the SSAC is what specifically needs to be covered that wasn't covered in those previous studies. And I've asked that question, I don't know, the past two years ago and still never get an answer above the general of saying, "Well, we don't think that study covered enough," which I understand.

It's fine, but then tell us what exactly wasn't covered by those previous studies.

That's [the] comment. I know you can't [inaudible].

STEVE SHENG: Yeah. Thank you, Jeff. That's a comment, but what we can do is relay that back to the SSAC to see if they have a response for you. I think this is in one of the recommendations: to talk about, I think, five areas of the studies (root server operations, specific SSR issues, the impact on overall DNS operations, and a risk analysis). So let me relay, as a liaison, and take that question back to the SSAC and see if the answer can be provided for you. But thank you for that question.

TERRI AGNEW: Thank you. Our next questions comes from Juuso Jarviniemi. Please begin.

JUUSO JARVINIEMI: Hello. Thank you very much for this panel discussion. I'm one of the NextGen Fellow, so I'm afraid my questions are slightly newcomer questions. They might come as repetition for some of the more experienced members. But I'm quite curious about this topic, so I wanted to ask the question just to understand better where the new gTLDs will be expanding in a way. For example, is there already an idea in the community of if it's particular languages in which we need more

TLDs? Or what kinds of TLDs, broadly speaking, are we aiming to create in the next round once it happens?

On the question of closed generics, I also wanted to ask, are there any particular actors, for example? Has there been a large number of requests coming in for different actors wanting gTLDs which would be closed generics for them?

ANDREA GLANDON: Who wants to take those questions?

STEVE CHAN: So quiet. I can start. Maybe I can try and answer both. So thanks for the question, Juuso. I'm not sure if I pronounced that correctly. So on the first question about who would apply or who we'd expect to apply, I don't think, as ICANN Org, and, I think, for the PDP also, we have any preconceived notions necessarily about who's going to apply. It's a matter of organizations and their priorities about whether or not they're going to apply. But I think the intention of the PDP was to provide the space for different organizations, different types, and different business models to all be able to have a space within the program to go to apply if they think it's important for them.

So the second question about closed generics and who showed interest, I think what's maybe important as a little bit of context is that, in the 2012 round, when the program opened, there wasn't a prohibition against closed generics, and it was a matter of circumstances afterwards that they were disallowed and applications

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had to change the approach that they had in their application where they may have wanted to have exclusive access. In that round, I don't remember the number, but there was a subset—relatively small, I think—that wanted to operate as exclusive registry access.

So in terms of forward-looking, I don't think we have any idea of what that might look like. And it would obviously depend on what the outcome of whether or not they're allowed and under what circumstances. I hope that helps. Thanks.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Steve.

Terri, do we have any other questions in the chat or hands up?

TERRI AGNEW: No further questions or hands at this time, Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Great. Thank you so much.

So now we will turn to our first spotlight. Chantelle Doerksen will talk to us about the plenary session that is planned for ICANN74 titled "Who Sets ICANN's Priorities?" Chantelle, over to you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you Andrea. ICANN74 will feature a plenary session on who sets ICANN's priorities. And this session will be held on Tuesday, the 14th of

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June, at 10:30 UTC plus two in the time in the Netherlands. Panelists will lead an interactive discussion on the overall nature of prioritization at ICANN, and this will include discussions on the progress since the ICANN59 plenary session that was held on this topic in June 2017. The expectation is that this session and the conversation that we'll be having in this session will be forward-looking and will be focused on how to improve the shared use of limited resources and time.

Members of the ICANN community, the ICANN Board, and the ICANN Org will share their best practices and reflect on the recent coordination efforts. This will include a brief update on the prioritization framework pilot project that is currently ongoing. Jordan Carter from the Country Codes Names Supporting Organization (or ccNSO) will chair this session. Moderators will be Chris Disspain from the ccNSO and Ashley Heinemann from the Registrar Stakeholder Group within the GNSO.

ICANN Org prepared a briefing paper about work to date on prioritization. The paper provides a baseline of knowledge to actively allow participation in this discussion. A link to the briefing paper is also available in the resource document.

We look forward to your participation.

And with that, back to you, Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Chantelle.

Okay. So we are on to our second topic for today, which is titled, "Evolving the ICANN Community." We are going to talk about to Chantelle Doerksen, Alp Eken, Julie Charvolen, and Carols Reyes. They will provide us with more information on charters, governance, Work Stream 2, the Community Coordination Group, and the Root Server System Governance Working Group.

To start us off today with information on charters, we're going to go back to Chantelle. Chantelle?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you again, Andrea. So as ICANN continues to evolve, our governance practices should be evolving as well. This includes reviewing governance documents on a periodic basis to ensure items like charters and operating procedures meet the evolving needs of a community group. Governance documents should also meet criteria as outlined in the ICANN bylaws and align with recommendations that result from reviews such as the third Accountability and Transparency Review, or ATRT3.

Evolving governance within the ICANN community also ties into implementation work related to the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability—it's a big one—or CCWG Accountability Work Stream 2 efforts, which we'll hear more about shortly. Within this space, there's been a lot of updates to charters and also operating principles for reasons I just described.

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The ccNSO, or the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, for example, recently adopted its new internal rules, and this replaces their 2004 version. Another update to the ccNSO guidelines and procedures will be needed to account for the recent ICANN Board adoption of changes to the ccNSO bylaws that allow internationalized domain name country code top-level domain name managers to become ccNSO managers. My colleague, Joke, will share a little bit more about that update later in this session.

Now, within the Generic Names Supporting Organization, or the GNSO, we also have several groups that are revising their community charters and are now in different stages of the revision process. One of these groups is the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns constituency charter, also known as the NPOC charter, which was recently approved by its members. In the upcoming weeks, this charter will be submitted to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee, also known as the OEC, for their upcoming meeting in July.

Now, after this OEC meeting, a public comment proceeding will be opened for the NPOC charter. This follows the approved process for amending GNSO stakeholder group and constituency charters, and this process is available on the GNSO website. And we've also included a link to it in the resource document for this session.

Now, ICANN Org has been working on a few other ways to improve support of community groups as they work through the revision process of their governance documents. This includes updates to the GNSO charter revision process itself and will be including templates for

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the charter as well as a template for operational procedures. And we hope these will serve as resources for the community.

A community workspace for the GNSO stakeholder group and constituency leadership has also been created to provide a database of current non-policy work-related items that the GNSO groups are being asked to consider and to provide input on. Now, this includes things I've already mentioned—ATRT3, Work Stream 2, and the prioritization framework.

So, overall, the aim of these improvements is to ensure that the governance work for the ICANN community is sustainable, consistent, and ideally will reduce the workload over time. Stay tuned for more updates.

And with that, I would like to turn the floor over to my colleague Alp who will be updating you specifically on the community's Work Stream 2 implementation efforts. Alp, over to you.

ALPEREN EKEN: Thank you so much, Chantelle. And thank you. We are working on Work Stream 2 together with you, too.

Hello, everyone. Today I will just briefly talk about Work Stream 2 community implementation. Members of the cross-community working group for Work Stream 2 worked over two years to create the Work Stream 2 report, including consensus recommendations under eight topics. In November 2019, the Board adopted these consensus recommendations, then ICANN Org started working towards the

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implementation of them, [full of] these eight recommendations that were directed to the community.

Staff provided a gap analysis on two of these topics—namely Recommendation 2; recommendations for guidelines for good faith (in other words, recommendations related to the Empowered Community)—and, together with that, Recommendation 6. These recommendations are to increase [inaudible] accountability for each supporting organization, advisory committee, stakeholder group, constituency, and regional At-Large organizations. Currently, the progress for implementation varies for all 21 aforementioned groups. Some of them are still reviewing the gap analysis while some of them are working towards the implementation.

Additionally, in order to facilitate community-wide conversations and to prevent an information asymmetry among the community, a community coordination group for Work Stream 2 was created. The group has members and observers from supporting organizations, advisory committees, regional At-Large organizations, and GNSO stakeholder groups. To date, the group held two meetings, and currently the group is discussing Recommendation 1 (diversity recommendations) in order to provide subject matter expertise in their work. ICANN procured diversity consulting services on top of that to help the group direct their work towards diversity recommendations. Julia will inform us further regarding diversity work in gap.

Once the group concludes its coordination for diversity recommendations, a sub-recommendation of guidelines for [inaudible]

will be discussed. And it will be followed by Recommendation 3 (human rights framework of interpretation). And then any other community-directed recommendation might be discussed where the community would benefit from the information-sharing or coordination.

Thank you for listening. Julia will cover GAC's work on Work Stream 2 community implementation since we worked together for part of that. So over to you, Julia.

JULIA CHAVROLEN: Thank you very much, Alp. So with regards to Work Stream 2 activity, under the oversight of the GAC Human Rights Working Group, the GAC developed a proposal document in relation to Recommendation 1 on defining diversity, where the GAC reviewed the seven elements of diversity from the Work Stream 2 final reports and assessed that additional elements could be considered. To date, the GAC shared this document with the Community Coordination Group that Alp mentioned, and that was for the group's consideration and discussion.

So at ICANN74, the Human Rights Working Group will provide an update to the GAC during its opening plenary on Monday on the current work conducted by the CCG and seek feedback if necessary.

There are additional pending recommendations that contain implications for the GAC's implementation efforts. For instance, the GAC Human Rights Working Group should kickstart discussions after ICANN74 regarding the implementation of the human rights

recommendations to determine what the next steps should be prior to any implementation.

Another set of recommendations for GAC's consideration are those that pertain to the Empowered Community that Alp also mentioned, where several updates of the GAC guidelines for participation in the Empowered Community will be conducted under the GAC leadership oversight prior to further discussions of the GAC.

But if participants today on the call would like to learn more about the GAC's involvement on the recommendations' implementation, you can find updates and contributions of the GAC that are captured in a monthly snapshot, which can be found on the GAC's website, where we have a page dedicated to Work Stream 2 efforts. And I believe this link is the resource document.

I'm going to hand it over now to my colleague Carlos. Please.

CARLOS REYES: Thank you, Julia. And I feel a little bit out of place. They're all talking about Work Stream 2, and I have a different topic now. But, nonetheless, I think there is a good point or origin for all of these projects, and that's the IANA stewardship transition, which all of you probably heard about a few years ago. Obviously, that kicked off the Work Stream 2 effort, which finished few years later.

But in the root server community, there were discussions ongoing about the same time related to the evolution of root server system governance. And the RSSAC developed advice in 2018 about this,

proposing a model for root server system governance. That model contains five different functions.

And since then, the ICANN Board convened the Root Server System Governance Working Group. This working group comprises representatives from the root server operators, as well as the ccTLD and gTLD registries, as well as the IAB and the IETF, SSAC, and also the liaisons from the IANA functions. Together, all of these groups and voices are trying to interpret the advice from RSSAC037, which is the document that outlines the proposal.

So for the last two-and-a-half years, the GWG has been refining their own proposal for the Board. The work continues. And through ICANN74, there will be four sessions dedicated to these discussions. The first session is dedicated to reviewing the success criteria that RSSAC developed last year, essentially outlining different benchmarks for any potential model to evolve the root server system. And then two sessions will be dedicated on doing a deep dive into different models and how the success criteria can apply to those models. And in the final discussion, the GWG will discuss their next steps and how they would like to proceed.

So if you're interested in learning more about this project, it is significant work happening in the ICANN community, and it all follows the same theme that we've been hearing around this table about how the ICANN community continues to evolve as the Internet itself evolves.

So thank you, all. We hope you have some questions for us. And back to you, Andrea.

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ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Carlos.

Terri, do we have any hands up or questions in the chat? I see some questions in the chat that are being answered in real-time by Joke, so that's great. Do we have any hands up, Terri?

TERRI AGNEW: Currently, at this time, we do not.

ANDREA GLANDON: All right. Thank you so much to this panel. We are going to move on.

So now we'll move on to our second spotlight, which is ICANN Learn. My colleague, Ozan Sahin, is going to tell us a bit about ICANN Learn. Ozan, over to you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Andrea. And hello, everyone. My name is Ozan Sahin, and I will talk about ICANN Learn, which is a free online learning platform. This platform was requested by the ICANN community, and it was built for the ICANN community. The learning courses hosted on ICANN Learn cover what ICANN does, how to get involved with ICANN and ICANN policy development, and much more. The ICANN organization works with the ICANN community to develop these courses.

So we recommend you visit the webpage, learn.ICANN.org, and start with the policy development fundamental course, and then you can

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enroll in additional courses based on your area of interest. For example, the Business Constituency (or, shortened, the BC) recently developed a course that describes the mission and structure of the BC, how BC members proactively participate in ICANN policy development and Internet governance, and how more businesses can join the BC.

In addition, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, of the ccNSO, has an onboarding course that describes the ccNSO's role in supporting country-code top-level domains and its place within the ICANN ecosystem.

Also, the At-Large community has two ICANN Learn courses. The first one is an introductory course titled "ICANN At-Large: Welcome to Our World," and the other course is called, "ICANN Policy Development: A Guide for At-Large Participants," which delivers working knowledge of the At-Large Advisory Committee policy advice development process.

So ICANN Learn is a great resource for both newcomers and experienced members looking to find courses that interest you.

I'm now handing it back over to my colleague Andrea. Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Ozan. Yes, ICANN Learn is a great resource, and everyone should definitely check that out to get some more information.

Okay, we are on to our third topic for today, which will focus on Internationalized Domain Names, known as IDNs. IDNs enable people

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around the world to use domain names in local languages and scripts. The introduction of a new Generic Top-Level Domain, or gTLD, and IDNs enable significant expansion of the DNS. IDNs were first introduced at the second level and, in 2009, a fast-track process was created for IDN ccTLDs. During the 2012 round, IDN gTLDs were introduced into the root zone for the first time.

Today, I have Ariel Liang, who supports the GNSO, Andrew McConachie, who supports SSAC, Joke Braeken, who supports ccNSO, Benedetta Rossi, who supports GAC, and Silvia Vivanco, who supports At-Large. To kick us off, I'm going to hand it over to Ariel Liang. Please begin.

ARIEL LIANG: Thank you very much, Andrea. So Andrea mentioned, currently there are 92 IDN gTLDs and 61 IDN ccTLDs, but no variant TLDs can be delegated in the root zone yet.

So what are variants? Formally speaking, a variant is a code point of a sequence of code points that can substitute a code point or a sequence of code points of a primary label to create an alternative label that is deemed the same by a community of Internet users. So one classic example is the traditional and symbol-type characters of Chinese language.

So when we talk about variants, one fundamental issue is that the machine can detect the differences between these labels, but humans do not. And then humans regard these variants as equivalents, but in a DNS, they're distinct labels.

So because of this complex situation, in order to enable the future delegation of variants, two issues need to be resolved. First is the definition of variants, and second is the management mechanism of variants. So to address the first issue, the script community has developed the root zone label generation label rules—in short, it's called RZLGR—to define which subset of characters in a script can be used to form top-level domains. And then, for the second issue, ICANN Org developed a set of recommendations for managing variant TLDs.

With this background, the GNSO Council launched the Expedited Policy Development Process on IDNs, and the group started its work in August 2021. And currently the group has tackled half of its charter questions or close to half of its charter questions. Right now, it's getting to a very detailed discussion regarding how to account for variants in the future new gTLD application processes. For example, there's a small group of volunteers. They are trying to develop practical examples of variant labels in different scripts in order to understand their impact on the string similarity review process.

In addition, the group is also seeking external inputs to facilitate its deliberation on charter questions. Another example is that the group is reaching out to existing Arabic and Chinese gTLD registry operators to gauge their potential interest for activating variant labels. And in ICANN74, the group is planning to hold two working sessions to facilitate its deliberations.

And as you can see, the EPDP team is working on very complex issues that require expertise from across the ICANN community. While not all

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groups can appoint members to the group, they also can contribute in other ways. And my colleague Andrew, who supports the SSAC, will provide you more detail about how they contribute to the IDN EPDP's work. To Andrew.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Thank you very much, Ariel. Hello.

So my name is Andrew McConachie, and I will be talking about the recent SSAC publication, SAC120. This is the SSAC input to the GNSO IDN EPDP on Internationalized Domain Name Variants. That's a mouthful. And this is the SSAC's formal input to the GNSO IDN EPDP on IDN Variants.

In SAC120, that SSAC states that, to ensure security and stability of IDNs with variants, an IDN and its variants must be treated as a single package from a domain provisioning and life cycle management perspective. Otherwise, users of IDNs with variants would be susceptible to phishing and other impersonation attacks.

To promote an acceptable experience that meets the user expectations for those IDNs that have variants, variants of an IDN that are in actual use can be delegated. However, in defining rules for such delegations, policymakers need to be aware of two very important limitations. The first limitation is that there's no protocol solution in DNS to enforce equivalence of variant domains through the DNS hierarchy. In addition, there are no protocol solutions for applications such as HTTP, SMTP, or TLS to ensure equivalence of variant domains and their operations. The

second limitation is that management of variants can introduce a combinatorial explosion at registries, registrars, and registrants. If not handled well, such variants would create operational problems for these entities. These limitations really call for a conservative approach in delegation and management of variant domain names.

While SAC120 is written as inputs to the GNSO IDN EPDP, its advice is meant to stand on its own with respect to IDNs in the domain namespace more generally. There is a single shared namespace, and the advice in SAC120 applies to ccTLDs as much as it applies to gTLDs.

And with that segue, I will now transition to my colleague from the ccNSO support staff, Joke Braeken. Joke, please take it away.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Thanks so much, Andrew, and also for sharing these SSAC perspectives.

So today I would like to talk to you about the ccNSO policy development process on IDNs. We refer to it as ccPDP4, and it's on the selection and deselection of IDN ccTLD strings. And it's important to note that this policy development process is about domains at the top level and not the second level because that is out of scope, of course, for the ccNSO.

So where we are currently regarding the progress made by the group: Well, in September, 2021, the full group completed a review of the policy recommendations from 2013 regarding IDN ccTLD string selection. And ever since, three subgroups worked in parallel, and two

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of these subgroups have already completed their work, and that is the Variant Management Subgroup and the Selection Subgroup.

Regarding the Variant Management Subgroup, there was a lot of coordination with the GNSO policy development efforts. And to date, there are two core draft proposals by the Variant Management Subgroup, and those focus on the alignment with GNSO efforts in terms of variant calculation using the root zone label generation rules for that. And secondly, similarly to IDN ccTLD strings, the variants should also be limited to a meaningful representation of the name of the territory in the designated language or the script.

So I mentioned two of the subgroups already. There's a third one on confusing similarity review. This subgroup kicked off shortly after ICANN73, so work is still ongoing there.

During ICANN74, we will have a ccNSO policy session. So during this session, you will hear more about the work by ccPDP4, and the working group will consult the community on the direction of travel and see if there are any comments or issues at this point in time. So the group made really good progress, but it's not yet completely finished.

As part of the ICANN bylaws, there is one step in the cc policy development process which is seeking GAC advice. And that is now why I would like to hand it off to my colleague, Benedetta. Benedetta?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: Thank you very much, Joke. The GAC has also recognized the public policy interests involved in matters of IDNs. So thanks for passing it on

to me. As such, the GAC established a dedicated working group at ICANN66 in Montreal in 2019 called the Universal Acceptance and IDN GAC Working Group. And the context of the working group was the result of discussion among GAC members with members of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group, and those discussions are actually reported regularly in GAC communiques. So you may refer to those if you're interested. So that's where the formation of the working group comes from.

In terms of the objective of the working group, this working group is tasked to help the committee track and consider matters relevant to governments in those areas. Additionally, GAC leadership looks to the working group to provide perspectives, information, and expertise on universal acceptance and IDN matters—for example, when seeking input on ICANN public comment opportunities relating to IDN matters.

As part of GAC activities related to IDNs, you may be aware that the GAC participants in the EPDP that Ariel earlier referred to—the EPDP on IDNs in the GNSO. And as such, there are actually four GAC appointees as participants and observers, including the GAC chair and representatives from the United Kingdom, India, and Nigeria. And this is part of a wider trend of increasing GAC participation—more formalized participation—of government representatives in GNSO policy development deliberations.

I mentioned earlier that the GAC is attentive to public comment opportunities related to IDNs, in particular on the regular outputs of community panels that propose root zone label generation rules for

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various scripts. On those occasions, GAC leadership will invite members of the GAC to consider these outputs for comments.

With that, I'll turn it to my colleague, Silvia, since I believe that the At-Large Advisory Committee has also been active in the area of IDNs. So over to you, Silvia. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Indeed, Benedetta.

ANDREA GLANDON: We have an echo … Okay, one more shot … Okay, I think we are going to have to move on.

So, Terri, do we have any questions in the chat or any hands up?

TERRI AGNEW: Thank you, Andrea, for checking. Once again, if you would like to ask a question, please raise your hand. And it is located on the Reactions icon on your toolbar. At this time, there are no questions. I'll turn it back over to you, Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. I actually have a question myself. So why are policy development processes still needed if the definition and management mechanisms of variants have already been addressed?

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ARIEL LIANG: I guess I could take this question for the group.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you, Ariel.

ARIEL LIANG: So, in fact, the ICANN Board directed both the GNSO and ccNSO to take these recommendations into account when developing their policies related to IDNs. So there's already an ICANN Board direction for this effort.

And then, secondly, the RZLGR and the management mechanism recommendations cannot become a reality without a policy development process because they need to eventually become consensus recommendations. And then they will have a practical impact to the contracted parties, and then they can become reality in that way. So that's the second factor of why we need PDPs to do that.

And then the third factor is that some of these recommendations on variant management are, in principle, high-level, and they do not have very detailed instructions on how these things can be implemented. So, for example, there is a recommendation regarding same entity requirements. So it's the same registry operator that needs to manage the variant labels of the same set, but then there is no further instruction on how that can be done. So how can the variants be applied in the gTLD round, and what's the possible fee implications and operational and legal implications to such applications? And how can

the variants be evaluated? Do they have the same standard as the primary label or are they different?

So these practical questions need to be dealt with in policy development processes. And in that way, we will bring the RZLGR and the management mechanism into reality. So that's why the PDPs are necessary. And I'm happy to hear others in the panel to chime in on this question, too.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you, Ariel.

Did we have anyone else who wanted to chime in here?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: That was deftly handled by Ariel.

ANDREA GLANDON: It was. She did a great job.

All right. Okay, great. So we are going to move on today to our final spotlight, which focuses on the ICANN Community Excellence Award. This award, launched in 2014 at ICANN50 in London, recognizes ICANN participants who have deeply invested in consensus-based solutions, acknowledging the importance of ICANN's multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance, and contributed in a substantive way to the higher interest of ICANN's organization and its community.

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I'm going to hand it back to my colleague, Ozan Sahin, to tell us more. Ozan?

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Andrea. And hi, everyone. It's me again. So the selection panel will announce the recipient of the 2022 ICANN Community Excellence Award at ICANN74.

And I would like to give you some information about this recognition. As Andrea noted, the award was launched in 2014 at ICANN50 in London, and this is the ninth year of the ICANN Community Excellence Award. In this year's selection process, ICANN community members submitted their nominations from December 2021 through March 2022. Supporting organizations and advisory committees appointed nine ICANN community members to form the selection panel. The panel met five times and reviewed all nominees from late March through the end of May. The selection panel evaluated the candidates against three award criteria—(1) demonstrated ability to work across community lines with both familiar and unfamiliar ICANN stakeholders to be of consensus (2) facilitator of dialogue and open discussion and a fair and collegial manner in a spirit of collaboration shown through empathy and a sincere desire to engage with people from other backgrounds, cultures, and interests, and (3) demonstrated additional support for the ICANN multistakeholder model and its overall effectiveness through volunteer service via working groups and committees.

The selection panel recently concluded its review, and this year's recipient will be announced at ICANN74 on Day 3, Wednesday, during

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the community networking cocktail. We invite you all to the ceremony to find out who this year's recipient is and celebrate the ICANN community's contributions.

I will now give the floor back to my colleague, Andrea. Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you, Ozan No early giving us an idea of who won, huh? That's okay. We understand.

Our final panel today will touch on additional community priorities for ICANN74. On our final panel, we have Joke Braeken, who supports the ccNSO, Emily Barabas, who supports GNSO, Silvia Vivanco, who supports At-Large, Julia Charvolen, who supports GAC, and Andrew McConachie, who supports the SSAC and RSSAC. Let's start the conversation today with Joke. Joke, can you please tell us some of the other ccNSO highlights for ICANN74?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Thanks, Andrea. Yeah. Happy to do so. Since ICANN74 is a policy forum, I thought I should start with a policy session. I already quickly referred to it previously, but during the ccNSO policy session, you will not only be informed about the progress to date by the IDN policy development process by the ccNSO, but there's also another policy development process. We refer it to it as ccPDP3, and it's on the review mechanisms for decisions pertaining to delegation transfer, revocation, and the retirement of ccTLDs. And both groups will provide an update of their work to date. Both groups also have working sessions at ICANN74, and

the IDN policy development process is even doing stress testing. So they are quite advanced with their work.

I mentioned three sessions that I wanted to highlight. The second one is a governance session. Chantelle already previously spoke about it. The governance session has been on the public meeting agenda for the ccNSO for quite some time. This session this time is a follow-up from ICANN73, when the ccNSO explored statement of interest procedures and conflict-of-interest arrangements. But currently the ccNSO does not have SOIs and is exploring the options. So stay tuned for further information and updates on that. The input from the ICANN73 session was really helpful, and the small group that worked on the proposals has been carefully listening to the community.

The third session is one on DNS abuse, a very hot topic for many SOs and ACs, including the ccNSO. So during ICANN74, you will hear more about ccTLDs themselves and how they deal with DNS abuse. It's useful input for other ccTLDs but not only [them], and it's especially useful for a new committee, a DNS standing committee. We also refer to it as the DSC. It's a new committee within the ccNSO, the core of the DNS-abuse-related activities.

But the ccNSO is not the only one talking about this topic. I believe the GNSO is as well, so I would like to give the floor to Emily.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Joke. Hi, everyone. So as Joke mentioned, DNS abuse is on the agenda for many groups during ICANN74. For the GNSO, I'll note that

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the DNS Abuse Small Team will be meeting. This is a group that was tasked by the GNSO Council to look at what policy efforts, if any, the GNSO Council should consider undertaking to support efforts that are underway in the community elsewhere to tackle DNS abuse.

I'll note a couple of other sessions. There's another small team of the GNSO Council that will be meeting. It is a group that is tasked to review the System for Standardized Access and Disclosure (SSAD) operational design assessment. And that group is also advising the council on next steps.

The small team has previously recommended a proof of concept as a tool to evaluate and test assumptions. And in turn, the council has recommended to the ICANN Board to ask ICANN Org to develop a design concept for what is known as SSAD Lite.

At ICANN74, the small group will be engaging both with the GNSO Council and also with the GDPR General Data Protection Regulation Board Caucus on the impact of SSAD Lite and on other efforts going on and also discuss next steps.

Next step. The Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team. They'll be meeting at ICANN74 as well. They are considering issues such as current enforcement on reporting, measurement of accuracy and effectiveness. At ICANN74, they're seeking to finalize their assignments # 1 and 2 on current enforcement and reporting, and they'll be submitting their work on those to council after ICANN74.

And finally, the Transfer Policy Review PDP will have a working session. They plan to deliver their Phase 1A initial report shortly after ICANN74 for public comment. But at ICANN74 itself, they will be laying the groundwork for Phase 1B of the PDP, which will be focused on the topic of change of registrant.

So now I will pass it on to my colleague, Silvia, who will talk a little bit about highlights from ALAC. Thanks.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much. And apologies for all for the audio issues before. They are now fixed. So thank you very much for your patience and indulgence.

So I'm going to speak quickly about the IDNs, which I couldn't say before. So very quickly I will give you an overview. The At-Large community has been very active in the areas of internationalized domain names and universal acceptance. Their activities include the end user survey, a panel on universal acceptance and IDNs at LAC Digital, an event hosted by LACRALO, a universal acceptance training session hosted by AFRALO, and an upcoming session on universal acceptance at ICANN74.

The At-Large end user survey. The At-Large is organizing an end user survey that will allow the ALAC to collect the perspective of targeted end users about IDNs and universal acceptance in the Hindi language in selected regions of India. Working closely with a survey company in

India and IDN and universal acceptance experts in the region, At-Large has completed the survey questionnaire.

The next steps include the implementation of the survey and the analysis of the data. At-Large hopes that the findings of the end user survey will contribute to the ICANN discussions on IDNs and universal acceptance.

And the RALOs are promoting universal acceptance. They continue holding regional universal acceptance training programs which are collaborative efforts among ICANN Org, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group, and the regional top-level domain organizations. The purpose of these training programs is to raise awareness of universal acceptance challenges, highlight UA remediation efforts, and to allow for engagement with key industry stakeholders.

The most recent training program was the AFRALO universal acceptance training, and it was designed to increase awareness across the African region and to engage with technical stakeholders directly and to provide AFRALO members with an introduction to fundamentals of universal acceptance and its importance. Previously, LACRALO and NARALO also held similar, very successful universal acceptance training program.

And the LACRALO LAC Digital panel on universal acceptance and IDNs recently concluded. It was a series of online webinars over three days to commemorate International Internet Day. One of the panels was focused on universal acceptance and IDNs. And the panel stressed that universal acceptance is a fundamental requirement for a fully

multilingual Internet. They discussed the importance of implementing universal acceptance and IDNs in the Latin American and Caribbean region, given that they will enable people to navigate the networks in their local language.

And finally, the At-Large community will discuss universal acceptance and IDNs during a session at ICANN74. This session will be a joint session with the GAC, and there will be a presentation on universal acceptance and IDNs by the ALAC and GAC experts on these topics.

And finally, I want to also highlight some sessions of interest to the At-Large community. One of them is the "Evolving the DNS Abuse Conversation and End Users Perspective: The Role of the At-Large," and this session will focus on the role of the At-Large community in mitigating domain name abuse. Another session is "Closed Generics: Finding a Balance." This is an internal position but is open to all community members. Another important session will be "Shaping the European Union's Digital Future: Sovereignty, Legal, and Regulatory Frameworks." Another session is "Internet Governance and Multistakeholderism in Times of Emergency." This session will address how ICANN, At-Large, and end users can act in times of emergencies. And we look forward to welcoming you to these sessions during ICANN74. All At-Large sessions are on the main schedule, as well as the At-Large ICANN74 workspace.

Thank you very much, and over to you, Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Silvia.

We're going to turn it over to Julia now so she can give us some information about the GAC.

JULIA CHAVROLEN: Thank you very much, Andrea. So as we're going into the ICANN74 policy forum, the GAC's current priority topic area remains the same. Those are the next round of new gTLDs, DNS abuse mitigation, WHOIS in registration data, and IGO protections. And these top four topics have been featured prominently in recent GAC communiques as issues of importance and advice matters. And the committee plans updates for discussions on those issues as part of ICANN74. For instance, Tuesday will feature discussions on DNS abuse matters as well as WHOIS and registration data.

So be sure to tune into some of the GAC communique drafting sessions later in the week—those sessions are scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday—to hear the potential government discussions about those matters. And also watch for the publication of the GAC communique on the following Monday after the meeting.

That's it [inaudible]. I'm going to hand it over to Andrew now.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Thank you very much, Julia. So I will be talking about the RSSAC, the SSAC, the DNSSEC and Security Workshop, and then finally Tech Day.

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So for the RSSAC, the RSSAC will have its monthly teleconference during ICANN74. The RSSAC will also conduct two work sessions to make progress on upcoming work related to RSSAC058, which is the success criteria for the RSS governance structure, and also RSSAC002v4, which is the RRSAC advisory on measurements of the root server system.

For the SSAC, the SSAC will not be having any public session at ICANN74. As the in-person meetings return, the SSAC is returning to its practice of not holding public meetings during the policy forum. Instead, the SSAC is focusing on discussing internal work in-person and conducting bilateral meetings with different community groups. The SSAC is currently making progress on some work parties. These include its work on DNSSEC, DS automation, the NCAP Discussion Group and Work Party, its Routing Security Work Party, and the evolution of DNS resolution.

On to the DNSSEC and Security Workshop, the DNSSEC and Security Workshop is a two-part workshop at ICANN74. During the workshop, you can expect panel discussions as well as individual presentation on variety of topics related to DNSSEC provisioning automation and security topics related to DNSSEC, such as secure e-mail transport using DANE. The DNSSEC and Security Workshop is open to everyone, and there will be session developed for complete beginners, people with a general understanding of DNSSEC, as well as experts.

Finally, Tech Day. Tech Day is a three-part forum at ICANN74, and it's directly after the DNSSEC and Security Workshop on the Monday. Tech

Day provides a forum for both experienced participants and newcomers to meet and to present and discuss technical and operational registry topics, security, and other DNS-related work. During ICANN74, Tech Day will focus on DNSSEC, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation, as well as some other topics.

And with that, Andrea, I'm going to hand it over to you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much, Andrea.

Before we move to questions for this panel, I would like to give a brief update from the Address Supporting Organization, or ASO. The ASO recommends global policies to the ICANN Board and conducts policy development work in the communities of regional Internet registries. While several members of the Internet number community will participate in sessions, the ASO will not convene during ICANN74.

Now we would like to see if there are any final questions for this panel. Terri, do we have any hands up or questions in the chat?

TERRI AGNEW: At this time, I do not see either one, so back over to you, Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you so much.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for providing important information to prepare everyone for ICANN74.

I'm going to ask Terri to place a link for a survey into the chat. We would very much appreciate if you can complete the survey before you disconnect today so we can make this better next time.

Thank you to the audience for joining us today.

And I will now hand it back to David Olive. David?

DAVID OLIVE: Thank you, Andrea, and members of the policy team. I want to thank you for providing those summaries and overviews of what we'll be talking about at ICANN74. It also gave us an opportunity to put face to the person helping out. And hopefully, if you're going to be attending in person, you'll be able to recognize that face and say hello and have some conversation about the work that we are doing in support of your efforts to promote policy and advice development.

You heard the team talk about the various discussions that are planned relating to the generic top-level domains, internationalized domain names, efforts in the country code area, as well as what might be security, stability, and resiliency discussions within the RSSAC and the SSAC. There will also be a session on geopolitical matters, where legislative and regulatory developments affecting the domain name system will be presented and have hopefully a good discussion with the group.

And finally, one of my favorite parts of the policy forum is of course the ICANN Community Excellence Award. And you heard the talk about the efforts and hard work of the community people to provide that

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selection process. And we'll have that announcement on the Wednesday at the reception at ICANN74.

With that, I'd like to say that we tried to have a different format for you, focused on topics, though the particular issues of the various supporting organizations or advisory committees can be found in our documents, including the ICANN74 policy outlook, as well as the GNSO policy brief, among others, that will help you dig into deeper detail if you need that for your preparation for the meetings coming up very shortly.

If there are no other comments or questions, I would like to wish everyone a good evening, good afternoon, or good morning, wherever you may, and hope to see you soon so you could put maybe my face to a person at ICANN74. Or surely online we'll continue to support the fine work of our communities. Thank you so much.

TERRI AGNEW: Thank you, everyone. Once again, this concludes today's policy update webinar. If we could please end the recording. Please stay well, and we look forward to seeing everyone soon. We will now disconnect all lines. Bye.

DAVID OLIVE: Goodbye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]