LACTLD Report on ICANN68

Virtual Meeting

22-25 June 2020

Contents

Introduction

The LACTLD Report on ICANN68 reviews the main sessions of interest to the ccTLD community, held at ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum . The document also covers the first Virtual ccTLD News Session organized by the ccNSO prior to the Public Meeting.

The Report examines the discussions held at the ccNSO Members Meeting and the Plenary Sessions. Key topics of the Virtual Policy Forum focused on the COVID-19 impact on the DNS, malicious registrations during the pandemic, policy development in the current environment, and the interaction of the DNS and the Internet of Things. The ccNSO's agenda at ICANN68 addressed some of these issues and included a special session on ccTLD governance models.

Since the ccNSO Members Meeting at ICANN68 had a limited number of sessions, the Supporting Organization's Secretariat published a newsletter featuring the latest news from its Working Groups and Committees. In addition, the PTI update to the ccTLD community was shared in written format.

Virtual ccTLD News Session

Prior to the ICANN68 Public Meeting, the ccNSO Meetings Programme Working Group (MPC) organized its first ever set of Virtual ccTLD News Sessions.

The ccNSO members had the opportunity to engage in two virtual news sessions during which they shared recent developments, ccTLD activities and ccTLD management related topics.

The Virtual ccTLD News Session featured various presentations on the COVID-19 impact in the registries operations. Eleanor Bradley (.uk) gave an overview of the positive and negative effects and the opportunities the pandemic presented to Nominet. According to Bradley, while the implications for renewals have yet to be determined in the coming months, there has been significant growth in registrations. Importantly, these registrations contain innovative terms (virtual, live, online, video, remote, etc.) and reveal a new trend in the way organizations conduct business that is related to virtuality and social distancing. Bradley also explained that over the past few months the registry has had to deploy existing technology and relationships to address criminality and suspicious activity. The integration of AI and manual review has enabled them to provide a robust response to abuse activity.

Henriette Vignal-Schjoeth's presentation (.dk) also focused on abuse issues related to COVID-19. Vignal-Schjoeth described how .dk was able to quickly implement a process to foster cooperation and mutual understanding with the Danish authorities. This process allows law enforcement agencies to assess

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whether a registration is in same way linked to crime or potential infringement related to the current pandemic and as a result of that secure evidence conduct an investigation. Henriette Vignal-Schjoeth stated that even in a crisis measures must still be proportionate and the police and judicial system are the ones competent to evaluate if online content is illegal.

In the case of .am, Anna Karakhanyan (.am/.hwj) discussed how the registry operations have been running during the pandemic, how they have been tracking the registration of COVID-19 related domains, and what initiatives they have implemented to support the community, especially in terms of educational activities.

During the virtual session, Leonid Todorov (APTLD) addressed the coronavirus' impact on the ccTLDs from Asia Pacific and shared the results of a recent survey conducted among APTLD members. Leonid explained what have been the most popular working tools and methods applied; what measures have been implemented to support registrants and registrars; and what have been the main benefits (monetary and non-monetary) that have resulted from the pandemic.

Apart from the issues related to COVID-19, the virtual news session covered different topics of great interest to the ccTLD community, such as, disaster or emergency policies, IDNs, Anycast Cloud, and dispute resolution.

Bruce Tonkin (.au) talked about auDA's major disaster temporary policy aimed at supporting registrants in areas affected by forest fires in Australia in early 2020. The major disaster policy added two months to the expiry date of registered domains and was applied to postcodes associated with domain name registrant contacts in affected regions. As a result of the applied temporary policy, 61% of the domains in bushfire affected areas were renewed (the average renewal rate for domains across the registry is 73%). Tonkin explained that this was a very positive result for auDA. He said the next step will be to initiate a policy development process with the community to establish a major disaster permanent policy.

Dejan Djukic (.rs/.срб) offered an update on legal issues in .rs and .срб. Djukic described their right protection mechanisms and the policy for domain name dispute resolution processes.

Regarding regional updates, Gabriel Valdez (.py) presented a preliminary study for .PY IDN deployment with Cyrillic characters. Valdez explained that NIC.py aims to first deploy IDNs for Spanish and Guarani characters; and later will seek to implement IDNs for Cyrillic characters. Thus, it expects to increase its revenues by expanding its market. To carry out this project, NIC.py will develop a new platform to facilitate deployment of second level .PY domains. In addition, the ccTLD will define new rules and security policies that allow the proper IDN implementation.

LACTLD also had the opportunity to provide regional updates during the Virtual ccTLD News Session. Miguel Ignacio Estrada (LACTLD) presented LACTLD's Anycast Cloud and invited interested organizations to join the initiative.

Slides

Session recording: Part I

Session recording: Part II

ccNSO: Members Meeting

Governance models for ccTLD Managers: "One size does not fit all"

The subject matter of the session was proposed by the ccNSO members in order to study the different governance models for ccTLDs. One of the main assumptions stressed about governance models is that "one size does not fit all". Also, at the session the presentations showed that each ccTLD has its own multistakeholder ecosystem and is subject to its local jurisdiction. Therefore, these contextual factors as well as the different implementations of the same governance model impact each ccTLD's unique characteristics.

The session on governance models started with some opening remarks by Katrina Sataki (.lv). The Chair of the ccNSO presented some data on ccTLD transfers since 2003 and explained that while these figures may not be entirely accurate (due to general assumptions) they are intended to show some prevailing trends in governance models. The data presented by Katrina revealed some interesting conclusions. On average, there are 3-4 ccTLD transfers per year. In these transfers, private or for-profit companies are the most likely governance models to be transferred while non-profit organizations are the least likely to be affected by ccTLD transfers. In regional terms, the data showed that Latin America and the Caribbean has the lowest number of ccTLD transfers since 2003.

Following the introductory presentation by Katrina Sataki (.lv), the session continued with a panel discussion on the governance models applied to four ccTLDs. Philip DuBois spoke about the non-profit model for .be; Atsushi Endo explained the for-profit company model for .jp; Jorge Azzario Hernández presented the academic institution model for .mx; and Angela Matlapeng discussed the government institution model for .bw. The panelists' individual presentations were very enlightening. Firstly, certain advantages and disadvantages of each of the models were pointed out, and secondly, it was possible to understand how the changes in the ccTLDs' history led to the evolution and transformations in their governance structures. Another issue

raised during this part of the session was the differences in the objectives and strategies for each ccTLD according to its governance model as well as the relationships and interdependencies with other stakeholders, for example, in the academic and governmental models.

The discussion on governance models continued with a Q&A session moderated by Nick Wenban-Smith (.uk). The questions posed to each of the panelists were proposed by Pablo Rodriguez (.pr) based on his research on the factors that may possibly promote or impede the adoption of technologies (especially DNSSEC) in ccTLDs. In accordance with Pablo Rodriguez (.pr), his research showed that ccTLD governance models are important drivers in technology adoption.

The four questions asked to the presenters allowed the participants to note important differences in the influence that each model has on the ccTLD management. The first question regarding the ccTLDs' budget revealed that the speakers consulted for the nonprofit organization (.be), for-profit company (.jp) and academic institution (.mx) models have full control over the budget of their registries. In contrast, in the case presented for the government institution (.bw) model, the ccTLD's budget requires the approval of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Another question raised seeked to evaluate how agile the models are for the adoption of new technologies. In this regard, the for-profit company (.jp) and academic institution (.mx) models are highly oriented towards the agile adoption of new technologies. On the other hand, the non-profit organization (.be) and government institution (.bw) models showed some restrictions. Philip DuBois (.be) explained that technology adoption in the ccTLD is restricted and focused on their mission: the management of domain names (although this limitation would not be directly related to their non-profit model). Angela Matlapeng (.bw) argued that while the ccTLD has cooperative agreements with research institutions, technology adoption and other changes to be implemented must first be approved by Parliament.

The last question of the session asked how changes in government administrations affect ccTLDs according to their governance models. The speakers offered interesting insights on this issue. First, it was identified that the government institution (.bw) model is directly affected by changes in government administrations. Second, the panelists representing the other governance models suggested that while the impact of these changes may be very limited on their functions and operations, the ccTLD is always subject to some indirect political influence and changes in legislation. Pablo Rodríguez (.pr) pointed out that regardless of your governance model and depending on your jurisdiction, government administration changes will in one way or another affect the ccTLD.

The session proved to be provocative and very enlightening for all participants. A key outcome is that there are no perfect models, each ccTLD has its own

multistakeholder ecosystem and local regulation, and all of them are subject to some kind of political influence.

Slides

Session recording

DNS in Times of COVID-19: The ccTLD Experience

The session on ccTLD experiences in times of COVID-19 covered a wide range of issues and featured views and lessons learned from different ccNSO members.

Part 1: Impact of COVID-19

The first part of the session focused on the impact of the pandemic on ccTLD operations and the business continuity plans implemented by the registries.

Jacques Latour (.ca) and Regis Masse (.fr) offered an update on the TLD-OPS latest activities. They reviewed the main outcomes of the Tabletop exercise held at ICANN66 in Montreal and invited all interested ccNSO members to continue working on the Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity Planning (DR/BCP) Playbook (developed by the TLD-OPS) in order to have an updated and useful document for the ccTLD community. In this regard, Latour (.ca) and Masse (.fr) anticipated that they are planning a virtual TLD-OPS workshop for ICANN69 in which they will conduct a simulation exercise based on a pandemic scenario. They hope that this activity will allow to update the DR/BCP Playbook with the best practices and contributions of the ccNSO members. Following this first presentation, Barbara Povše (.si) and Alejandra Reynoso (.gt) had the opportunity to share their experiences in implementing the TLD-OPS Playbook. They both agreed that the document was very beneficial and could be adapted to the needs of their ccTLDs.

During the first part of the session, Patricio Poblete (.cl) gave a very comprehensive and informative presentation on the challenges and lessons learned from having to run a registry in the context of the 2019 Chilean political upheaval and the 2020 pandemic. Patricio Poblete (.cl) described the sequence of events that triggered the social protests and political crisis in Chile, and explained that throughout this process the ccTLD main priorities were to keep its staff safe at all times and keep the services operating normally, as much as possible. For NIC Chile's team, the resolution of domain names was not a problem since they have DNS servers distributed around the world, nor did they see their registry and registrar services compromised. However, they had to implement some measures in order to allow staff to work from their homes and to relocate employees who needed to be in the office to secure facilities.

The 2019 political upheaval allowed the Chilean registry to learn important lessons. Thus, when the COVID-19 crisis emerged, they were much better

prepared to respond to new contingencies. Their help desk staff could take calls with their laptops (there was no need to be at the office), and they had purchased equipment to support work from home for all the employees. Patricio Poblete (.cl) concluded that one of the most important lessons learned from these crises is to support people working remotely and to continue improving their workspaces at home.

Capacity building activities was another topic addressed in the first part of the session on the impact of COVID-19. Pierre Bonis (.fr) discussed the results of a survey conducted by the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee (IGLC) on the capacity building activities carried out by ccTLDs during lockdown. One interesting finding of this survey is that webinars and online activities allow registries to reach large audiences. Furthermore, in this context, ccTLDs are perceived as a professional and neutral source of expertise.

Part 2: DNS Abuse

The second part of the session dealt with DNS abuse in times of pandemic from the ICANN and ccTLD perspectives. Some initial remarks by Nick Wenban-Smith (.uk) triggered the discussion of the different issues: the lack of universal standards, the role of ccTLDs, and the lack of clarity around the boundaries and responsibilities of each stakeholder.

John Crain (ICANN org) provided an overview of the work ICANN has been conducting to report abusive domains (in gTLDs and a few ccTLDs) related to COVID-19. He explained that they have identified about 662,111 domains with strings in some way related to the pandemic since January 2020. However, out of the thousands of registrations identified, many correspond to benign domains, malicious domains, parked domains, defensive registrations, etc. Therefore, they implemented a detailed and specific process that allows them to look for indicators to examine whether those listed domains are being used for abuse (particularly for phishing or malware distribution). John Crain argued that while thousands of COVID-19 related domain registrations are identified daily, ICANN finds evidence that only tens of these domains can be reported as malicious.

The last part of the session featured a panel discussion among the general managers of the four regional organizations moderated by Nick Wenban-Smith (.uk). Barrack Otieno (AFTLD), Leonid Todorov (APTLD), Peter Van Roste (CENTR), and Miguel Ignacio Estrada (LACTLD) discussed how ccTLDs have regionally reacted to the pandemic.

Barrack Otieno (AFTLD) explained that most users in Africa access the Internet through their offices connections. As the pandemic has increased the number of employees working from home, many users have been left without Internet access. This lack of connectivity has led to a decrease in the number of domain name registrations. However, he highlighted increased awareness of ccTLDs and

gTLDs, and the need to take business online in the face of the pandemic. Regarding abuse, Barrack Otieno (AFTLD) stated that it is still too early to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on the African DNS ecosystem, adding that probably by the end of July it may be possible to have a clearer picture of the real effects.

As in Africa, Leonid Todorov (APTLD) noted that the pandemic is having a lag effect on the Asia-Pacific ccTLDs. Due to the diversity of the region, the registries have implemented different measures. In some cases, the ccTLDs have been consulted as sources of expertise on matters related to the Internet and the ICT industry. While ccTLDs have taken on a growing role, they have faced some challenges in capacity building and the implementation of temporary policies, that may have a lasting impact.

Peter van Roste (CENTR) offered a comprehensive overview of the work carried out by European registries during the pandemic. In this region, 80% of the ccTLDs examined and verified the information of the registrations related to COVID-19. The ccTLDs also adapted their policies in order to be able to respond quickly in cases of inaccurate data. Peter van Roste argued that manual verification procedures are not scalable and certainly not cost-effective for ccTLDs. According to Peter, while the pandemic proved that the DNS continues to work perfectly well and collaboration with authorities can be very positive, ccTLDs faced the challenges of explaining the boundaries of their role and the real levels of pandemic-related abuse in the DNS.

In terms of DNS abuse, Miguel Ignacio Estrada (LACTLD) informed that ccTLDs in Latin America and the Caribbean have had a very low level of COVID-19 related registrations and, in turn, only 0.05% of those domains have been reported as malicious. Additionally, during the pandemic, the LAC region has had an interesting growth in the number of registered domains (the year-on-year growth in April was 24% and in May was 64%). Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs will need to see whether the number of domain name renewals declines in the coming months due to the impact of the economic crisis on small and medium sized businesses.

Based on the speakers' presentations and the information provided by ICANN, it was concluded that even though COVID-19 related registrations have been identified, the number of reported malicious domains has been remarkably small in all cases.

Slides

Session recording

Q&A with ccNSO Appointed Board Members

The ccNSO Members Meeting also featured a Q&A session with the Board Directors who are closely involved with the ccTLD community. Chris Disspain, Nigel Roberts, Becky Burr, Danko Jevtović, Rafael Lito Ibarra and Patricio Poblete participated in the meeting that was moderated by Jordan Carter (.nz).

Each of the invited Board Members was able to share their comments and thoughts on the questions raised by the ccTLD community. Participants discussed the work of the ICANN Board, the effectiveness of ICANN .org, the expectations for the ccTLD community and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, among other issues.

The lack of face-to-face interactions or "corridor" conversations in the context of the pandemic was one of the topics discussed. ICANN Board members considered that the tools implemented in remote communications will continue to evolve and the community will find ways to replace these face-to-face "corridor" interactions that often take place at Public Meetings. Danko Jevtović stated that it is important to find new tools that will allow us to approach and engage the newcomers in the new remote setting.

The pandemic also changed the way the ICANN Board operates. Invited Directors explained that online meetings have been held more frequently and that decision-making processes have not been adversely affected. Chris Disspain added that the current circumstances forced the ICANN Board to make decisions when they should be made rather than postpone them to face-to-face meetings. In relation to Board processes, Patricio Poblete (.cl) stated that he is preparing his online onboarding as ICANN's Director.

At the session, Board Members shared their reflections on the community's trust in the ICANN Board and on the effectiveness and efficiency of the ICANN org as perceived by the community. Additionally, they discussed what are the main contributions that the ccTLD community can make to ICANN in the future. All invited Directors agreed that the ccTLD community can bring a wide range of solutions, innovations and valuable perspectives to ICANN processes. The speakers also invited ccTLDs to promote further engagement, sharing and *cross-pollination* among ICANN's Advisory Committees, Supporting Organizations, Groups and Constituencies.

Session recording

Joint Meeting: ccNSO & GNSO Councils

The joint meeting between the ccNSO and GNSO Councils focused primarily on the upcoming IDN policy developments to be undertaken by each of the Supporting Organizations, and the opportunities for collaboration between them. The ccNSO Council reported that it will soon initiate a policy development process for the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings: ccPDP4. Bart Boswinkel (ccNSO) provided background on the ccNSO's work on this topic and explained the roadmap to get from the Fast Track Process and the overall IDN ccTLD policy proposals to a Policy for (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings. This roadmap also includes the amendment to Article 10.4 (a) of ICANN Bylaws to allow IDN ccTLDs to be eligible as members of the ccNSO.

The ccNSO Council also announced that the Issue Report for the ccPDP4 was adopted in May 2020 and that there will be a webinar soon to provide more details on the scope and working methods for the IDN policy development process. Following the informative webinar, the ccNSO Secretariat will launch a call for volunteers to join the Working Group in charge of this PDP. Bart Boswinkel (ccNSO) stated that there will be at least two subgroups under this Working Group. One will focussed on confusing similarity, and the second one will dealt with variant management of IDN ccTLDs. These subgroups will be expected to submit their recommendations to the ccPDP4 Working Group so that they can be integrated into the policy development process. The GNSO and other ICANN committees and groups will be invited to join the ccPDP4 subgroups with the aim of fostering cooperation and consistency in the development of IDN policies, as approved in the ICANN Board resolution at ICANN64, Kobe.

The GNSO Council informed that they are currently considering the next steps to launch a GNSO PDP that will examine various IDN issues. Recently, the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP has looked at IDN variants so it is expected that the GNSO Council, when deemed necessary, would conduct a new effort to complement or replace the recommendations submitted by the Sub Pro PDP in this regard.

The ccNSO and GNSO Councils agreed to maintain regular lines of communication and interaction between the two organizations in order to coordinate and collaborate in their respective efforts.

During the session, participants briefly reviewed the next steps for the appointment or re-election of the members for the Customer Standing Committee. In addition, the ccNSO Council pointed out some concerns about the process implemented by ICANN to adjust its Five-Year Operating and Financial Plan and FY21 Budget due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Slides and transcript / Session recording

Plenary Sessions at ICANN68

DNS Abuse and Malicious Registrations During COVID-19

DNS abuse was one of the main topics discussed by the community at ICANN66 Montreal. The session held at ICANN68 intended to continue and build on the discussions held in Montreal in light of the pandemic impact. The plenary session on DNS abuse and malicious registrations during COVID-19 was divided into two parts and featured panelists from different sectors and groups within ICANN: Jim Galvin (Registries Stakeholder Group), Graeme Bunton (Registrars Stakeholder Group), Laureen Kapin (Governmental Advisory Committee, Public Safety Working Group), Peter Van Roste (Country Code Names Supporting Organization), Jonathan Zuck (At Large Advisory Committee), Mason Cole (Commercial Stakeholders Group), Jeff Bedser (Security & Stability Advisory Committee), Brian Cimbolic (Registries Stakeholder Group), and David Conrad (ICANN org).

The first part of the plenary session focused on the developments that have taken place since ICANN66 (November 2019): what has happened, which solutions have worked effectively and which ones have failed. The second part sought to identify possible next steps that can be implemented by stakeholders to effectively address abuse issues.

The plenary session revealed common findings among the panelists from both the gTLD and ccTLD communities. Overall, ccNSO, GAC and GNSO constituency members agreed that the level of DNS abuse related to COVID-19 (registrations that could be proven to be malicious) was quite low. In addition, collaboration between law enforcement authorities and registries/registrars was seen as one of the most successful approaches to deal with abuse cases for both ccTLDs and gTLDs.

During the session, members of the Registries and Registrars Stakeholder Groups noted that the Framework to Address Abuse (launched in October 2019) has been a useful guidance document adopted by the contracted parties.

Peter Van Roste (CENTR) offered a series of reflections from the ccTLD perspective. He explained that observations of COVID-related abuse in CENTR ccTLDs yielded the same results as those reported for gTLDs: a very small portion of pandemic-related registrations were detected as malicious. According to Peter Van Roste, European ccTLDs introduced data accuracy checks during registration and effectively collaborated with various local authorities. These measures were reported as very positive. On the negative side, Peter Van Roste mentioned that

CENTR ccTLDs found misinformation published in the popular press and had to devote a great amount of time to report the real levels of DNS abuse.

The panelists also had the opportunity to share some initiatives and projects that could be implemented as possible next steps. Jeff Bedser (SSAC) explained that the SSAC work party on DNS abuse is developing a best practices framework for abuse resolution in the entire DNS ecosystem. The model will seek to reduce victimization and address abuse once it is determined and evidenced. To this end, the SSAC work party is focusing on evidentiary standards, effective practices for reporting abuse, escalation process, reasonable time frames, and the availability and quality of contact information.

Towards the end of the session, David Conrad (ICANN org) reviewed some of the projects undertaken by ICANN org on DNS abuse, such as the [Domain Name Security Threat Information Collection and Reporting Tool](#), ICANN's Domain Abuse Activity Reporting ([DAAR](#)) (with the recent voluntary inclusion of ccTLDs), and the [DNS Security Facilitation Initiative Technical Study Group](#).

[Slides and transcript](#)

[Session recording](#)

The DNS and the Internet of Things: Opportunities, Risks, and Challenges

The plenary session presented different perspectives and some open issues on the interaction between the DNS and the IoT. The session was intended to follow up on the discussions on the [SAC105](#) Report, held at the ccNSO Members Meeting at ICANN66 Montreal.

The discussion at ICANN68 covered a wide range of topics: IoT security, 5G and the IoT, DNS encryption issues, the IoT player ecosystem, and some developments by the .nl registry around the challenges posed by the IoT. The plenary session had a different online format. First, Cristian Hesselman (SSAC and .nl) offered an overview of the SAC105 report, published by the SSAC in June 2019. Secondly, Eliot Lear (Cisco), Lise Fuhr (ETNO) and Cristian Hesselman (SSAC and .nl) shared their expert perspectives on IoT security and the opportunities that 5G offers to the IoT. Finally, Philippe Fouquart (ISPCP), Rafik Dammak (NCUC), and KC Claffy (SSAC) commented on the experts' presentations and raised new issues for discussion.

The expert panel provided perspectives from IoT device manufacturers, ISPs and ccTLD managers on the challenges and the interaction between the IoT and the DNS. IoT security was a major topic of discussion and led to different opinions about encrypted DNS. In general terms, it was suggested that the DNS can provide added value to IoT security, and 5G –as a much more converged technology than others– would enable and be an important component in the growth of the IoT. Nevertheless, there are still many open issues that need to be

discussed around 5G and potential security solutions. In this vein, Cristian Hesselman (SSAC and .nl) presented examples of prototypes and initiatives developed by the .nl ccTLD that could address the risks and seize the opportunities discussed in the plenary session and reported in the SAC105. These solutions will allow to improve the security of users' home networks, provide more transparency around IoT devices, and work on collaborative security through DDoS clearing houses.

The ICANN community is expected to continue the open dialogue on the interaction of the DNS and the IoT. The issues raised in the plenary session will help trigger future discussions and inform the different stakeholders in the IoT ecosystem.

Slides and transcript

Session recording

ICANN and COVID-19 - Advancing Policy Work in the Current Environment

The third plenary session held at ICANN68 was organized in two parts. In the first part of the session, ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman and ICANN CEO and President Göran Marby discussed how the Board and the ICANN org have been working over the past few months in the context of the pandemic. During the second part of the session, the leaders of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees talked about the challenges of advancing policy development work without face-to-face meetings.

Maarten Botterman described how the ICANN Board has adapted its activities and decision making to the new circumstances. Given the importance of adjusting to unforeseen situations, he explained that the ICANN Board is examining different approaches to updating ICANN's five-year Strategic Plan so that the goals and objectives set will continue to meet the needs of the global Internet community. In this vein, ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby stated that ICANN org has been assessing and working on managing the risks that may affect ICANN's operations. He also reviewed the discussions that have taken place about the future of ICANN's face-to-face meetings. Based on these discussions, a document on a phased return to public meetings has been drafted for community consultation.

Furthermore, Göran Marby mentioned some activities that ICANN has been carrying out in recent months. He described how ICANN has facilitated discussions around DNS abuse, introduced the DNS Security Facilitation Initiative Technical Study Group , and reviewed the engagement work that has been done with governments and IGOs.

At the second part of the plenary session, the leaders of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees discussed how they have prioritized and adapted their work to the new circumstances and what are the main challenges posed by the lack of face-to-face meetings. All speakers agreed that face-to-face interaction, social and personal engagement, and opportunities for conversation are crucial for carrying out policy work, building consensus, and achieving the outcomes of the various working groups. They also noted that participation in remote intersessional meetings has been affected, in some cases, by connectivity limitations and time zone differences. In addition, RSSAC and SSAC leaders explained that while their work has not been greatly affected by the lack of face-to-face meetings, they have missed the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other ICANN Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations.

Katrina Sataki (ccNSO) offered a brief update on some activities carried out by the ccNSO. She informed that the ccNSO will soon be launching a call for volunteers for its fourth ccPDP on the (de)selection of IDN ccTLD strings. She noted that the ccNSO for the first time in its history will have two ccPDPs running in parallel: ccPDP3 and ccPDP4. Regarding outreach efforts, Katrina Sataki explained that the ccNSO –even before the pandemic– decided to make its activities more accessible to those members who cannot participate in ICANN public meetings and has implemented a series of webinars on various ccNSO issues. Finally, she stated that the ccNSO's priorities will not be changed, instead they will adapt the tools and means used to advance their activities and policy work.

Session transcript

Session recording