

ICANN74 Readout – Highlights & Take-Aways from the Hybrid Policy Forum: A Short Summary

On 22 June 2022, eco – Association of the Internet Industry and ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers held a joint ICANN74 readout to summarize and discuss selected topics from the ICANN74 Hybrid Policy Forum, which took place in The Hague in Netherlands from 13 to 16 June 2022. Speakers from different constituencies of the ICANN community provided an overview of the highlights and key take-aways of the hybrid ICANN74 meeting from their perspectives.

The ICANN74 readout was moderated by **Lars Steffen**, Director eco International, and was hosted by **Gabriella Shittek**, Global Stakeholder Engagement Senior Manager – Nordic and Central Europe, ICANN Org, and **Thomas Rickert**, Director Names & Numbers at the eco Association.

Reports from the constituencies were provided by: **Chris Disspain**, ccNSO, Council Member of the ccNSO; **Philippe Fouquart**, ISPCP/CSG, Chair of the GNSO Council; **Lars Hoffmann**, Senior Director Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs; **Matthias Hudobnik**, Member, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC); **Manal Ismail**, GAC, Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee; and **Susan Mohr**, ISPCP/CSG, Vice-Chair of the ISPCP.

In commencing the readout, Gabriella Schittek provided a brief overview of the [ICANN74 meeting](#). As a Policy Forum, the meeting was viewed as being of particular relevance for Supporting Organizations (SOs) due to their policy-making responsibility, but was also of interest to all other members with a view to shaping policies. For the first time in two years, the opportunity was available to meet face-to-face. In total, 1,800 participants from 101 countries took part in the meeting, with approximately half of this number attending the meeting on-site. The meeting comprised of more than 105 sessions. One of its many highlights was the presentation of the traditional ICANN Community Excellence Award to a long-time member of the ICANN community, Vanda Scartezini. The ICANN Board also officially announced that [ICANN's Annual General Meeting in 2023](#) would take place in Hamburg, Germany, with eco Association registered as one of its hosts.

Following on from Schittek's overview, high-level summaries were subsequently delivered by the panel.

Chris Disspain, who was one of the moderators of the ICANN session entitled **"Who sets ICANN's priorities?"**, explained that this session grew out of a suggestion made by the ccNSO in 2017, with ccTLD managers wishing to gain an insight into the subsequent 5-year development. At the ICANN74 session, it quickly became clear that different views exist concerning focal prioritization sectors, with these ranging from strategic priorities, to business priorities, right through to operational priorities. One key decision emerging from the session was that the ICANN Board should be more proactive in advising on prioritization. In this respect, ICANN's Prioritization Framework and its associated Prioritization Pilot was identified as a good step in the right direction. As Disspain also reported, the ccNSO itself met over a number of days and held key sessions on topics of ccNSO's governance rules, statements of interest, and conflicts of interest.

In the follow-on readout on **Subsequent Procedures** (Sub Pro), Lars Hoffmann reported on three sessions on the SubPro Operational Design Phase (ODP), which started in January this year and which

is set to be completed by November. These sessions offered an overview on the ODP's internal work organization, which involves nine work tracks. A second key element of Hoffmann's readout focused on closed generic TLD applications. On this topic, the ICANN Board have reached out to the GNSO Council and GAC to develop an initial framework as a starting point for policy development and are also aiming to have ALAC involved. As agreed with other panel members at the readout, a facilitator is required who can organize a mutually agreeable system which excludes extremes.

Manal Ismail proceeded to report on **updates from the GAC**. Two notable developments in the GAC hybrid session – which comprised 80 GAC members and eight observers – included GAC leadership elections (with the window open for nominations until 5 August) and a GAC high-level governmental meeting, which is set to be hosted every second year.

Philippe Fouquart provided a readout on **updates from the GNSO Council**. Highlights included the SOS' Chair meeting, which involved an exchange on politicization in general and working methods and tools, as well as progress made by the IDN Working Group on their mandate. Fouquart also reported that, at the GNSO Council's own meeting, the Council voted unanimously to approve the final report on Specific Curative Rights Protections for International Governmental Organizations (IGOs).

The readout continued with a report from Susan Mohr on **updates from the ISPCP & geopolitical, legislative & regulatory developments**. ISPCP updates included a tech presentation from ICANN's Org team, a recently published white paper on "[Challenges with Alternative Name Systems](#)", and work on ISPCP's charter. Mohr also touched on updates from the rich and dense second geopolitical, legislative & regulatory development plenary, including the various activities that the ICANN Government and Intergovernmental team is tracking. For example, while the ITU World Telecommunication Conference (WTDC) was just wrapping up, it was noted that a proposal on IPv6 Plus was not accepted, with Internet-related resolutions to be discussed at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference later this year. In addition, recommendations had been made to the forum participants to keep a lookout for two OECD reports – one on DNS security, and a second on security routing – due to be published in the third quarter of 2022. One of several legislative developments referred to at the plenary was the European Commission's NIS2 Directive, which is expected to be approved by September 2022, with Article 23 of the directive addressing issues such as the accuracy of domain registration data. Furthermore, ICANN will soon be publishing an advisory on aspects of China's [Personal Information Protection Law \(PIPL\)](#). In closing up, Mohr reported that, on its part, ICANN had updated two [country engagement publications](#) on Russia and China, which are available on their website and which continue to encourage the community to monitor and follow relevant deliberations to offer positions or statement to the relevant policymakers.

In providing a readout on the **updates from the ALAC**, one of several aspects reported on by Matthias Hudobnik was the "At-Large EURALO Policy Session: Shaping the EU's Digital Future: Sovereignty, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks". Within the session, a review took place of the European Commission's 2020 announcement of policy objectives for cybersecurity and technological sovereignty, with the session attempting to identify where processes stand today, the potential outcomes that are likely to arise, and how these are likely to affect ICANN.

In moving on to the final topic of DNS Abuse, four panel members provided their take-aways from the **sessions on DNS Abuse**.

- 1) The GAC Public Safety Working Group is continuing to advocate for measures to combat DNS Abuse. The GAC session on this topic included several inputs, including a presentation from Japan as a follow-on from two previous ICANN meetings and a presentation from the DNS Abuse Institute on a [new centralized DNS Abuse reporting tool](#).
- 2) The ccNSO is at the early stages of discussing DNS Abuse in the ccTLD world, with five ccTLDs having presented their means of handling abuse at their session.
- 3) Work was reported to be in progress in the GNSO Council, which has formed a small team of interested Council members to consider various aspects of DNS Abuse and whether policy-related efforts on gTLDs would be necessary.
- 4) The ALAC session involved a range of speakers on the topic of DNS Abuse and emphasized the need to apply more focus to details on how DNS Abuse is defined and policies enforced, as well as the value of collaboration on DNS Abuse from an end-user perspective.

In rounding off the readout on the topic of DNS Abuse, Thomas Rickert referred to the new eco Association [topDNS Initiative](#). He also highlighted that non-ICANN sections of the Internet industry tend not to use the term DNS Abuse; instead, they regard abuse in terms of scenarios that harm customers or third parties. Given that ICANN itself has a limited technical mandate and bylaw restrictions, he stated a need for ICANN to “step out of its own bubble” and to increase its efficiency through becoming more inclusive of other types of Internet infrastructure, such as hosting companies.