
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's almost five after, so why don't we go ahead and get started? I know we have a minimal amount of people who might've been able to join, given the travel schedules and everything. We did want to take the opportunity to do this call just to take stock of where we are, and see if there's anything that we need to start planning for going into the ICANN week.

Fadi, can I turn it over to you just for some intro remarks, and then we could ask everybody for an update on where they stand on their processes?

FADI CHEHADE: Sure. It's the time of Muslim prayer here in Marrakech, so there's a lot of background noise, my apologies to all of you. I just landed in Marrakech a couple of hours ago, and the newspapers here had the main story that all the chartering organizations have already approved your proposal. I'm not sure if you saw that already in Paris.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So we can go home?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That's an excellent thing. That's really [inaudible]. Well done, Fadi.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

FADI CHEHADE:

I thought you'd like to hear that. That means you win. I think we're all here to see that too, I guess. I believe that we have the opportunity, as I'm sure much of you know. We missed you a little bit last week as your team, and your coach there, and the rest of the great people at the CCWG were wrapping things up. I hope you've been following, and you're up to date to what we have been able to do together.

Now, I think we're in this final bit. I just saw Larry on Friday in Madrid during the Nightingale Council meeting where he and I attended. I'm not sure if Larry was able to join us on the call today, but my brief conversation with him was just to reassure him that it seems like most chartering organizations are steadily moving towards getting their work done here.

I was also in Spain this morning, and I met with members of the Spanish Government, and the GAC delegation. Frankly, I'm not detecting from any of the quarters I'm talking to at the moment any appetite for slowing down the delivery of the final report to the board, and eventually to the U.S. Government on the 10th of March.

It seems like, at least, the momentum is now towards that. That doesn't mean groups don't have to still go through full deliberations. It also doesn't mean that groups will not have reservations about the spots of the recommendations, that's normal. I mean, in fact that's good. That's part of the deliberative process that we should work on. I'm not, at the moment, frankly, hearing about anything that would delay us from finishing our work.

I'm not sure if any Board members have been able to join on this call today. Typically we ask Bruce, at least, if he can to be with us, and I think [Pierre] who is on the call. I think I can say that the Board is very much in the mode of moving forward at this stage, and receiving, hopefully, the chartering organizations approval will make that, or at least chartering organizations final decision here will allow us to move very quickly through the Board process, and the Board has left me and Theresa with enormous flexibility on how and when we schedule things. I just saw Steve at the airport, and he has made it clear to me that the Board does not want to delay this process in any way. Never wanted to, and never wants to at this stage. We just are prepared to receive the great work that will come on Wednesday night.

I think the ccNSO is now scheduled last, Theresa, in terms of when they were first [inaudible] to actually go through the formal process of approving. Is that the last one [inaudible] Wednesday?

THERESA SWINEHART:

Yes it is. Then I'll ask Alissa to talk to this. I think the ICT is just going to reconnect with the CCWG just to make sure everything is set. ccNSO is the last one, together with the GNSO for Wednesday the 9th, is what we're currently understanding. SSAC just approved today, so we just received notification from SSAC. I don't know [inaudible].

FADI CHEHADE:

That's a good place for you, Theresa, to pick it up from here, and to kind of give everyone an update on where we are, to take stock of things,

and to also know what else can we all do together to facilitate the process. Please, take it from here.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Okay, thank you Fadi. For those of you in the Adobe room, and I realize that some can't be on it given the schedules, we were just posting the week's synopsis, or the end of February into the 10th of March synopsis that we had discussed on the last call.

As we don't have some of the supporting organizations and advisory committees on, I'll just run through, quickly, what we understand. The chartering organizations sign off to be. I'd like to turn it over to Alissa, and to Jonathan, and to Leon to talk through where they have everything.

Right now, as I mentioned, we've got news just now, actually, that SSAC had signed off on it as a chartering organization, and the accountability one. Our understanding in the staff supporting the different SOs, just working with the schedules, that the ASO and [inaudible] if you can talk to this, is looking for comments. ALAC is looking to take a vote on the 6th of March with the possibility to ratify either then or on the 9th of March at the latest. The GAC is intending to finalize their discussion hopefully by the 8th of March, by Tuesday, and then again the GNSO by the 9th, and the ccNSO by the 9th or 12th. That's the information that we have from the team supporting a different SO and ACs as chartering organizations for this.

I'll have Brad talk a little bit later what we have T'ed up, assuming everything is going according to the timeline that we're looking at of the

10th. As Fadi had mentioned, the Board has made it clear on the flexibility to make sure that they can be receiving things as it comes in. Alissa, could I turn it over to you to give an update of where the ICGs thinking is? I know they had a call earlier this week. Then Jonathan, over to you, and then Leon, over to you, and [inaudible] if then you could also weigh in on where the ASO is.

ALISSA COOPER:

Sure, happy to, Theresa, thank you. The ICG had a call yesterday where we approved our final text. If you will remember, the report that we published out of the Dublin meeting had placeholders in it, essentially pointing to the facts that there was one outstanding dependence, which was we were waiting for the CWG to confirm the CCWG proposal and meet its requirements. We have a version now that replaces those placeholders for appropriate finalized wording to indicate that the dependency has been met.

We have approved the proposal for forwarding to the board, and to NTIA. The consensus was, in the groups, that people wanted to wait to actually do the forwarding until we're confident that the CCWG proposal on which the CWGs indication was based is final and it's not going to change any further.

What that means is that our current plan is to wait until March 10, assuming everything goes well, and send the proposal to the Board once it's clear that the CCWG is also going to send down its proposal to the board, and that the proposal isn't going to change, and the CWG isn't

going to need to revisit the question of whether the requirements have been met.

That's our current plan right now. Our plan in the alternative is if things don't work out that way is to schedule a conference call for sometime after Marrakech, but we didn't really define what we need to do in the alternative instance, other than we will need to discuss it going forward. That's the current plan.

The only question that arose out of our meeting that it might be useful for ICANN Staff to address is I had sent around – some people hadn't seen the scorecard that I think was on the ICANN Twitter feed showing the checkbox for the CWG. I guess now there would be one for the SSAC as well. We were wondering if that is going to be posted somewhere as a stable reference. There was a little bit of discussion about when do we really know if all the chartering organizations have approved or what have you. That was kind of a question or suggestion that came out of our meeting, and if we can have that posted some place, and have the reference to it so that people can be checking it, and feel confident that everything is in order before we send the proposal on, I think that would help us out.

I think our current plan is to attend the CCWG meeting that is scheduled for the morning for March 10, and effectively send our proposal as soon as the CCWG sends its proposal, essentially, so they arrive at the Board at the same time.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Great Alissa, thank you. This is really helpful, also, on now the timing of waiting to hear back from the CCWG on the chartering. Why don't we, during the week, just keep each other posted on that? That also allows us to do some of the planning in the context of when the board might be receiving things as well. I know we'll have a chance to catch up and keep an eye on all these things.

On the scorecard, yes, absolutely we will be posting that, and I'll work with the team to make sure that that's in a visible area, and everybody can see that. The sign up would be when there's a formal sign off by one of the chartering organizations obviously. We'll make sure to get that posted in a visible area, easily accessible to everybody, and that when it gets updated that we get that sent out.

Any questions for Alissa with regards to the ICGs timing and the next steps for the ICG? None? Okay. Jonathan, why don't I turn it over to you for the naming side?

JONATHAN ROBINSON:

Sure Theresa, thanks, and hello everyone. As I expect many or all of you know, we – that is the CWG Stewardship – reviewed the CCWG accountability proposal to test whether or not it met the dependencies we had set previously. The scope of the CCWG work was clearly well beyond meeting whatever requirements we had. But, in essence, a subset of the work that the CCWG did was to meet the dependencies set up by the CWG Stewardship from the Naming Community.

The letter we sent to the CCWG on Monday concerned that the supplementary proposal had, indeed, met our dependency. We were

very pleased to be able to do that, and it was a significant moment, and significant milestone. It was great to do that. We copied that communication to the chartering organizations so that they could conduct their approval processes of the work of the CCWG accountability in the knowledge that it had met our requirements, and that it was not something they needed to specifically or explicitly concern themselves with. Moreover, we sent that to the ICG so that Alissa and her Vice Chairs on the ICG could also know that they were in a position to know that providing – and this is the key point I guess – that the CCWGs accountability proposal was supported by the chartering organizations, all the blocks fell into place.

Critically, our confirmation of the dependencies having been met does not presuppose that the chartering organizations have approved the CCWG accountability proposal. Of course, like many of you or all of you, we are hopeful that that will be the case, and I know the timeline is just being discussed.

The focus of the CWG is clearly shifting and has been for some time towards oversight of and collaboration with ICANN Staff on the implementation work. And that work, it's probably suffice to say, is going well, and we are working effectively with the ICANN team, working on implementation.

One of the key areas where we'll all need to join the docks is making sure that the work on bylaws is coordinated. That's both for the logical coordination of the work, but also to ensure that there are no unnecessary costs incurred because this is just good business sense, and

also has become a sensitive issue in the likes of the cost overruns with all of this work.

I think, Theresa, that covers it reasonably succinctly. I'm open to any questions or issues arising from that update. Thanks.

THERESA SWINEHART:

That's great, Jonathan, thanks so much. Any questions for Jonathan? No? Okay. Congratulations, that was really a huge accomplishment with the interdependency, so congrats on that. [inaudible] if I could turn it to you and Leon?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Sure Theresa. I think a lot has been said already about where we stand in the Accountability Group. It was very helpful, Theresa, to highlight the different schedules from the various chartering organizations. I think what is going to be critical is that in order for our group to submit the report to the ICANN Board, we will need to receive notifications of the decisions from the chartering organizations, and ensure if there's, of course, any type of reservation, or ambiguity about the approval that might be dangerous to maintain the timeline. We really need the notifications of this decision.

I would like to really stress, and that's probably for the various ICANN teams supporting the chartering organizations that not only do they have to pass resolutions in their respective councils or organizations, we also need the paperwork like SSAC just did in order to provide them to the ICANN board, because that's really what our charter says that we

need to provide notifications of the decisions from the chartering organizations as part of what we submit to the ICANN board. That might make it difficult for our group to obviously provide this on the 9th as mentioned on the slide which is in the AC room.

We might have to connect them, discuss this in the CCWG before forwarding it to the ICANN board. We have an appropriate meeting scheduled at the beginning in the morning of the 10th, where I think we'll have some fine tuning on the hour-by-hour timing of the delivery. Let's not neglect to offshoot that aspect because we want it to run quite smoothly, and not give the impression that there's anything running afoul here.

That being said, we'll spend a lot of time obviously engaging with the various chartering organizations during the Marrakech meeting. I think there's, as Fadi was saying, a good sense of people wanting to accept a compromise. It's certainly something that we need to remain very careful about, especially in the context of the high-level ministry, and all the political pressures that might happen during the week.

We are cautiously optimistic, once again, and we really welcome some coordination from the various ICANN support teams, supporting the various chartering organizations so that information flow is efficient. And also that the timing of the decisions are notified quite quickly.

Finally, to answer Alissa's point about the dating on the chartering organizations feedbacks, we'll be dating a specific page on the CCWG accountability wiki so that it's almost real time, implemented with a

scorecard that has been prepared by Hillary and the ICANN team. I think we'll try and be as real time as possible on that.

I think that I would keep it at this for this update, and turn to Leon if there's anything else. Leon?

THERESA SWINEHART: Great, thanks so much. Any questions to [inaudible] or Leon? Leon, I see you don't have audio. Any questions to [inaudible]? Okay, great. Let's see, Leon's typing something in the room. One second. I'll give him a minute here. He's at the airport on his way to Marrakech [inaudible]. Fantastic. [inaudible] on the ASO, do you have any updates for us on that? I know that there's been a call for input and feedback. I saw the email there, but any updates you have on that would be great.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Unfortunately, I think I missed that call, Theresa, and I really, unfortunately, don't have any updates on that.

THERESA SWINEHART: Not a problem at all.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Did you want my comments on the CCWG?

THERESA SWINEHART: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: As you may or may not know, RSAC is not a chartering organization for the CCWG. However, we did have changes to mission that impacts RSAC or ICANNs mission statement. We worked closely with you, as you know, in submitting some language, which we turned over to the CCWG. We are not a chartering organization. I wasn't sure if you were aware of that.

THERESA SWINEHART: That's right, exactly. We had worked on the mission language, which you recall, so thank you very much for your help on that. That was [inaudible].

I see we don't have anybody from any of the other SOs or ACs on the phone at this point.

Okay, great, well I think this provides us with a good overview. I think it'd be important and helpful for all of us to stay in close contact, as well on the ground in Marrakech, and if there's anything that we can do to help out, and to your words of wisdom are very good on the chartering organizations to make sure that the materials are ready so they can send something in just as was done for SSAC [inaudible].

FADI CHEHADE: Theresa, I have a quick question if I may.

THERESA SWINEHART: Yes, yes. Please, please.

FADI CHEHADE: If you could share with those on the call, what is your view and your staff's view now as to what I would call potential risk areas that may delay or derail the process? What is your assessment of what these could be right now? Is it simply the continued focus on the GAC and the GNSO? Is this where there is some concern? Where are you hearing we should keep our focus, at least in terms of supporting the organization, and in short we stay on time?

THERESA SWINEHART: My observation has been, and the assessment right now is that within the GNSO and within the GAC, the GAC's still having some conversations [inaudible] coming into the meeting, and trying to determine how they sign off on this. In the GNSO they had a call on Monday, and some of the representation and numbers and participants in the GNSO had raised some additional concerns on the CCWG list. My sense is, is that there could be some risks in the GNSO and how that sign off occurs. Hopefully the report, as it reflects in the consensus filled out on the report, is reflective of everybody's views, so those areas can be [inaudible] either in the areas of Work Stream 2, or as part of the implementation overall. That would be one area of risk that I would see. The other would be in the GAC if an agreement can be reached there. That's what I've been hearing just from the discussions on the list.

I'm hopeful, though, when everybody comes face to face, and sees the enormous amount of work that's gone on, and what it's really taken to

reach consensus on, really, two sets of recommendations from the ICG and the CCWG with global input, that we can move forward on this, and realize that compromises are compromises in order to get this done. That would be my assessment on those two. Others may have other views, but that's where I see the list.

FADI CHEHADE:

Okay. One other question from a practical standpoint. The current plan is that if the board receives the green light sometime late on Wednesday or early Thursday, they will have the board meeting, review what they need to review, issue a resolution sometime on Thursday. That could happen in the public forum time or some other time, again, to be determined. But that's assume it happens during the board meeting already scheduled on Thursday afternoon. At that point, the plan right now is for what, the board to pass the resolution, to essentially formally "give the proposal to the U.S. Government?" I will be there with Steve. We will either mail it right there, or should a representative of NTIA be there, we'll give it to them. Am I following the plan correctly just so everyone hears kind of a little bit what we have planned?

THERESA SWINEHART:

Yes.

FADI CHEHADE:

We would try to keep the ceremonial component of this, if I can be direct here, somewhat formal and sober, and then we could then later,

in that evening, during the normal celebration that we do at the end of the ICANN meeting, we could then do whatever we wish to do together with the ICG and CCWG, and CWG to “celebrate” the amazing work this community has done to finish this report.

I just wanted to make sure we’re in sync here, and I because I’ve been traveling, and that also the leaders of the ICG, CCWG, AND CWG who are with us, are in sync with us as to this simple concept of separating the formality, and the massive achievement of this from the celebratory fees.

Then there’s the press spot, which I wanted some clarity on from you. Is there going to be press work. I understand our team has been working on that. Is that going to happen between them, the board resolution, and the ceremony in the evening? Give us some sense of that, and then let’s make sure our colleagues are in sync with us on this. Again, I’m sorry, I don’t mean to sound like I’m jumping the gun on all of this happening, but I think it’s good since we have them all on the phone to make sure we agree how we do this, so we’re not scrambling last minute. I know you’ve been thinking of this, Theresa.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Yeah, absolutely. You have it spot on, Fadi. It’s completely what we’ve been preparing for. As we had talked about on the last call, the board has obviously been looking at these documents, and at the proposals themselves. Assuming that there’s no changes to them in what is being received, so that they reflect the CCWG proposal as it was sent to the chartering organizations, and with the ICG proposal as it’s been signed

off now. The board is prepared to move quickly with both receiving the two reports, and the two sets of recommendations, and on Thursday, at our session, to be passing the two resolutions, and do the transmittal to NTIA. With that, obviously in the public forum standpoint, having to pass the resolutions and the transmittal takes place.

Then I'm going to ask Brad, actually, if you could just talk a little bit about just the, be prepared to inform the media, and have an opportunity for that from a communications standpoint as well. The idea was that in the evening, we have the get together that we've always had, but we would use that for, obviously, a more celebratory and toasting everybody as Fadi has outlined during the public forum session. Just make sure that we have the transmittal and just a reflection of receiving the proposals and transmitting those on, and then toasting everybody, clearly, in the evening at the evening in the Thursday session.

If anybody has any questions about all this, please feel free to let me know. We're watching, obviously, the stages carefully, keeping the board apprised, and we're preparing for the Board and the Board resolution aspect around this. We've had two Board informational calls on both sets of proposals. There are three in tune with what has been transmitted to the chartering organizations from the CCWG side and also on the ICG side.

Brad, can I turn it to you just to talk a little bit about the communications part in the media? Then I saw that Alissa had something in the chatroom that we can address as well, where she's referencing the coordination with the ICANN coms team, so we have a

good sense of what's happening for Thursday. Brad, can I turn it over to you?

BRAD WHITE:

Sure Theresa, thank you everyone. And, uh, hello to all. Let me elaborate a little bit on what's been laid out, what Theresa just laid out. We talked yesterday. We discussed this with the various IANA Coms teams, and got good acceptance of the proposal that I'm about to lay out for you. This is contention, of course, on the chartering organizations giving their blessing to the proposals, the Board getting it. The Board sign off or endorsement of it at their Board meeting, following the public forum. Which, based on conversations with Crocker, sounds like the way that it's going to happen.

The way we could see this unfolding is Crocker would, at the Board meeting, the very last thing on the is the passage of the resolutions, authorizing him to transmit this to the U.S. Government. Crocker would then say, "Ladies and gentleman," something to the effect of, "this is a historic moment for not just ICANN but the entire international Internet community. I will be transmitting these proposals to the U.S. Government immediately following this Board meeting. This is a community achievement. We want you all to be part of that." It would be in the same room, it would be in the Atlas Mall room where the public Board meeting will be held. We would roll right into an international news conference.

We're not expecting a high head count in the room of journalists because of the nature of where the meeting is. Based on the outreach

we've done thus far, we're expecting a fairly large remote participation on the part of journalists around the world. During that news conference, Steve would basically say, "As all of you may have just seen, the Board has authorized me to transmit this to the U.S. Government." He would then, using the Internet, using email, talk about the appropriateness of transmitting this proposal to the U.S. government over the Internet, which these proposals help to protect, blah, blah, blah. That's a very rough outline of the sort of thing he would say.

The press, the people in the room would then actually be part of the transmittal of this. We very much want the community to be in the room during this new conference. Because their reaction will be captured, and noted, and reported by the media. We think that's an extremely important part. When they can actually see that IMAG camera pointed at the community, and applause as Crocker comments about the work that they've done and so on. We would then open it up to Q&As. Crocker would invite everybody to help celebrate this accomplishment at the wrap up cocktail party that's immediately afterwards.

That's a very broad way out. We're still working on the [inaudible] though. As I mentioned, we mentioned it to the IANA coms groups yesterday. Everybody seems fairly accepting of this proposal. Obviously it may change as things unfold in Marrakech, but that's a rough outline of how we see things going down at this stage. Happy to take any questions.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Great, thank you Brad. Thanks. Alissa, I saw your hand up.

ALISSA COOPER:

Yeah, I just wanted to kind of reinforce a little bit having talked to Brad yesterday. And, to be clear, since before the ICG went to public comment, we've had this communication subgroup set, the ICG chairs and some ICG members have been involved in, as well as ICANN coms, [inaudible] communications [inaudible] for CCWG. There's, as was recorded in communications matters. That's a group of us that had a regularly scheduled call yesterday. Brad had outlined this for us already.

Just wanted to reinforce that I fully agree, and I'm very pleased with the way that Brad has outlined it in terms of emphasizing not just the number of people in the room, but also all of the other people who won't be at the meeting but who were a very important part of the process, and who will be able to [inaudible] in remotely.

I think it is important, actually, to celebrate and honor the achievement in that moment, in the room when we have the remote participation, and not defer all of it until drinks at the bar later. Because that's the moment when we will have the largest critical mass, and when people who wouldn't normally attend an ICANN meeting, but who put a lot into the process, and have been waiting for it to come to fruition will be able to participate, and watch what's going on as well.

I also agree with him that it's an achievement worth celebrating. To the extent that the actual transmission of the emails, or the one email to NTIA, should be formal, and we should recognize what's going on there.

I do think it's important to take the time in the room at the meetings to celebrate and honor the achievement of the community.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Thanks Alissa. I completely agree. I think the recognition of the global community and celebrating that is going to be an important part. Let's make sure that we group together as we get closer to this, and we're reflecting that, but I completely agree with that.

Any other comments on the plan and the lead up into this coming week, and then obviously the 8th, 9th, and 10th, where I'm sure we'll be in very close contact on all of this? No? Okay. Then Fadi, any remarks? Any final closing remarks, or should we –

FADI CHEHADE:

No, no, I'm just [inaudible] in [inaudible] negotiations here in Marrakech to make sure we get some fine French champagne for the occasion on Thursday. We'll make sure that happens [inaudible]. I know that you and your co-chairs were arguing whether we should have good German beer, or good Mexican tequila, or champagne, but I'm for the champagne part. I'll let Leon work on the rest and [inaudible]. Hopefully this will be a celebration. All joking aside, I think we all need to get through this, and celebrate. All is good here. We're very prepared. We're excited to have everyone arrive, and look forward to a successful finish to a almost two-year to the day journey here for us. Thanks much. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Exactly, yeah, almost two years to the day. Everybody, safe travels, and you know where to find me if you need anything, or you're picking up on anything that needs to be addressed. Let's keep an eye on any of the areas that could potentially cause delays, or be some risks that need to be addressed in any sort of way. You know where to find all of us, and just let us know how we can be supportive as we go through the next couple days, and reach this final hurdle. Look forward to seeing everybody here. I've just arrived, myself, a few hours ago. It's beautiful and warm. It's a great environment to be taking this on, so safe travels all.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]