BRENDA BREWER: Good day, everyone. This is Brenda speaking. I'd like to welcome you to the NCUC Membership call on 16 February 2022 at 13:00 UTC.

Today's meeting is recorded. Please state your name when speaking for the record, and have your phones and microphones on mute when not speaking. Attendance is taken from Zoom participation. And with that, I will turn the meeting over to Benjamin Akinmoyeje. Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Andrea. Good afternoon, everyone. I am excited to have you here for this first session of our membership engagement meeting. Essentially, this meeting is to foster interaction within our members, and to also come abreast with happenings in the DNS section and also in ICANN, and for us to become more engaged in our activities, and also knowing what has happened in the last two years in terms of COVID-19 and everything becoming virtual.

So today we have these wonderful speakers who are eager to share with us some of their ideas and thoughts. We're hoping that they will do justice to some of the topics, we'll get into them. I'm sorry about my video. I don't know what's happening to my camera. I think I'll just turn it off for it not to be a distraction at this moment.

So without further ado, I'm going to be introducing the various speakers we have today, who are going to share some thoughts with us on some hot topics or topics they have been engaging in, in order to give us ideas so that we can participate more in our policy development interactions

and we can see more of our members actively engaged. Actually, there's a slight change. We're supposed to have Olga as our facilitator today, but we're going to do more freestyle because she is not able to play the role. I will facilitate to the extent to which I can. We hope that the engagement will be so interactive and we can have various voices and opinions in this interaction. It's going to be highly informal. So please feel free to jump in and ask questions when necessary or when you have a topic of interest. We hope to give each speaker about 8 to 10 minutes to share their ideas on the topics we have suggested, and then we hope thereafter we can have further conversation depending on the interest of participants.

So to start off, we're going to be having Farzaneh Badiei. She's not new to any of us here. She didn't give me her profile to talk to introduce her, but she's very popular. She was an NCSG chair, also an NCUC chair. I think she has exhausted everything within our stakeholder. She's a strong authority in terms of some of the topics we engage in. I know recently she started a new organization, also doing something in this area as well. Farzaneh will be speaking to us about WHOIS and the SSAD privacy protection. These are tough topics for me. So she's going to engage it right now. So, Farzaneh, without any further ado—I think I kept on mentioning that—just take it away. Thank you.

FARZANEH BADIEI: Thank you, Benjamin. Hello, everybody. As Benjamin said, you all know me. But if you don't, you will get to know me. Okay. So I wanted to share my screen because I have these slides. They are not very important but I thought that maybe they will be useful.

Okay. So today I'm going to talk to you briefly about access to and disclosure of domain name registrants' data. I'm going to tell you a little bit of what we're talking about, why this is important for NCUC to pay attention to. We're not going to come to policy position here, but it's just to create a conversation among us, and then we can take it to NCSG and talk about it more.

Okay. So when we talk about this registrant's domain name and the data that they submit to a database called WHOIS, which now it has changed to RDAP, what we talk about is actually their name, their e-mail address, their fax number under physical address. So these are sensitive, private information that domain name registrants, when they want to register a domain name, they have to submit to their registrar. So this is because there was this protocol WHOIS that came about 30 years ago. And this is even before the Internet had become the Internet and it became so global. So it was just among a few people that wanted to talk to each other. And despite the evolution of the Internet and the domain name space, we still had WHOIS kind of the publishing domain name registrants' names and phone numbers and a physical address, mailing address on the Internet. And for many years, ICANN had the policy—we kind of had a policy that this sensitive information should be published.

Why is this information important? I'm not saying that it is not important. But throughout these years, they've used it for cybersecurity aspects. And it has been useful to the intellectual property to assert intellectual property rights.

So why do we care about this? Our mission, the NCUC's mission is to actually protect and to advance the interests of the non-commercial domain name registrants. Also, we want to advance human rights. As you can guess, there might be some human rights implications if you just publish people's sensitive information out and about on the Internet. This is because also websites that non-commercial registrants have might be political, they might be opposition party that they can be bullied and arrested even by the government and authoritarian government, and sometimes even their activity is the punishment is death. So this is why it's important not to publish their information on the Internet.

But then, for a long time, this information was public, and then there comes the GDPR and RDAP. RDAP is going is going to replace WHOIS or already has, and it has this tiered access. So instead of just publishing all the sensitive information, you can technically use RDAP to have access to this information.

Then also the GDPR came about. Before the GDPR, there were all these policy groups at ICANN, like there was this one policy group at ICANN that they tried to come up with how this tiered access would work. However, consensus building was really, really difficult. Then GDPR comes along. GDPR is a privacy data protection law in Europe but it has an effect on multiple jurisdictions, so they had to come up with this contractual arrangement to redact, to allow redacting the sensitive information of domain name registrants.

And then they had to do that—and when I say "they" I mean ICANN—ICANN had to do that to be in compliance with the GDPR. And then they

came up with a policy group that we were a part of that had two phases. Phase 1 was to look at whether this contract that ICANN came up with was in compliance and whether there had to be some changes to it. And then the second phase was about accreditation and disclosure of coming up with a system that would kind of govern this disclosure and access to sensitive, private information of domain name registrants. Do not forget this. It's not nonpublic data. It's your phone number. It's your e-mail address. It is not just nonpublic data, which they love to call it that.

So then we have this SSAD. It's a System for Standard Access and Disclosure. So they decided to come up with a centralized model—and by "they" I mean that the community—that you can get the request and disclose your authorization that would be done by ICANN or its delegated processor, and the centralized model that would allow the registries and registrars. If I'm over time, just let me know. So they decided to come up with a model like that.

Why did they decide to come up with a hybrid model? Because there were some stakeholders that really wanted ICANN to be in charge of this, to actually disclose the data, the personal private data to the requesters as well, as well as accreditation. But then we couldn't come to consensus about that. So they came up with this hybrid model. The recommendation is that ICANN is in charge of accreditation of the requesters and standardizing the access and disclosure, but it's very important to know that they are not in charge of giving the actual data to the requester.

As I said, it does not disclose the personal information directly. That is the registries' and registrars' job. What does it do then? Facilitate accreditation, triage a request, prioritization of requests. There is a beautiful 120-page document that you should go and read to know how it works.

So they came up with this ODP thing again. I can't remember what it stands for. It's some new group that ICANN Org has come up with to assess the potential risk, anticipated costs, resource requirements, and all that. Operational Design Process, that's what they call it. And then over the course of the ODP, ICANN Org engaged with ICANN community concerning this. Then this ODP came up with the cost. I think they also discussed how this SSAD can like comply with the global public interest. That's something that is going on at the moment at ICANN should pay attention to. But it's not within the remit of this discussion.

Now, the ODP report is ready. Board has asked the Council a few questions. Council has formed this group. This group I listened to the recording of their first meeting. It's not clear what the Council wants to do. They want to answer these questions but also they want to analyze this report. But basically there's going to be these two scenarios: Board accepts ODP reports and the recommendations, and then nothing to be done here, which is very unlikely. Or Board sends back some of the recommendations and says they'll fix this to the GNSO Council.

Now, what should we do? Okay. Benjamin, I think I'm out of time. I'm sorry. Just let me say a couple of words here. So we need to form a firm opinion if there should be an SSAD. And if there should be an SSAD, how should it look like, and then try to infuse that idea through NCSG and

GNSO Council. The danger zone that we should pay attention to is the automated services that should not be automated. Also, ICANN getting involved with accreditation of these requesters, that's another part. So I suggest that we get together and do some kind of analysis of this ODP report and see what is the best way of moving forward for the interest and protection to protect the privacy of the domain name registrants. That's it. Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Farzaneh. That was comprehensive. I hope our members or attendees will have questions for you. But I don't know, what would you prefer? Should everybody speak then we throw questions at you, or how would you want to have it? I would suggest let everybody speak then we have everybody send their questions over to the panelists. Does that look fine? Okay.

Our next speaker is the Prof. himself, Milton. I'm too small to introduce him so I'm going to beg his indulgence to just let me introduce him. As one of the early founders of NCUC, he's highly regarded in this community, especially Non-Commercial Constituency. He is a Prof. in Georgia Tech, doing a lot of projects on Internet Governance projects. If you Google his name, you'll know a lot about him. So, Professor Milton is going to be talking about global Internet governance landscape and civil society and digital sovereignty. So I hope we'll get enlightened shortly as he takes on the stage. Over to you, Milton.

MILTON MUELLER: All right. Can everybody hear me okay?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes, we can. I can hear you.

MILTON MUELLER: Okay, good. And you can see the slides?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes.

MILTON MUELLER: All right. So thank you. I have kind of a broader discussion than Farzaneh, I think, in terms of engagement, that people in NCSG need to have a maybe a bigger picture of what's going on. And I think one of the main trends in Internet governance now is this notion of digital sovereignty or what some of us refer to as the fragmentation of the Internet.

So let's go back to basics here. Why did we create ICANN and why do we need to participate in it? I think people have started to forget why this institution exists. So the idea was that the Domain Name System and indeed the Internet was global, that it was not territorial, it was not a collection of national networks. It was a transnational system focused on creating global compatibility for digital communications. And so we said, "Well, if that's the case, we need to have global policymaking regarding the Internet identifiers, the DNS, the IP addresses, and the protocol parameters." So we created ICANN as the organizational embodiment of this coordination and policymaking process. And we

didn't want the DNS to be fragmented into a bunch of national jurisdictions. So he said, "Well, if that's the case, we really have to make this non-governmental." We don't think governments either acting on their own, or through international organizations like the ITU or the treaties would be a good way to do this. One of the reasons we did that was that we wanted the policymaking process to be open to the global Internet community. We didn't want it to be restricted to official representatives of states, and then have a bunch of national policies debating with themselves. So that's why ICANN was created. And of course, the Non-Commercial Constituency and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group was created along with that process.

Now, there is—let's put it bluntly—kind of a reactionary movement that is really gaining steam around the world and that is going by the name of digital sovereignty. You could talk about this very broadly across a number of issues. But since this is ICANN and the NCSG, I want to focus specifically on how this movement affects the DNS. It used to be that all of the pro-sovereignty nations were considered to be authoritarian countries. And the one of the most alarming things about the current trend is that Europe and the United States have also kind of moved in this direction.

So let's talk about some of the European initiatives. I don't know if you've heard of the DNS4EU program. But this is a movement on the part of the European Commission to create, in effect, a name server system that is subsidized by and run by the European Commission or the European government. The rationale for this is some kind of feeling of insecurity that they have because so much of the DNS resolver services that they are using are basically owned by companies outside

of Europe. Typically, they would be referring to the large American-based platforms like Google and so on.

Of course, Internet service providers often provide DNS resolution. It's really unclear what the European Union is trying to accomplish with this program. Because again in terms of security, it's not clear that you're more secure if the person running your DNS happens to be in your country. And unless you think the United States has designs upon invading Europe, I'm not sure that you are gaining anything in terms of security. But even if you did think, "Well, we need to defend ourselves against U.S. domination," the issue is how much are you willing to pay for that? And how much choice of Europeans are you willing to override? Are you going to allow European DNS users to choose their own DNS provider? Or are you going to force them into a European-provided program? If you're doing the latter, you're really going down the road of China and Russia. And if you're not, if you're giving people a choice, then again, it's not clear what you're doing other than subsidizing a service that's currently provided by the private sector.

We also saw another European intervention into the DNS in their NIS2, which is a cybersecurity initiative, is trying to assert some kind of regulatory authority over root servers. Again, they're impinging upon a globalized system of cooperation and coordination among the root servers. I think they might be pulling back on that because of the pushback that they're getting from the community, but it's something to be aware of. And it's certainly something that many countries have thought about, do we want our own national root server as if that really made any difference in terms of where the packets go and how they're resolved?

Now, you can't say that the United States is innocent of all of this. You might think that we are because we're allegedly the people who control the Internet. But in fact, you see the same nationalistic tendencies in the U.S. So under the Trump administration, there's a proceeding going on in the Department of Commerce about infrastructure as a service. That's the IAAS acronym there. In effect, the U.S. proposed that if you're using cloud services in the U.S., the government wants you to collect a lot of identification information about the customers. Again, that's allegedly a cybersecurity thing, and that is not specifically applicable to the DNS. However, one of our "good friends" from the ICANN system, namely Interisle Consulting, filed comments in this proceeding saying that "You should classify domain name registrars and registries as infrastructure as a service, then you should force them to collect all this identification information, and then you should make them publish it." Does this sound familiar? Does it sound a little bit like WHOIS pre-GDPR? Well, of course, that's exactly what they're going for. They're trying to undo the privacy protections that we've instituted in WHOIS through these regulations.

Now, we don't know yet how far that idea will get. But there are many forms of pushback in the U.S. regarding the GDPR protections on WHOIS data. Again, this could lead to jurisdictional fragmentation of the DNS if the U.S. passes laws regarding identification information for domain names that are not applicable in Europe or are not legal in Europe, we could have a fragmented system of regulations for DNS.

Well, you probably heard something about the Russian attempt to make sure that domain names are also handled by territorially located Russian operators. China never implemented this but China's people did

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propose the idea that instead of a global DNS root, every country would have their own DNS root. And if you registered a global domain name, you'd have to go to every government in the world to get permission to have a global domain name.

So this is a very disturbing tendency, and it really runs completely counter to what ICANN is all about. So I think as civil society, as non-commercial domain name users and Internet users, we should have the following policy responses. Number one, we want global compatibility and we want that for names, numbers, and protocols. We want everybody to be connected. Of course, we should allow people to institute their own policies regarding what they want to block or what they don't want to block. But that should be a decision at the organizational or individual level, not at the state level. We should be aware of and critical of sovereignty in cyberspace, the whole idea. We believe that human rights are universal. Am I going over time here?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes, but you can quickly round up.

MILTON MUELLER: Okay. I'm just about done. If you look at the rationale for sovereignty in cyberspace, it's really nothing more than a reason for governments to assert barriers into the Internet. So that's it. That's my suggestion. Again, I think we need to be aware of this broader trend towards sovereignty in cyberspace and we need to be pushing back against it.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Prof. So now, I was just wondering, is it that this proponent of sovereignty or the fragmentation of the Internet had finally found their voices by technically and philosophically finding grounds to fragment the Internet? I mean, according to your book—I forgot to tell everyone, Prof. wrote a book "Will the Internet Fragment?" That's a good read.

Okay. As I said, everybody, please keep your questions. We're trying to do as quickly as possible so that there can be time for questions and answers. So this is a good time to go to the next speaker. I'm going to be having Manju. She's going to be talking about—now, I can't remember what my slide is saying anymore. She's going to be discussing the data accuracy obligation and EPDP. So, Manju, are you there? Manju is one of our policy—

MANJU CHEN: Yes, I am.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Policy councilors in, I think, NCSG, if I'm correct. Manju, you have the next 8 to 10 minutes to discuss with us, to tell us your views and ideas.

MANJU CHEN: Sorry. I'm having problems sharing my slides.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Andrea, can you help us, please?

ANDREA GLANDON: Manju, down at the bottom, do you see the green arrow that says, "Share screen"?

MANJU CHEN: Yes. It's the problem with my computer.

ANDREA GLANDON: Okay.

MANJU CHEN: I have to leave and re-enter the room. Sorry about that. Maybe the one next to me can go first. I'm really sorry. I didn't know. There were restrictions happening sharing the slides. Sorry.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Wisdom, are you available? While you're trying to do that, you can also quickly send your slides to Andrea in case it doesn't work out.

MANJU CHEN: Yes, definitely. Sorry about that.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: No problem. So we have Wisdom. Wisdom, good afternoon. Wisdom is my friend. Wisdom is very popular around the IGF. He's also one of our councilors, too. He has been doing some work on the policy development process as well. But today he's going to be talking about performance of NCUC, individual ICANN world. So [inaudible] we'll be doing as NCUC being vibrant or [inaudible] cold. So let him share his views on what he thinks. Go ahead.

WISDOM DONKOR: Thank you very much, Benjamin. My name is Wisdom Donkor. I'm from Ghana. I'll put the call [inaudible]. I'm going to share some viewpoints. I'll be very brief with what I'm going to share. I do have a slide for this.

Yesterday, I was just going through the NCUC website. And then I think I should bring this for us all to note. Yes, NCUC has been advocated for years. As a body, we need to look at where we started from, and where we are now, and where we think we should be going in the future.

So on the website, I was just reading the statistics. The statistics that I read, we have 480 members from 96 countries, and all 5 ICANN recognized geographic regions, including 107 non-commercial organization and 311 individual. I think this data, I don't know, I think instead on our website, that is from April 2015, I'm not sure if we can look at it and update it. And then also, the statistics also state that Africa has about 153 members and [inaudible] also have 163, Europe has 139, LAC has 85, North America has 127, and we have [inaudible] 85. If you sum this all, we have about 754. And then even looking at this participation, it looks like we just were able to get to a few people who

kind of are participating in this call. That should tell us that there is an issue that we as a body need to look at and see what strategy we can put in place to increase our members' participation in most of the policy work that we have.

Now, looking at the COVID pandemic and then the situation that it brought to the world, I know that this really had an effect not only on ICANN but across all the groups, across all the stakeholders. I'm looking at this why members have no participation. So I'm looking at this on two sides. The first one is looking at the developing world, and then the second one is looking at the developed world. So let's look at these two, and we see why there is a low participation. When you take the developed world, for example, this is the world that almost everything about Internet is there. This is a world that we realized that even during pandemic, government somehow was able to [inaudible] the Internet use. So, everybody even in the house have a reliable Internet to communicate.

But then when you come to the developing world, this is where the issue is. Looking at our numbers of participation within NCUC calls, I realized that there is an issue within the developing world, and then the issue within the developing world is, one, our government when it comes to situation as a pandemic, with this particular COVID-19, we realized that when other countries or developed worlds are making this flexible, our part of the world are making this a bit difficult in a way of kind of increasing taxes on the very platforms that governments in a developing world are encouraging us to use [inaudible] a bit of issue that we need to look at.

Then you have a situation where even getting Internet data to connect to the Internet is a problem. You have a situation where the telcos or the mobile phones that we use, the data that we subscribe, you can buy data for one month, in a natural sense, that data you can just use it within [inaudible]. So, if you have an average person, let me say who is a member of NCUC, at the end of the month he gets his or her salary, then do all the budgeting and maybe a small budget goes into the data, he can only buy data maybe for one, two, three times. And then looking at that span within the months will be virtually difficult. And then within the COVID that all of us went on a lockdown. Nobody actually was having data to do anything. So, automatically there is a gap data we need to look at and see how maybe NCUC can start to resolve these issues to help our members.

Then moving forward. So, when looking at civil society in the ICANN environment, mostly we are talking about NCSG, NCUC, and NPOC. Members' engagement has drastically reduced, yes, based on what I just said earlier. So we need to kind of see what we can do to increase our participation level and also to see how we can increase our capacity building and also increase our awareness to see how we can get new members on Board. So ICANN also need to look at this and see what we can do if possible. We can be [inaudible] all the time. We need to look at it and make a decision. I think COVID has come to stay. We need to overcome that somehow and see what needs to be done for us to return to either a hybrid or physicality.

Now, leadership should also strategize to ensure that we increase our participation. ICANN also need to further the presence of civil society. So we don't need to assume or succumb to the pressure, hence, a need

to continue emphasizing civil society position, registrants as well as privacy-related activities. So now, we all connected to the Internet one way or the other. And all of a sudden, in the Internet, shut down for no reason. Organization like NCUC has the special obligation to stand up for the [inaudible] citizens of the world in making sure that the Internet is on 24/7. The cyberspace, as you see, we need to make sure that we need to increase our members. And if we have that strength, we always make sure that that space is protected, privacy is respected, freedom of expression is a respected, as well as the human rights. We should all understand that decisions are made up of people who show up. So if we have members who have fallen out because of one issue or the other, then I think there is an issue and we need to we need to call for the alarm in order to address the situation. And to round up, I think in order to sustain our momentum within the ICANN multistakeholder environment. Thank you, Benjamin.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. Thank you, Wisdom. You raise some pertinent issues. It's strange enough that COVID-19 has raised issues that should be of high concern to civil society. I was expecting that this would have been the time that civil society would be more engaged than ever before. Yeah, someone has his/her hands up. Can we just hold our question until the final panelist concludes, please? I just want to [inaudible] panelists do, if you don't mind. If that's okay, that is what we could do. Thank you. Manju, are you ready now?

MANJU CHEN:	I think so. Can I try to share my screen now?
BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:	Okay. Please go ahead.
BRENDA BREWER:	Oh, yes. One moment, Manju. Otherwise, I do have the slides for you. Co-host rights again, Manju. There you go.
BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:	Try it, Manju. If it doesn't work, then Andrea can share your slides. Or is it Brenda?
MANJU CHEN:	Can you see my slides?
BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:	Yes, we can see your slides now.
MANJU CHEN:	Cool. Should I start?
BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:	Yeah, please go ahead.

MANJU CHEN:	Hello, everyone. This is Manju and I will be talking about policy engagement from NCSG perspective. I will also touch on the Accuracy Scoping Team, which Stephanie and I are currently representing NCSG on. So my presentation will be two parts. The first I will be talking about how is it like to be in the working group or scoping team as a newbie, which is me. And the second is, what is accuracy about and why should we care?
	So policy engagement. So why I said I was a newbie? Actually, my first ICANN meeting was 2018. So as you can do the math, I'm only four ICANN years old, if you can say that. But I did represent NCSG in the EPDP Phase 2A Working Group. I also am representing NCSG now and the Scoping Team of Accuracy. So I am definitely a newbie participating in policy work.
	Why I am participating in policy work as a newbie, this is someone said to me when I first became an NCUC member and didn't know what to do. Because I wanted to contribute and I wanted to get more involved, but I was wondering which way I can do it. And this person said to me that you really have to just raise your hand and join a working group. That's the only way you learn the knowledge and you get the expertise the fastest and the most effective.
	So I did join the EPDP Phase 2A Working Group and I'm now participating in policy work. And as a newbie, I saw from the participant list there may be not as much newbies in the call as I hoped, but these are the tips I have for newcomers if you want to participate in policy work. The don'ts first. Never refrain from signing up for things because you don't feel like you're qualified. A lot of the calls for volunteers we

get from the mailing list. I know they look terrifying. Why? Because there are a lot of requirements and there are a lot of expectations. But you just don't take them too hard because when you're applying for a job, you don't take every requirement in the job description as seriously. Because once you apply, you have the chance. And a lot of things you can really learn by doing the job. And don't be afraid to ask stupid questions for everything.

And the dos. For newcomers, especially, you have to read a lot, because I think a lot of discussions in ICANN, as far as the policy discussions, it is ages long discussions. So as a newbie, you didn't know what people were talking about several years ago, but it has an impact of why the issue is forming right now. And to know that and to participate in discussion meaningfully, you really have to read up all the material so you can get to catch up with those who have been around for ages. And then you can really participate in discussions meaningfully.

Of course, you have to do your homework. So once you are in a working group, you will find that there's a lot of homework. I was actually dumbfounded by the amount of homework I had to do in the EPDP Phase 2 Working Group. As you can see, I'm Asian so that says a lot when I'm dumbfounded by the amount of homework. But I think doing homework is definitely the best way to familiarize yourself with the topic by writing things down. Especially if you're like me, a non-native English speaker, they really help you to clear your thoughts and to learn to how to elaborate and make your arguments succinct and powerful.

The last but not least, you have to talk to people, especially your stakeholder group. After all, we are representing our stakeholder group

in the working group, and our job is really to communicate between the two to lead the stakeholder group being formed of the policy discussions so that we can form a common position and bring that position back to the working group. So that position gets reflected in the outcome of the working group. So that was about policy engagement. Now I will talk about accuracy.

So what is accuracy? If you bring up this topic in the ICANN world, you might hear someone describe accuracy as this. So this is the part attached to our bylaws. It's the appendix. Some people describe accuracy as appendix of the notorious and protected EPDP. Some other people might describe it as this. I think we all hear the music when we see this picture. That's another knock on the door. And behind the door is wonderful world of abundance, freely accessible WHOIS data.

So, to very briefly introduce accuracy, four hashtags I will use. The first is the 2013 RAA. So in the RAA, there were these specifications that require registrars to check the accuracy of the registration information of the domain names. But by checking the accuracy, it really just means that registrars should make sure that they are able to contact the registrants when they need to. But before 2018, before GDPR, all the WHOIS data is publicly available online, everybody can search for a domain name and look up for the WHOIS data of that domain name. So there was the system back then, and people can report inaccuracy of WHOIS information using this system. But of course, GDPR came into place and then EPDP happens because ICANN policy has to be adjusted to comply with privacy protection laws. And then after EPDP has finished, finally, accuracy came up because there are people who think that the accuracy of registration data is very important but that didn't

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got to be discussed during the EPDP. So that's why we have the Scoping Team for Accuracy.

Why should we care about Accuracy Scoping Team? First of all, a scoping team is not like a working group which makes policy recommendations on policy issues. Scoping team, the only and very important job is they define the scope of a PDP, if there needs to be a PDP. And when they find a scope, and when they decide something and see it is in scope of a PDP, they will be put into the charter of the working group. And the working group will have to deliver outcome regarding the issue. So it is important that we define the scope and prevent something is not in scope to be put into the charter or else they could reopen issues and some people might see it as a chance to rewrite policy that has reached consensus in the community or approved by the Board.

Another point is that for those who argue for the need for accuracy, they are actually argued for data availability. So they actually just want more data. Because how do you check accuracy if you don't have the data? So of course, we don't want that. Farzaneh has already talked about why we don't want that. There are privacy concerns, there are human rights concerns. Because I want to leave time for discussion, I'm not going to talk more about this.

And that's actually about it. If you're interested to know more about accuracy, you can join our session during ICANN73 or you can check our wiki workspace. We have our weekly meeting archived in that place. That's my presentation. Thank you very much.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Manju. That was right on time. So that was our final presenter. So I think this is time for a good time for asking questions. While I quickly go on the list, I think Dorothy has hands up. If you can just quickly ask a question before I start reading the other questions out, if any other person has questions. So thank you, Manju, for taking us through the new journey about data accuracy on the EPDP. Dorothy, do you have a question?

DOROTHY GORDON: Yeah, I have a few questions. So with respect to Milton, I actually did not see a clear way forward, given all that he's described. Because we see powerful global interests involved here, I am not seeing how we are going to reverse the trend. So maybe he can give a bit more detail on his strategy.

When it comes to Wisdom's presentation, I think that he is making a case that it is because of the cost of data that people are not able to participate as they would like as many meetings have moved virtual, and now that creates a huge data requirement, if I follow his argument well. I would agree with him that the cost of data is an issue. But I am not seeing how we can address that at the macro level. Maybe we can look at people who have been active in the past and who could get some subsidy. But personally, I'm not in favor of subsidies.

I don't have a problem with the cost of data. My job requires me to be connected. However, I do have issues with participation because I'm not always able to see the outcome of my participation or the engagement

around the issues for our constituency. How does that actually change what happens in the end?

I have constantly asked the leadership to please document how engagement around a particular topic actually influenced the outcome at the ICANN level. I think if people can see that engagement leads to outcomes, then they will be more motivated to participate. But at most of our meetings, there are a few people who talk and the rest are just listening, and they are not contributing. So this makes it very difficult. It's not just for those countries where you could say we still haven't achieved a full digitalization. And I can also say that the budgets of all governments have been severely impacted by COVID and we see cost of living rises that are affecting everybody. But in some places, the infrastructure was already bad, it was easier to boost it up. And in some countries, we don't have the infrastructure yet to the level that we require. So for me, I think there are a lot of logical gaps in your argumentation, Wisdom, even though you make good points.

And for Manju, I just want to say that I enjoyed your presentation. But you see, this is some of the problem I have with the policy engagement. You are saying that even you as a well-trained Asian student, you get daunted by the amount of homework you have to do in order to understand the issues. And I think that for me, that's the problem that we have. We don't have good communication strategy. And therefore, it's very difficult for people joining in to understand quickly where the principal issues are without wading through thousands and thousands of lines of discussion. We should have those summaries so that people can understand what is the real issue at stake and what are the options we have and what are the different positions that different people

within Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, NCSG, are taking so that we're clear. We can get some quick clarity on where we should be focusing our attention. Not many people have the time and energy to do that kind of homework, and that's why we just keep seeing the same people contributing all the time.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Thank you. I think the panelists would like to contribute now. I appreciate those very important contributions. Let's see what the panelists have to say. Prof., do you have a reaction to her question before I quickly read the other questions?

MILTON MUELLER: I'll try to be quick. That's exactly what I tried to do. I think her point about you need to know what is the general thrust of these policy issues without jumping into the deep end that Manju talked about. And that's what we tried to do at the Internet Governance project and that's what I tried to do in my presentation before the NCSG, is give you the big picture regarding what's at stake here. So in the case of DNS and digital sovereignty, what's at stake is indeed, in some ways, the whole global governance regime and the sort of multistakeholder system that we've set up. So we need to be aware of that, that the stakes are very high if you believe in participatory governance, in Internet governance.

In terms of what is my strategy, I think that's where you do have to get into the weeds and you have to be in these working groups. You have to combine your knowledge of the big picture with how that plays out in these extremely detailed and minute policy proposals that ICANN drags

you into. Because what you're doing is you're negotiating with lawyers, you're negotiating with people fairly well trained and with a lot of exposure to—well, they're paid by the hour, they get to negotiate these things on a long-term basis, and that's what you're up against.

Dorothy is absolutely correct that the reason there's a small number of people that you see over and over again is that some of us have made this investment to learn about these issues and get involved in them. And we know what's going on at both the big level and the small level, and it's quite a barrier for other people. But I guarantee you, if you can do that, you should. There's no simpler way to put it. Like what Manju said, you just have to jump into this stuff and wade through it once you made the commitment to do that. And if you haven't, then don't sit around and complain that somebody is bad because they're not making it easier for you. There's no way to make it be easier. You just have to do what Manju was doing and what Farzaneh is doing and what I'm doing.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Prof. That is clear. So we need to do the hard work. But I also think that there's some point in Dorothy saying which I also relate to if there's a way, although that not becomes my responsibility at this time in space. If there's a way we can connect participation to outcomes. But some of these things are multi-year issues. You don't even know where the outcome is. What might be a good thing to know what were the voices that brought about the WHOIS change. Because WHOIS was an historical accident. That's been a lot of fight around. And finally, was it about multistakeholder different group complaining or was it about

GDPR that brought about the change? So if people could see how this change came about, maybe they can also, "We did this change and if it can't be mapped," maybe, I don't know. But that's something we'll start looking at. But I don't know if I even have the competence or the resource to make that happen. However, we've gotten some interesting advice, we need to do the work. I think it has a reward once you become better at it.

Farzaneh, you are responding to some questions that have been raised by Peter. Do you want to speak out about that? And then after that, Manju could also talk to us the secret sauce in learning, walking around, going through the depth of some of the works she needed to do. And if there's any questions, I'm not picking up. Please, panelists, if you see any, try and address it.

Okay. Farzaneh, do you want to speak about what you're answering in the chat room or you just want to continue in the chat room?

FARZANEH BADIEI: Sure. I have to speak quick. I think that we always have this participation discussion. I think that by making the communication alliance more clear and trying a little bit to talk to the members what the real issues are, but as long as this is not something that you really want to solve and you really care about, then the discussions are the going to be dry and you're going to lose interest because we don't get paid for it. But if anybody here wants to know that longer term, it's an investment that you see the outcome longer term—I know that Dorothy wants to see the outcome and show her the outcome—but the thing is that we are in

a policy world. I mean, in policy world, there's long, long processes that you have to be involved with. And then in the end, you can see that, for example, the intellectual property, interest is not as strong as it would have been if we weren't involved that we keep getting checked and a lot of things that are not just clear from the outside. But if you want to know what you can get out of this, I am willing to tell you based on my experience later at another session. But it's dry, it needs a lot of work, and it's voluntary. There's no solution to that. You just have to get into it and start working.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. Milton had to leave. He had a very tight schedule. I appreciate your input. I don't have any other person who has any other question. We're about rounding up soon. So I don't know if any other person has any question. Manju, do you have a contribution? Wisdom, is there anything you want to say again in terms of our participation and how we can improve it? Just like Dorothy said, it's pretty tough to think about subsidy for those who have not been participating. But I think it will be a good idea of strategy for individuals to equally share their thoughts or opinions on the mailing list, then you can engage from there. Wisdom, go ahead.

WISDOM DONKOR: I think Dorothy has added up to what I said. So what we need to do as a body is to look at it holistically and come up with a strategy to see how we can help our members in participation in most of NCUC engagement. Farzaneh also made mention of communication. So we also need to

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look at that and see how we can communicate. I also don't know, maybe some members' e-mail addresses are not working. We need to look out at this and see how we can increase our participation.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Thank you, Wisdom. I think maybe that's something we should have done. I don't know. A current ABR, to look for comm experts to simplify some of this conversation up to the point to get people on board, and then they have to start doing the hard work that has been mentioned.

Manju, do you have any other thing to say? I think if we still have Ines on board, she might have to tell us a little bit about our ICANN73 preparation. We're beginning to lose participants. Manju, do you have anything to say in reaction?

MANJU CHEN: No, nothing. I just typed in the chat. The discussion in the chat was good and the discussion we were having is good, too. The most important thing is to keep this momentum going on. And thankfully, we had this meeting, we should have it more. Thanks.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Thank you. So we should have more conversations, more meetings like this. I'm happy to share. I can tell you that I've gotten one or two requests by individuals who would have loved to present some ideas so we could schedule even at ICANN73 some interactions.

At this point, Ines, can you mention anything in terms of ICANN73? I don't want to put you on the spot but that would be our AOB, or if there's any other person who has something to share in this conversation.

INES HFAIEDH: Thank you, Benjamin. Can everyone—yeah, I think it's working. Thank you, Benjamin. Thank you to all the panelists, speakers. It was really, really interesting, especially having everything on those slides. So I will follow up with a report on this session.

Basically, ICANN73, we are going to start preparing it together with the EC team. And also we are looking forward to all the speakers we had with us today to make their suggestions and recommendations because we really value your input. Also, I really like the comments and recommendations of Dorothy about more communication and more summaries. This is the exact word she mentioned. I think it's good to have more summaries about the policy work that is taking place. But let's put this in our homework and see how we can do that. I thank you, again, for all the speakers and Benjamin for facilitating this call.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Ines. Even though I put you on the spot, you've done a good job of this. Thank you so much. I just want to encourage everyone. Okay. Andrea just put something on the chat, which is a document that will really help us. It's a routine community digest that try to summarize ongoing issues, hot topics in ICANN, and gives succinct explanations that really get you on board. Since I became the chair, there's a lot I've also

had to learn. If I never became the chair, I would have learned all of that. And I'm still learning. So I want to encourage everyone to step forward and let's learn together on this fast evolving ecosystem. Even if you knew anything before COVID, it's all new for every one of us right now.

I want to appreciate everybody's presence. I'm not seeing in the chat right now if there's anyone who wants to say anything. Thank you for spending this one and a half or one hour plus with us to do this. We want to see your reaction, we want to see your feedback, and we hope that we could do more of this and can get our voice to be heard. NCUC, this is our time to really speak out because some of the things COVID has thrown off really affect us. The commercial stakeholders or people who use Internet for commercial purposes are really gaining a lot right now. But for us, it's time for us to make sure that there's a balance, that our values, our expectations are also met.

I think the presentations we'll try to make them available. Then Peter is also saying that you should please submit your applications for the NomCom. It's time to have more of our people in different positions so that we can influence the agenda in general.

So thank you, Brenda and everyone at the staff that has supported our events. Thank you so much. We appreciate you. Thank you everyone that showed up. All the panelists, we really appreciate you for taking time to prepare and give us something to think about on how to engage. We're very, very grateful. We hope you respond to our call the next we call you. For every participant, please try to be the speaker next time. We really look for more minds to share their views and what

they're working on. Thank you. At this point, I think we can call it a day.

Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]