

Transcription ICANN Dublin
GNSO session Saturday 17 October 2015
New Meeting Strategy

Note: The following is the output of transcribing from an audio. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases it is incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription errors. It is posted as an aid to understanding the proceedings at the meeting, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

On page: <http://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/calendar#oct>

The recordings and transcriptions of the calls are posted on the GNSO Master Calendar page

Jonathan: Our next session was due to be an update from George Sadowsky, who is the Board Member responsible for chairing the new CEO Search Committee. I understand that George is not able to make it to be with us, due to existing or current Board commitments.

So, as a consequence, I suggest we schedule this as part of our discussion with the Board tomorrow when we have our meeting with the Board, and we can take some time out of that to hear from the Selection Committee as to an update where they are in their proceedings.

Which give us the opportunity to move straight on with the next scheduled item, which is the update from (Faulker), I believe, on work that's been going on with respect to the new ICANN meeting strategy, and any progress that's been made on that. Go ahead, (Faulker). Are you ready with the recording? Are you good to go? Thank you. Okay, go ahead, (Faulker).

(Faulker): Okay, this is going to be a very short one. This is the progress that we've made – none. There.

Now, to elaborate a bit more on that, we have had a very good meeting at the last ICANN meeting. We've had numerous calls for input to the various groups from the ICANN whose schedules would be impacted by the new meeting structures.

We've proposed structure how the GNSO meetings that I'm planning could look like, as something for the other groups to work off. And we've received amazing numbers of feedback. As far as I know, FSAC was the only group that did provide anything to us.

So, maybe we should take this brief session as a call to action to get people involved, because even though the next meeting is not the most worrying meeting, when it comes to the new meeting structure, it already is affected.

Inasmuch- the outreach of the day's – the outlook of the days, the planning of the days is structured differently than the current meeting structure, and even though we have the same amount – number of days available to us, we might not be able to have the same schedule. Marika, do you want to go on this?

Marika Konings: Yes, this is Marika, so if I can just add – because I had a chat with (Nick Tommaso), who is responsible for the ICANN meetings on team where he thought things stood at the moment. And I think, as I understood it, apparently the GAC has completed - or just completed - its work as well on the schedule, and I guess that will become available shortly.

I think the ALAC is still working on the schedule, and I think they hope to finalize that as well during this meeting. And then I think the ccNSO was also planning to have conversations during this meeting.

So I think the proposal is - initially there was a meeting scheduled on Thursday where, originally, the idea was that, you know, at that stage you would have all the draft schedules from the different groups to be able to put those together and be able to flag where there were potential conflicts or things that needed to be reconciled.

But as it is just not going to be possible for Thursday, because we don't have all the information, I think the idea would be to schedule on a conference call as soon as we have all of the information and, you know, staff can maybe

facilitate (BED-LY) going through the different schedules and flagging for the community where there are conflicts that will need to be worked through, then, by those different groups.

So hopefully we'll meet before, you know, in January. There is a kind of final schedule that maps out all the different meetings, and that everyone has a basically an idea already how things are going to be scheduled for the next year.

And I think it's well too, to focus point because even though I think meetings A and C you know look very similar, I think, I'm assuming as well that there will be some changes.

Also taking into account what we see now, that there are many, many meetings being scheduled that are either in conflict with each other - groups within groups scheduling meetings that conflict each other. So I'm suspecting as well that this may also be an opportunity to try to work around those, and I don't know if that may require, as well, a bit more conversation within the GNSO, for example, among the different groups and the plans that groups have for meetings that they're scheduling in addition to, for example, Working Group meetings that are being scheduled.

If there's any new way we as a group can start thinking through how we, you know, can at least within the GNSO avoid obvious conflicts - because we have seen it on the schedule that there are meetings that directly conflict. For example, with Working Group meetings, and that we're not aware of what the schedule comes out.

So maybe there is a way to - at least within our group - to really start thinking about if there's a process through which we can do that, or make as well, specific time on the agenda available where we say, look here is a time where groups outside of the Tuesday - which of course is already constituency day - and groups schedule their agenda as they want.

But maybe on other parts of the agenda, where there is specific time for outreach meetings or topics that are maybe not specific to the Council agenda, but still of importance to the different groups to talk about, so that at least they don't conflict directly with policy-related activities that are, you know, common activities for the GNSO. So, basically, we need to be continued this conversation.

(Jonathan): Okay. Heather?

(Heather Forrest): Thank you, (Jonathan[JS1]). (Heather Forrest), picking up on a point that makes. I lay awake at night and worry about how we're going to manage close community working groups in this environment, given that we have a focus on individual SOs and ACs on – in - this meeting schedule.

So that's one thing that I'd like to bear in mind. And I understand from talking to others in the past few days - I've been here on the ground for a few days - that there's a session on Monday, is it, that's going over - I think the other groups are presenting some of their preliminary thoughts on meeting structure. I know that the ALAC has been preparing their input for this. Is it Monday? I could be wrong about the timing.

Marika Konings: There was originally a meeting scheduled on Thursday, but I said, I think that's now going to be cancelled, as there's not sufficient input to do it.

(Heather Forrest): Okay, got it.

Marika Konings: But if there's something on Monday, we may not be aware of it.

(Heather Forrest): I'm sure I'm wrong, but I do know that the ALAC has been scrambling this week to try and come up with something, so we may at least see documents this week if we don't have a meeting. So that response to your point, (Faulker), about silence – radio silence. Thank you.

(Jonathan): So I think I heard three things. I just want to check where we are.

So we have – there's essentially cross-community activity - or various communities are active in this area. Are we proposing that the GNSO will act as a sort of coordinator in bringing them together, other than the Thursday meeting?

You know, this call that you suggested, Marika, are we going to reach out to the other communities and say, look - come together? So that's the one on the sort of cross-community.

Marika Honings: No, that is actually spearheaded by (Nick Tommaso). I mean, the different staff members that are supporting the different groups are liaising with him, but I think it's really driven by (Nick Tommaso) because he needs to know as well what is being done at the different meetings to be able to plan accordingly. So I think he will be the convener, but I will gently remind him if that doesn't happen.

(Jonathan): Okay, go ahead, (Heather) if you're responding directly.

(Heather Forrest): Thanks, (Jonathan). Yes. My understanding, talking to some of the leadership in the ccNSO and the ALAC, is that those groups have an understanding that the GNSO is spearheading this. So I can't speak from a staff perspective, but it's certainly the case that those other – those others at (SOs and ACs) have this impression in that we're much farther ahead.

(Jonathan): That gets to the question of taking the lead or actually – in some senses, I mean, (Nick) can get it – can convene, but the question is who will facilitate any – you know, that's the issue in my mind. (Faulker)?

(Faulker): Yes, maybe as a little background on that, as of spearheading this. This is a community effort. This has to be dealt with by the entire community, and that means not only (SOs ACs); it also involves the Board and all the other organizations - affiliated organizations with ICANN - that have a role to play.

Because if we don't come up with a coordinated schedule, then we will have conflicts in horrendous amounts that will dwarf the conflicts that we're seeing right now.

And so we've taken the staff that was dropped in our laps – in our collective laps - and run with it a bit and drafted a suggestion of what we could imagine our schedule could look like - and that may be seen by other as us taking the lead, where we only see this as us doing the job that we were assigned and trying to figure this out. But we cannot do it alone.

(Jonathan): Okay. So it's clear that, Marika, we do need to channel back to (Nick) that we're expecting his coordination and probably some facilitation with where there are conflicts.

So if he doesn't feel up to the job, you might need to bring someone else in. There's also this point that you said about, you know, whether or not at a GNSO level, we need to find some space to figure out whether we create some kind of, you know, unconflicted points to our agenda to where we have a common agreement across the GNSO that, you know, that others won't schedule meetings during the Council meeting or during certain key sessions.

And over the weekend perhaps – you know, this is a conversation. We have to have – maybe this is something – this feels like a GNSO discussion at a face-to-face meeting. So my suggestion is that we schedule this for next meeting, but you're going to tell me that's too late.

Marika Honings: Exactly. Because, so this is where you get – one suggestion could be - because as (it's always) a Vice-Chair, that's, you know, assigned to at least work on the GNSO schedule, maybe that person could then as well serve as a kind of...

Because I mean, I don't think it requires too much, but it's a kind of – you know, a starting point could just be staff gets together with the whoever in the

different groups is responsible for putting together the stakeholder group constituency's agendas.

Facilitated by the Vice-Chair convener saying this is - from the staff side, what we think is necessary from a policy development perspective. Groups, what are you planning? Is there any way, you know, you can schedule around these meetings and if not, let's have a conversation to see how we can avoid conflict potential.

(Jonathan): I have a related suggestion. And in a sense, this is a job for both of the Vice-Chairs - for two reasons. One, because that's what the Vice-Chairs – one of the key responsibilities the Vice-Chairs have is to work on scheduling.

Two, because they cross – they go across both of the two houses.

So I would suggest that the wrap-up session and/or as soon as you know that the to-be Vice-Chairs - because it's not 100% clear how it's all going to pan out, based on the results of the Chair election, who the Vice-Chairs are going to be.

I suggest that the Council then essentially assigns this task to the Vice-Chairs as part of the intersessional work that they need to do to reach out to the stakeholder group Chairs, and maybe this is something you can touch on Friday when you've got all the stakeholder group and constituency Chairs there on Friday morning – that would also be a time to just raise that this is coming down on the tracks and that the Vice-Chairs will be in touch.

But could they start thinking about that as well. So that would be good. And, in fact, any councilors liaising back with their groups could also highlight this back to their groups on Tuesday.

So in a sense, this is three actions. Councilors, talk to your groups. Council, work on this on Friday a little and then pick up post-meeting with the Vice-Chairs.

Okay, and then finally on this topic, we need to raise it with the Board as part of our – if it's not already in that list, (Mary), I'm not sure. It's already in there? Great. Perfect. Thanks. So if that's already in there, then good. We'll raise that. So that feels like more of – more content than you envisaged. (Faulker), we seem to have made – fleshed that one out a little.

(Faulker): Well, I was successful in coaxing out some information, so thank you.

(Jonathan): So, there's a tactic here. Say you're going to say nothing, and others will fill up the space.

All right. So that's the ICANN meeting strategy and takes us up to 3:00.