

SOAC CHAIRS' ROUNDTABLE – 26 MAY 2021
SUMMARY NOTES

Attendance:

Community Leaders – Alejandra Reynoso, Jordan Carter (ccNSO); Philippe Fouquart, Tatiana Tropina (GNSO); Maureen Hilyard, Joanna Kulesza, Jonathan Zuck (ALAC); Manal Ismail (GAC); Fred Baker, Brad Verd (RSSAC); Rod Rasmussen, Julie Hammer (SSAC)

ICANN Org – Goran Marby, David Olive, Xavier Calvez, ICANN Planning & Implementation Operations and Policy Development Operations staff

ICANN Board – Maarten Botterman, Leon Felipe Ambia Sanchez

Welcome & Introductory Remarks:

David Olive welcomed the SOAC Chairs to the meeting. Goran Marby welcomed the ICANN Board Chair and Vice-Chair and thanked the participants for taking the time to attend these Roundtables. He noted that in the course of the consultation process about improving ICANN Public Meetings, including via the community survey last year, it is clear that the community remains committed to advancing its work. He thanked the SOAC Chairs for their collaboration with ICANN org to develop the new ICANN Public Meeting Community Planning Guidelines.

Goran also highlighted the new community survey that ICANN org will be sending out to around 4,000 individuals who have previously attended an ICANN Public Meeting. He hopes that the survey will help clarify the community's concerns and priorities as regards returning to in-person meetings. It may be possible to have a robust "hybrid" ICANN72 meeting, especially as community members from different locations will likely still be unable to travel in October due to restrictions and public health policies. He hopes that the SOAC Chairs will assist with publicizing the survey in order to obtain a broad-based and high level of responses.

Goran commented that the ICANN org Executive Team value the opportunity to interact with the community. Based on community feedback that these dialogues are helpful to them as well, the next session will be scheduled for ICANN72.

Maarten Botterman echoed Goran's thanks to the SOAC Chairs for the work that went into the Community Planning Guidelines. He noted that the Board continues to prioritize interaction with the community, which is focused on attending and observing community sessions during a Policy Forum. For this reason, the Board will be meeting with groups that requested a bilateral session after ICANN71. The Board will also be reviewing the arrangements for ICANN72 soon, and as such the new survey will be very useful in assisting with the Board's decision.

Maarten also highlighted the recent completion of guidelines for Board member participation in community policy groups as liaisons from the Board. The Board believes that the guidelines are essential and will be very helpful in providing clarity for the Board and community. The guidelines will be published soon so that the community can see what they cover.

Action Items:

- David Olive to follow up with SOAC Chairs on the specific considerations that were raised regarding the establishment of a cross-SOAC ad-hoc group to coordinate the community's WS2 implementation efforts
- SOAC Chairs to review proposal and provide additional feedback, including decision on whether or not to proceed with forming the group at a subsequent Roundtable (e.g., end-August)

Presentation & Discussion: Work Stream 2 (WS2) Implementation

Xavier Calvez (ICANN org CFO and SVP for Finance & Planning) emphasized the importance of the WS2 work and how its implementation has been identified as a priority for FY21 and FY22. He and Mary Wong then conducted a presentation that noted the number and extent of the recommendations and how they are directed variously at the Board, ICANN org and the community, each of which has a specific role and responsibility for implementation.

The presentation highlighted a few specific recommendations directed at the community that potentially require or could benefit from cross-community coordination and prioritization (including timing of any agreed implementation); specifically, Recommendations 1.1 and 1.7 regarding Diversity, Recommendation 2.3 on Guidelines for Good Faith and Recommendation 3 on the adoption of the Framework of Interpretation of Human Rights.

Xavier suggested that the SOAC Chairs could consider forming a cross-SOAC ad-hoc WS2 group, consisting of representatives from each community group, to share information and best practices (including tools), and organize the community's reporting and communications. A wiki space that is built on and related to the existing WS2 workspace can be used for the group, to serve as a repository and communication/publication channel.

The discussion noted the following considerations that the SOAC Chairs and/or the ad hoc group will need to agree on:

- Agree on the duration of such appointments
- Whether and how to determine the type of expertise that may be needed across the group, taking into account the priorities, structure and needs of each participating community group
- Determine appropriate metrics (for implementation progress and outcomes) and use the agreed metrics
- Determine priorities based on metrics (e.g., what problems the recommendations were intended to solve)

Substantial staff support will be needed to support the community work.

There was general support for the idea of an ad hoc cross-SOAC group, though the SOAC Chairs will need to take the suggestion back to their groups and reflect on it in order to provide specific feedback. The group, if established, will serve as the forum for the coordination and prioritization that will be needed in respect of the specific recommendations that require cross-community discussion, as well as be the central "clearing house" for updating/reporting on each individual SOAC's implementation progress (for information sharing, including on possible best practices.)

Next Steps:

ICANN org will follow up with the SOAC Chairs on the needs and considerations that were raised, with a view toward making a decision at the next Roundtable.
