

ICANN President and CEO and NCSG Chair

Details

6 February 2025, 14:15–14:45 UTC

Attendees

Kurtis Lindqvist, ICANN President and CEO
Rafik Dammak, NCSG chair
Russ Weinstein, Senior Vice President, Policy Development Support
Andrea Glandon, support team
Dan Gluck, support team
Carlos Reyes, support team

Notes

The President and CEO welcomed the NCSG chair to the call, and thanked the NCSG for their detailed questions that were submitted before the meeting. The new Senior Vice President, Policy Development Support also introduced himself.

The NCSG chair raised three topics from NCSG members.

1. What specific plans ICANN has for improving the pace of PDP outcomes.

The President and CEO detailed some efforts towards understanding how to manage this issue. As they are new to their positions, they are still looking into it and want to hear more feedback to support their findings. The President and CEO asked how analysis from the ICANN organization could be introduced earlier into the policy development process.

2. What efforts are being/can be made to have a general overview of ICANN work and activity at any given time (information tends to be available, yet it is scattered over several locations).

The President and CEO noted that the ICANN organization has multiple avenues where this is being addressed, for example:

- The Information Transparency Platform is an operational activity to improve ICANN's content governance and infrastructure.
 - This includes creating an integrated ongoing, operational process to govern, preserve, organize, and secure ICANN's public content.
- The ICANN organization has been actively engaging with ICANN stakeholders in usability sessions to gather input.
- The ICANN organization will continue to provide opportunities for the ICANN community to provide feedback when new content is available.

3. The NCSG chair asked about the AFRINIC situation and noted that NCSG has many members from Africa who are concerned.
 - The President and CEO stated that ICANN will continue to support the RIRs, the NRO, and AFRINIC.
 - The ASO is also leading an effort to develop the next version of the Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP-2), which determines the criteria for the establishment of RIRs.
 - The President and CEO asked the NCSG Chair to encourage NCSG members to participate in this work in their RIR community.

Then the NCSG chair and President and CEO engaged in an open discussion.

The NCSG chair asked what the NCSG can do for ICANN and the new President and CEO.

- The President and CEO asked the NCSG chair to maintain open communication and share where ICANN can and has to do better.
- The NCSG chair invited the SVP to join an NCSG meeting in the future to get a better understanding of how it operates.

The NCSG chair shared that the NCSG has differences with the rest of the community, due to some of its positions (including on human rights, data privacy, and registrant protection) and lack of corporate backing. The challenge is how the NCSG can make its voice heard, especially on human rights, when it does not have the same standing as other ICANN community groups. The NCSG wants to be heard and recognized.

The President and CEO said his job is to listen to everyone, including the NCSG. Balancing feedback is always a challenge, and context matters, but he will always have an open ear.

The NCSG chair shared frustration with the approach of ad-hoc responses from the ICANN Board and ICANN organization in the past. In his mind, the President and CEO needs to be someone who can implement consensus policy and balance initiative and priorities. Due to the current financial circumstances, there are limited resources. The ICANN organization should not pressure the ICANN community more.