CHRIS MONDINI: Welcome.

[This meeting is being recorded]

CHRIS MONDINI: Welcome and thank you all for joining us for this brief opening session for ICANN69, the 69th public meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. My name is Chris Mondini, ICANN vice president for stakeholder engagement and managing director for Europe.

For those of you who would like to make use of the live interpretation for the session, I invite you to download the Congress Rental Network app and follow the directions posted in the chat for the session on the ICANN69 meeting website.

In preparation for this week, ICANN community structures have already been hard at work in policy discussions, outreach events, interactions with the Board of Directors, and preparation webinars. This has taken place all virtually, all online, and all thanks to the working of the global Internet.

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Today and during the week ahead, the diverse stakeholder groups that make up ICANN's supporting organizations and advisory committees come together to debate the topics of the day, share knowledge and advance discussions about the Domain Name System, the Internet system of unique identifiers. These discussions cover topics that range from technical coordination and planning, security and stability, innovations in domain names, and much more.

Because this is ICANN's Annual General Meeting, important leadership appointments and governance milestones are also taking place. The fact that ICANN69 has a total of around 100 distinct sessions illustrates the wealth and diversity of the issues the ICANN community addresses. The work is hard even under normal circumstances, and during a global health crisis it is that much harder. Working together, the ICANN Board, Organization and Community are rising to the challenge, finding new ways to work and refining them as the pandemic continues. Already today the ICANN Board held a listening session with the community on the future of ICANN meetings.

ICANN69 was originally slated to take place in Hamburg, Germany, which is why we are meeting during the European time zone working hours. I'm speaking to you from Brussels, which is less than a day's drive from Hamburg. Hamburg is one

of the first places I plan to visit when travel becomes possible again.

Another short drive, if only it were possible, is to Rotterdam in The Netherlands which is where the chairman of the ICANN Board, Maarten Botterman, is based. And I hope to visit Maarten in Rotterdam soon as well. But for now I will wish you all a very fruitful meeting, and I will invite Maarten to join us to share his thoughts.

Thank you.

Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you, Chris.   And, yes, you're very welcome when circumstances allow. Looking forward to that opportunity.

On behalf of the ICANN Board, thank you for joining for ICANN's 69th Public Meeting. Your dedication to being part of this global multistakeholder ICANN community is what allows us to fulfill our mission of providing a secure and stable system of unique identifiers for the Internet, assuring one world with one Internet.

I know you've heard this more than a few times, but what we have experienced this year is unprecedented. COVID-19 has changed the way we do everything, whether it's as simple as

seeing friends and loved ones or as complicated as charting the future of the Internet. One thing is certain: The Internet become essential for those who have access to it. As a result, our role in making the identifying system work has become all the more critical.

However, it's also clear that the way in which we go about fulfilling our mission has changed. The social fabric that normally underpins our work, having the opportunity to share coffee between sessions, to exchange thoughts outside of meeting rooms, or even to correct small misunderstandings in the hallways is missing right now. In the face of this challenge our community continues to demonstrate its commitment to ICANN's mission of finding new, creative ways to move forward. The previous session was an example of that.

Instead of slowing down, you've stepped up to get a number of high-priority issues and projects across the finish line. Over the past few months, we've seen final reports coming out of Phase 2 of the GNSO's EPDP on the temporary specification, ATRT3, and the Cross-Community Working Group on new gTLD Auction Proceeds. And on SSR2 are two reports that we are to receive shortly.

The community has continued to develop its focus on DNS abuse and issues relating to DNS security threats and other

important work has started during this period, like the Root Server System Governance Working Group. I would want to thank everyone who contributed to these efforts.

The multistakeholder model relies on an active and engaged community coming together to share and discuss their viewpoints and ideas. Finding consensus isn't always easy, yet by listening to each other and making certain that all voices are heard and considered when developing policy assures the best possible way forward.

Now it's up to the Board to reflect, deliberate, and ultimately make decisions to take into account the Board's fiduciary obligations. Our responsibility to ICANN, the long-term sustainability of operations, and the law.

Strategic planning provides guidance on the longer term perspective, and we are committed to fulfilling our duties in a way that's transparent and accountable to the community developing policies.

Governments around the world are taking a closer look at how to regulate in digital space today, through legislation such as the European Union General Data Protection Regulation and others. It's important that we help to inform and offer you our expert expertise as legislation and regulation are developed so that

lawmakers understand how their work might impact ICANN's ability to carry out its mission in support of One World, One Internet.

The Internet works best as a single interoperable network of networks. It's up to us to proactively identify threats to this structure and provide our insights and expertise so that any decisions are made with an understanding of the implications they might have for the global internet community.

ICANN's model of governance relies on each of its parts -- Community, Organization, and Board -- to work together in an open, collaborative process. Right now, we are hard at work finding new and even more effective ways to fulfill our mission together.   This includes initiatives like enhancing the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model and our efforts to identify new, better ways for prioritization and budgeting of review recommendations, and for our understanding on how to operationally address requirements that follow new policies or review considerations through the proposed operational planning design phase which will help the Board scope and respond to some of the community's more complex requests in the most responsible and sustainable way possible.

Continuous improvement remains at the core of all we do, whether it's the technology we use or the way we act within and across the different parts of ICANN's ecosystem.

ICANN Public Meetings give us the opportunity to come together and have meaningful interactions that strengthen our working relationships. Let's use this opportunity of ICANN69 to further strengthen our collaboration. The Board stands ready to engage with the organization and community in addressing all the challenges of today and those that do arise that we do not know of yet.

With the recent re-appointments of the board members Avri Doria and Sarah Deutsch, and the addition of Patricio Poblete who joins us on behalf of the ccNSO, he will take the seat of Chris Disspain after his nine years of service, we feel we are in an excellent position to engage with you for the years to come.

And with our President and CEO Göran Marby being offered an extension of his contract until May 2024, we stand ready to deliver on the strategic plan over the years to come with the Community, Organization, and Board working side by side.

Today more than 1900 people have registered for ICANN69, and every person joining us today is united by the same overarching goal: To participate in the critical decisions that help ensure a

future we want for the Internet. While we may have disagreements, always remember the purpose that binds us and motivates us. We are all human. We have dreams. We have goals. And each of us deserves respect and compassion. Together we can and must provide a welcoming environment for all.

Fully recognizing that you are all participating from different time zones all over the world, I want to express my deep respect for your commitment. I look forward to working with you over the coming days and after, and wish you a very successful meeting.

Thank you very much. And please allow me to introduce our President and CEO Göran Marby.

Göran Marby.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you, Maarten. And thank you, Chris. And welcome, my friends, to what will I think the best ICANN meeting ever.

But before I go any further, I want to point out, as many of you have pointed out to me, that finally after all this time, I've been able to move the opening ceremony to the office (indiscernible). My wish has finally come true. Unfortunately, however, I'm nine

hours behind the meeting time zone so it's quarter to 8:00 here in the morning. An important lesson in being careful what you wish for.

So it's been talked about, and when we had a -- we had the interaction with the Board earlier about potential future meeting strategy, and I can only emphasize the fact that the ICANN69 is taking place during very challenging times. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live our lives, even if so simple as to go to the grocery store or something as complicated as charting the future of the Domain Name System. And I know that many of you have many competing priorities right now. And on behalf of ICANN Org I want to thank every member of our multistakeholder community for your commitment and dedication to ICANN's mission and the Internet users of the world.

When I speak to many of you, you share stories of how your daily lives goes on in different parts of the world, and it just makes me feel so honored to be a part of this. And I hope you -- and again, both from me and my team, thank you very much.

ICANN69 is our third virtual meeting and our second meeting we have run entirely remotely.

And I wanted to also take the opportunity to thank my staff who is running this sitting at home, especially the translators and the I.T. people and the policy -- actually, everybody. They're doing -- without them, this would not be possible.

And I hope that many of the lessons we learn over this year would make -- make it -- make us -- giving us the ability to make sure this meeting is run as smoothly as possible.

Maarten talked a little bit about that, but I want to go back to it, which is that we're together.

For me, the ICANN community drives on the spirit of working together and consensus. And for me, ICANN consensus is really that people come together, sit around a table, or meet in a room, even if it's a chat room, and talk about some of the obstacles that exist in the Internet space and the ICANN space, and actually comes up with solutions, and by agreeing on them, go home and implement them. And that is what I think is the real strength of the multistakeholder model.

Which means that the discussion we had earlier today and the survey we're doing about how to do those interactions in the future is vitally important. We really need your input to be able to facilitate meetings, facilitate your interaction, facilitate your important decision-making process in the best way. So please

work with your different parts of the ICANN community and discuss it. Don't just see it as a survey. Take the opportunity to sit down in groups and discuss it. Because that input is needed when we continue.

Maarten mentioned the amount of work that you've been doing at this time and mentioned some of the decisions you've made, some of the recommendations you've made, and the work you're still doing.

It has been a really catch-up effect. And looking back, when we started going virtual in February, we started talking about the effect that would have on the ICANN community's ability to work. You have over exceeded any expectation that is possible.

My job now is to make sure that when the board makes its decisions, me and my org is responsible for implementation.

And as you've seen and probably heard, over the last couple of months, we've done some New Organization internal changes just to make sure that well, do those things even better.

But one thing that we also realized is that some of the decisions that you have now made, some of the recommendations facing the board are fairly complex. And we have always before the board makes a decision gone into a period where we prepare board material, we go through the recommendations, we look at

institutional things, we look at budgets, we look at software, we look at everything you can imagine. And we decided together with the board that we should do that slightly differently and by opening up that process a little bit more for the community. Not for the community or parts of the community to revisit decisions that have already been made, but, really, to make sure that the community feel confident about the presentations we do to the board.

We call that the operational design phase.

So we also believe that that will shorten the time for actual implementation to make sure that when the board makes a resolution, it's clearer about how to implement the decision that is made by the community.

My job is not -- and my team's job, is not to stop, hinder, change anything that comes out of the community. After the GNSO, for instance, has made its recommendation, my job is to make that happen. And so is the board.

But I want to -- so Maarten also mentioned a little bit about the governmental work. But I want to add something to it as well.

When we a couple of years ago started to talk about increased interactions with governments around the world when it comes to legislative proposals, we came up with a (indiscernible) about

how we're going to interact with the governments around the world, making sure that we're not going into the actual policy process, but from a technical standpoint, tell, for instance, that if there could be technical implications of legislative proposals. And we've seen legislative proposals like GDPR has an effect -- direct affect on our ability to make core policy.

But there's something new happening as well. And that is, we also see proposals that comes out of technical venues. One example is, for instance, the new I.P., which is really not in settings that we've always been active before.

And to make a difference between a sort of government interactions, we call this now the technical Internet governance session, where ICANN, as you will see and have seen for the technical paper coming out of OCTO, that we are taking a little bit more of a stand, just in order to preserve what Maarten talked about, the interoperability of the Internet.

Anyway, I don't want to keep you long. It's been a long day or a long night for many of us.

I want to again after this -- after this one, we're going to do something very, very important.

After Oscar will be talking, we will also have the ability to name the first Tarek Kamel community award winner.

It was a year ago when we were in Montreal, we had a session for Tarek. It was one year ago he passed away.

I want to take this opportunity to say to his family, who I know are listening in to this, that I'm really proud to have this award given out today for a very good winner.

So thank you very much from me. Looking forward and continuing the best ICANN meeting ever.

But I have to say, I do miss to meet you in person.

Thank you very much.

CHRIS MONDINI: Thanks, Göran.

The annual general meeting offers an opportunity to hear from the numbering community, which is comprised of the regional organizations that supply all of the world's Internet Protocol addresses.

The Numbers Resource Organization, or NRO, is the coordinating body for these regional registries. And I am very pleased to introduce their current executive council chair, Oscar Robles, to present his update.

Welcome, Oscar.

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OSCAR ROBLES-GARAY: Thanks, Chris. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and update you on the NRO activities.

My name is Oscar Robles. I am the chair of the NROEC, which is the Number Resource Organization Executive Council. I am also the CEO of LACNIC, the regional internet registry for Latin America and parts of the Caribbean.

I really hope that everyone here is taking care and is staying safe and well, you and your families as well.

As you may know, the RIRs collectively hold ten regional meetings per year, with a convened attendance of at least 5,000 people, similar to ICANN's thorough participation. Like ICANN meetings, every one of the five number registries have conducted their regional meetings in an online format, moving all of the capacity-building and community engagement efforts to this format.

These events have seen -- have seen at least the same level of attend engines as previous face-to-face events. And it seems likely that the online methods will continue to support a larger part of our community engagement into the future. There's a lot of work behind these virtual meetings, no different from the traditional ones. But the Internet has been essential to make them possible.

And I think that many of us participating in these kind of online meetings, we have taken the Internet for granted. And I am not the first in saying that without the Internet, the impacts of this pandemic would be so much worse.

That is the reason we should be really proud that the Internet really has delivered. It has delivered like never before.

It is not to say that world wasn't needed, because it was. In so many parts of the world, it has been in demand like never before. Nevertheless, the Internet has been the key element that has made it possible to maintain economic activities, to maintain educational processes, and to maintain the effective ties.

There have been significant changes in the Internet traffic recently, with increased traffic volume of up to 30% in some cases in some of the networks. The content is moving out of the CDNs, out of the content delivery networks, because you can cache video calls. This Internet, not a new one, has made it possible.

There's been an increase in IPv6 traffic as well, because it seems homes are better served than business with IPv6. But the thing is, even with this (indiscernible) or planned changes, there haven't been widespread problems or outages due these

changes. That is also not only a great relief, but also a real achievement by the Internet community.

The original model of the Internet is about the centralized, global, symmetrical, end-to-end connectivity. In this tiny virus, COVID, has shown us how fundamental is the end-to-end principle, how critical is the centralized management and operation, and how necessary is the global connectivity for the society.

I really think we will hear a lot more about this in the future in terms of how the Internet performed during the pandemic. There are lessons for sure. But it's really a great success story which I think validates the current model of Internet technology, organization, and governance.

So let's feel proud of this Internet, of its principles, its architecture, and let's keep working in the governance institutions in a collaborative way.

Thanks, again, for your time. Hope to see everyone in a physical meeting very soon.

Now it's time to go to Maarten Botterman to present the Dr. Tarek Kamel award.

So over to you, Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thanks, Oscar. Thanks.

And just thinking back with good memories when we met first in 2008, somewhere in Monterrey.

So now, as Göran has already announced, it's my honor to present to you the winner of the first Tarek Kamel Community Award for Excellence in Capacity-building.

It was a year ago that the ICANN community came together in Montreal to honor our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Tarek Kamel. As we once again come together for ICANN69, I'm reminded of Tarek's ability to unite us around a shared passion for ICANN's mission.

While Tarek is no longer with us, his memory lives in our hearts and with those who had the pleasure of working and knowing with him -- knowing and working with him.

An Internet pioneer, Tarek was known around the world for his contributions to Internet governance, including his work in establishing Egypt's first connection to the Internet.

To his family, thank you for joining us. Please know that Tarek is deeply missed. You will always be part of our family, and we are so grateful to have had Tarek in our lives. I'll always remember

him not just for his wisdom and warmth, but also his incredible smile.

Tarek, thank you for all you brought to this world.

Today, on behalf of the board, it's my absolute honor to present the first recipient of the Tarek Kamel Community Award for Capacity-building, an award in his honor and spirit.

Within the ICANN community, there are so many people working hard to raise awareness of ICANN's work and encouraging new stakeholders to join and help fulfill our mission.

The recipient of this award today stands out as someone whose contributions and efforts towards building capacity serve as an inspiration to us all. On behalf of ICANN, please join me in congratulating Ramanou Biaou.

Ramanou, I can think of no one more deserving of this inaugural award. It's a privilege to serve on the board in support of community members as dedicated and passionate as you are.

Ramanou has worked tirelessly and has dedicated an incredible amount of time and effort to help the ICANN community fulfill its mission.

The board recognizes the outstanding capacity-building efforts Ramanou initiated and led in Benin and in the Western African

region, including, for instance, the launch of the Benin DNS Forum, the Women DNS Academy program, DNSathon, a hackathon for the DNS, and more. The programs and initiatives he has launched in Africa has opened doors and built bridges so that many of us may follow in his footsteps.

So, Ramanou, when I had the opportunity to inform you that you would be receiving this award, I was so impressed by your modesty, your optimism, your passion. The multistakeholder model thrives because of community members like you, driven by our beliefs that everyone should have a voice within ICANN.

So, Ramanou, thank you for everything you do for this community. Congratulations. And congratulations on being the first, very first, recipient of the Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity-building.

Ramanou.

Thank you.

RAMONOU BIAOU: Thank you, Maarten.

Hello, everyone. I hope that each of you and your family are doing well.

I'm very honored to receive this award. I want to thank ICANN very much for that. This is very good recognition of the work we have been doing for over five years in our local and regional community.

This award thanks me in my chosen path of working for the community. It also gives me energized to continue in (indiscernible). This award is not just mine only. It is also a recognition for all the people I have worked with during all these years on the project of the (indiscernible) DNS Forum, Women DNS Academy, and with the DNSathon.

Being the recipient of this inaugural Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity-building is also an important responsibility. And it will continue to have a positive impact in our community at the local and the regional level.

I will continue to work to promote the work of the late Dr. Tarek Kamel. He has left us all a great legacy in the Internet community, and we will work to continue to build on it.

Thank you again to ICANN for this award. Thank you, everyone.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you, Ramanou.

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Thank you, and look forward to seeing and hearing more in the years to come.

So with that, this session is about to be adjourned, and please allow me to stay -- to ask you to stay tuned. We have an interview with departing ICANN board member Chris Disspain who will be leaving this board on Thursday after serving nine years on the board.

So this interview will take place shortly after this meeting in this same Zoom room. Herewith, I declare ICANN69 open and adjourn this session. Thank you all for being here.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]

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