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BARCELONA – ICANN63 Welcome Ceremony
Monday, October 22, 2018 – 8:30 to 09:30 CEST
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

BRAD WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome opening ceremony. Please welcome to the stage, if you will, the vice president of stakeholder engagement and managing director of Europe, Mr. Jean-Jacques Sahel.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Good morning. It's my privilege and pleasure to act as master of ceremony and open the 63rd public meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ICANN.

Welcome to Europe, welcome to Barcelona.

I'm delighted to see many of you here from all over the world: Our stakeholders, friends from our Internet sister organizations, from the IETF to ISOC to the RIRs, many others. Thank you for making it to ICANN63.

I'd also like to recognize and thank Secretary of State for digital advancement Francisco Polo and David Cierco, the Director General of red.es, and their teams across the Spanish government and red.es, the country code registry, for all their help in preparing for today and for this week of ICANN63.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Today, the Spanish Government is also hosting the fourth ICANN High-Level Government Meeting at ICANN63 to discuss major public policy that will help shape the Internet of tomorrow.

I'm humbled to see so many ministers and senior officials from all over the world, from small islands all the way to subcontinents. Thank you for being here, and good luck on your important exchanges today. This is a special meeting for us. It's ICANN63. That's 63 meetings of this growing community in just 20 years. What a great milestone. What a great journey since September 1998. A lot of people in this room have been part of this growth over the years but there is someone who paved the way to ICANN and for its creation who is not here to celebrate with us. Someone that we should not, someone that we cannot forget.

Jon Postel was a bit of a legend to many in this room. He was never a member of the ICANN community because 20 years ago last week, he died unexpectedly, just as ICANN was created. He had been slated to become the fledgling organization's first Chief Technology Officer. He died on October 16th, 1998, and many people at ICANN view him as one of the God fathers of the organization. So we thought it right and important to say something about him given that our 20th anniversary is also the 20th anniversary of his passing.

As many here know, Postel was one of the early pioneers of the Internet and he later fostered ICANN's creation.

I've traveled the world for a number of years now and I've had a chance to meet many of the Internet pioneers, from my native France to places like Morocco, Egypt, Australia, et cetera. People who literally brought

the Internet to their country when it was just a small network of a few hundreds or thousands of users, not the more than 4 billion users like we have today. And invariably when these people told she is stories about how they brought the Internet to their country, they almost always included Jon Postel. "I wanted to bring my country online, so I called Jon."

He added us to his little notebook. "He made the Internet a reality for my country, for my people. He brought us to the world." What a legend, indeed.

He recognized that for the Internet to grow there was a very real need for an organization like this one, and he helped to build this institution just before passing away. So I hope that you will all join me in giving a round of applause to a man who, even though he is not in this room, in a very real way brought us together today.

[Applause]

Jon, you will never be forgotten. And now, to kick off ICANN63, I would like to call on stage the chair of ICANN's board, Cherine Chalaby.

[Applause]

CHERINE CHALABY: Moltes gracies, Jean-Jacques.

Bon dia a tothom i benvinguts a Barcelona. (Continuing in Spanish)

It is my pleasure to welcome you to ICANN63, the venue of the 20th anniversary of ICANN. What a remarkable time to be together.

We certainly have a lot to celebrate during this meeting. 20 years ago, ICANN was created, and two years ago the IANA stewardship transition was completed. A lot has been accomplished in the last two decades, and there is still much more to do.

These accomplishments have been achieved with our constituencies, our stakeholders, and our partners working together within an ecosystem of global collaboration and trust. It is hard to imagine today a world without the Internet. The Internet that has changed and will continue to change the way we live and the way we work.

It is fitting, therefore, that I start my remarks this morning by acknowledging and thanking everyone who contributed to our successful journey.

My first thank you goes to the long and distinguished list of titans of the Internet world, the people who invented the Internet and without whom we would not be here today. Vint Cerf, Steve Crocker, Leonard Kleinrock, Bob Kahn, Paul Mockapetris many, Jun Murai, Jon Postel, Joyce Reynolds, Bob Taylor, Larry Roberts, Tim Berners-Lee, and Marc Andreessen, among many other great people.

As Jean-Jacques said, Jon Postel passed away on 16th of October 1998, so it is also the 20th anniversary of his death. Simply put, ICANN is the embodiment of his longstanding IANA work. And in a true sense, ICANN is the house that Jon built.

Thank you to the Regional Internet Registries, the Internet Engineering Task Force, the Internet Society, the World Wide Web Consortium, and the wider technical community, who existed before ICANN. 20 years ago, ICANN joined you in your collective endeavor to make the Internet work better for the benefit of all people around the world.

Thank you to the root server operators who, over the years, provided reliable and uninterrupted operation of a critical part of the Internet infrastructure. Thank you to the United States Government for having the fore sight in 1998 to foster the creation of ICANN and the wisdom in 2006 to recognize it was time to let go of it. Thank you to all our stakeholders and constituencies from end users, governments, businesses, civil society, academia, contracted parties, and many others who have helped us become as accountable, as diverse, and as transparent as we are today and who continue to push us to do better. Thank you to the global Internet governance community for their thoughtful discussions that benefit all participants, including ICANN, and for their willingness to tackle the big challenges affecting global public policies.

Thank you to the ICANN org staff upon whom all of us depend on for support and who make the ideas and policies of our community a reality. Thank you to my colleagues on the Board, those here today and those who have come before, for working tirelessly over the years to ensuring ICANN serves its community in an effective, efficient, and ethical way.

And last but not least, a very big thank you to all of you coming together to form our ICANN community. You are the volunteers who give up your nights, weekends, and time with your families and friends all in service of ICANN's mission. We owe you a great debt of gratitude.

Congratulations to everyone on a fantastic 20 years. May I ask you to join me in a round of applause to all of us.

[Applause]

And now it's time to get down to business.

Seven months ago at ICANN61 in Puerto Rico, we discussed ICANN's future; in particular, our next Strategic Plan, our financial direction, and our multistakeholder model of governance. Today I wish to give you an update on the progress we have made in those three areas and what we can look forward to in the coming months.

Let me begin with the Strategic Plan. In Puerto Rico we said that the time had come to work on ICANN's next five-year Strategic Plan for the period 2021 to 2025, and that this new plan will consist of three parts: our vision, our mission, and our strategic objectives.

We started by identifying and understanding the key trends, both internal and external, on which ICANN's future depends, and the Board suggested for community consideration a preliminary list of ten trends.

Since Puerto Rico, we have collectively spent more than 700 man hours working on the Strategic Plan. This includes many sessions with our community in which hundreds of community members participated.

The Board, with the support of ICANN org, also held meetings in which it reviewed the many trends identified by the community. And surprisingly, there were significant similarities that naturally converge into five primary trends. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this work, and here are the top five trends.

On security, you, our community, articulated the trend that would have an impact on ICANN's future as follows: "The exponential growth in security issues is challenging the stability of the Domain Name System and the Root Server System as well as ICANN's ability to finance increasing investments required to ensure continued stability." So that's the first trend.

On governance, you said, "Our multistakeholder model of governance, which grew to fit ICANN's needs, has the potential of becoming less effective and more expensive as it matures and scales up to respond to the increasing needs of our community."

On the Unique Identifier Systems you said, "The rapid evolution of new technologies requires ICANN to be responsive to these changes and ensure that the Unique Identifier Systems evolves and continue to serve the global Internet user base."

On geopolitics you said, "The growing importance of the Internet across all sectors increases the possibility of governments intervening to gain control over the DNS through legislation and regulation. At the same time, there is an increasing risk of Internet fragmentation as a result of geopolitical, technical, and organizational pressures."

And finally, on the fifth trend, financials, you said, "Consolidation in the marketplace, continued uncertainty surrounding the expansion of the gTLD name space as well as market forces are putting pressure on ICANN's ability to support the growing needs and demands of its global community."

These trends represents challenges but also opportunities for ICANN to shape its future. This is still work in progress, and here in Barcelona we look forward to consulting with our community.

After receiving your input, the Board will continue integrating the plan. In that plan, ICANN's mission as stated in our bylaws will remain unchanged.

However, the draft plan will propose a new Vision Statement for community consideration.

The community, ICANN org and the Board have together achieved many of the themes captured in the current Vision Statement, such as becoming independent and becoming a global organization. The Board therefore proposes that the current Vision Statement should evolve in view of the challenges ICANN faces in the future. Our community now has an opportunity to coalesce around a new vision, a vision that will evoke a renewed sense of purpose while remaining within and true to our mission.

The top five trends reinforce the importance for ICANN to work with other organizations that champion the single Internet and prevent its fragmentation, each working within their respective remit.

Accordingly, the Board proposes for your consideration an overarching new vision for ICANN to champion the single open and globally interoperable Internet and to be the trusted steward of its unique identifiers.

We plan to publish the draft of the Strategic Plan for your review and consultation by the latest December 2018. We need your participation, feedback, and input during the public comment period to ensure that what we develop together is a plan that will set ICANN on the right course for years ahead.

Now I wish to report progress on our financial direction. In Puerto Rico I said that a Strategic Plan without corresponding financials is no more than a dream. I am pleased to report that ICANN org, under Goran's leadership, will for the first time in ICANN's history develop a fully costed five-year operating plan that underpins our Strategic Plan. This operating plan will be posted for your review and consultation before June 2019. It will not only show how but also at what cost we will implement our new chosen strategy.

In Puerto Rico, we also said that we must start as early as possible to manage our expenses more carefully and to become more prudent and selective in our spending. I'm pleased to report that together we were able to end FY18 with expenses 10% under budget, therefore offsetting the shortfall in funding. This was achieved by limiting staff growth and by improving operational efficiency without having any impact on our ability to fulfill our mission.

In FY18, ICANN org were also able to make a new contribution of $3 million to the Reserve Fund in addition to the $5 million contributed in FY17. In total, therefore, ICANN org contributed $8 million over the past two financial years, furthering our collectively agreed goal to replenish the Reserve Fund towards its target minimum level of 12 months of operating expenses.

Furthermore, Goran is leading a process to move us into a two-year budgeting cycle. This would allow for budget development process that provides time for more in-depth community discussions and increased transparency. Goran will have a draft proposal for community review and consultation by December 2018.

Turning to our governance model, in Puerto Rico we said we will work on evolving our model in a manner that balances the increasing needs of inclusivity, accountability, and transparency while at the same time ensuring that our work gets done, our policies get developed in an effective and timely manner. There is no doubt that we stand a better chance of achieving this balance if we give priority to what we collectively need instead of what we individually want.

We must also answer the question "What does our bottom-up decision-making process truly mean, especially in a mission critical operational setting such as the one we are responsible for?"

Does it mean, for example, that the status quo should not be disturbed when we cannot reach agreement even though better alternatives exist and the status quo is known to be unacceptable? Does it mean that progress is loud to grind to a halt and scarce resources wasted because

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of polarized positions that do not represent the collective interest despite being well intended and representative of legitimate concerns? And does it mean we allow our internal processes to bloat in complexity to the point where we are unable to keep pace with the speed of external events that impact our future? Or is there a way of achieving consensus that takes into account the views of all parties and, at the same time, is effective in reaching conclusions and solutions?

These are tough issues, but I sincerely hope that we have the will and the courage to address them in a collegial manner for the common good of our community and the billions of Internet end users. I am pleased to report that before the end of the current fiscal year, the Board intends to post a consultation paper seeking your views on the status of ICANN's governance model and how should it evolve. It is, after all, one of the top five trends I listed earlier and that you, the community, have identified.

In closing, I want to highlight how well ICANN has functioned in the two years since the IANA stewardship transition. All of us -- the community, the Board, and ICANN org -- have gained experience with our expanded bylaws and accountability mechanisms. And when faced with the global data protection and privacy challenges, the Board assumed its responsibility by adopting a Temporary Specification for the contracted parties, and the GNSO met its obligations by launching for the first time ever an Expedited Policy Development Process for gTLD registration data. The launch of the EPDP marked a major milestone for the GNSO and ICANN.

These examples demonstrate that progress is achieved when together we work towards a common goal, when we are transparent, and when we trust each other.

As we look to the future, let us not forget that ICANN's technical remit is specific and focused, but we cannot and must not become complacent nor operate in a silo. We will therefore evolve with the Internet's technical evolution. We will follow closely advancements in technology and assess their impact on ICANN so that our role as the trusted steward and guardian of the Internet's unique identifiers remain relevant and effective.

We will collaborate with others, formal lines, continue to serve the global public interest, and do what is right for the single Internet, and do it well. And we will secure operational excellence of the IANA functions for the benefit of all its customers.

Let us be proud of our achievements and confidence in our future. Our challenges are many, but our resolve is great. Together we will rise to the challenges ahead as we have always done in the past, and we will shape ICANN's future successfully.

Thank you for participating in ICANN. Your work in Barcelona is key to our success, and I wish you a very productive week.

Thank you.

[Applause]

Before handing over to the next speaker, I wish to say moltes gracies one more time to our Spanish hosts and thank all the countries that welcomed ICANN public meetings over the last 20 years. And now I have the pleasure of introducing Goran Marby, president and CEO of ICANN org.

[Applause]

GORAN MARBY: Good morning!

So here we are again. I'm wearing a tie this morning, and as always, I will start by complaining that we are here in the morning.

Since Marrakech, I have been trying to convince the SO and AC leaders to do the opening session in the afternoon and combine it with cocktails.

[Laughter]

And I asked you to help me with that, and so far they have not listened to me. It says something about the role of being the president and CEO. It is one of my four ties.

So 20 years ago ICANN was tasked with ensuring the stable and secure operations of Internet unique identifiers. We stay true to that today.

And I actually would like to be -- one person or one entity we haven't introduced is the Internet users of the world. On their behalf, I would

like to thank you. Without you and your hard work, we wouldn't have had the Internet we have today. Thank you very much to you.

[Applause]

And it's kind of remarkable that during 20 years we stayed true to our mission, to our course. A lot of things have changed in the world since then. One major difference that we see today is that we now see legislative proposals that have a direct effect on how we do things and how we make policies. We have to stay true to our mission. We are not a political organization. We perform technical tasks. Our job is to figure out how we can work with governments so when they make legislative proposals, it doesn't have unintended consequences who can hurt the ability for people to connect to the Internet or connect with each other on the Internet.

A part of my job is to make sure that ICANN Org is ready to perform all challenges in a very transparent way. And sometimes I think that the only thing you think I have done the last year is GDPR.

And I had to admit, when we invented a process that came up, which became the expedited PDP, we had never done anything like that before. And it shows the strength of the ICANN community and ICANN as an institution that we sort of on the fly invented a process for something we've never done before: How to make ICANN Org legal. And we did that in nine months, which led up to the temp spec which we did in such a way so that we can turn the whole question back to the community. I thank you for that. You worked very hard together with me to make that possible.

And the people in the temporary spec, I'm not worried. I think you're performing a very good job in a very ICANNist fashion. The only way we can do this is by consensus.

But let me mention some of the other things we did during this year. Earlier this month my CTO, David Conrad, did not break the Internet. I'm very grateful for that myself. When we did the KSK, which was the first time ever in the world, there were -- I can admit now, if you don't tell anyone, I was slightly nervous. But we performed that. Not ICANN Org, not even David Conrad, even if we would have blamed him, even if it went wrong -- because of you, we helped each other to perform the KSK. And I would like to thank everybody involved who helped us to perform that to the success it was. And now next time we will roll it, I think it will be less nervous.

Some other things we have done is that when I started about 2 1/2 years ago, I sort of for the first time went on ICANN Org's Web page. And between you and me, I don't think it's good. 20 years of meetings, documents, protocols, reference makes it a maze and impossible to find anything.

Does anyone agree with me? Yeah.

So with the help of the Board, we are working on a project which actually costs $8 million -- just saying that -- which is called the ITI Project where we're now, very soon, starting to -- you can see -- you will be -- we will be able to demonstrate the fact that it's a big step for ICANN but a small step for mankind, the fact that you can search on icann.org $8 million later. We are middle in the process. We are not done.

Another thing I would like to mention is the DAAR project. The DAAR project is about finding out abuse with the DNS. And that's something we have been working on for the last couple of years.

A third one is something that I know was anticipated from the community, which is called the Open Data Initiative. If any one of you would like to learn more about those, we have sessions about them for the rest of the week.

We speak a lot about budgets and finance. And I'm the president and CEO, and I should do that. It is important. But I also would like to say, we shouldn't forget it's a means to an end. But together right now we are looking into many of those things we do: Where we have meetings, how we hire people, how we do reviews which also have a positive effect maybe on the sometimes increasing fatigue of members of the community. But we should never let those budgetary questions stand in the way for what we're supposed to do, and that is to provide a service for the world through the DNS. It's a means to an end.

20 years. When I came on Board, I heard so many stories. One of the things that I realized, there has been people who has been around for a very long time and they still looked young, most of them. One of the fantastic things with this community is we also rotate. You rotate within your community.

And now taking a step back, I would like to recognize some of those people who sort of are rotating out of their leadership positions.

So Alan Greenberg, ALAC. Where are you?

[Applause]

Alan is one of my favorite opposites. I think we started arguing the first minute we met, and I look forward to argue going forward again.

Heather. Don't say you're not here? Oh, there she is. I can't see you.

[Applause]

You've taken the GNSO one step beyond, and it's really impressive what you've done. You took over fast, and you ran with it. I also -- you should know that Heather and I -- my first ICANN meeting in Marrakech, Heather was one of those people who told me how this really worked. So if I ever fail, blame her.

Tripti. Tripti --

[Applause]

Tripti is a fantastic person. And the work you've done within RSSAC is really, really important and impressive. The root server operators has a very special place in this ecosystem. Has done, as Cherine said, a fantastic job for a long time. And besides what you've done is to get a proposal for new governance model, you have actually done something which is much far important. You brought them back in our visibility so we see how important they are. ICANN is proud to be one of the root server operators where we don't -- and I was also instructed we not call them letters anymore. We call them something else, and I never forget that -- always forget that.

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But as you know, we don't let Tripti go. She's going to be a new Board member of ICANN, and I welcome you.

One thing I also want to mention, which is dear to my heart, is that surprising to many we have done something that we have never done before and that's a human rights assessment of ICANN Org. It's only ICANN Org. But what we're doing right now is trying to measure ourselves so when we do things, we do that according to a principle of human rights.

We are a technical organization. But by your instruction in the community we are performed to do this, and I'm very proud that we're working on it.

So we have a busy week. This is day zero, isn't it? I love ICANN meetings. It takes 14 days to do a one-week meeting. We have 320-something, -40 sessions. We are about 3,000 people from 140 countries. We're not a government. We're nothing like anyone else. We're a pure multistakeholder model where we solve problems that no one has encountered before in world history. And we do that by consensus, by bottom-up, by discussions, and by agreeing.

This is one of the world's biggest peace projects in practice. I'm really proud to be here. And thank you very much for joining me here. Thank you.

[Applause]

And with that, I would like to introduce Francisco Polo who is the Secretary of State for Digital Advancement in Spain. Thank you.

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[Applause].

FRANCISCO POLO: Thank you very much for the nice introduction. Benvinguts, Barcelona. Benvinguts, Spain.

First of all, on behalf of the government of Spain, I would like to thank ICANN for hosting this event in the beautiful City of Barcelona. ICANN63 reinforces Barcelona as the world capital for digital and mobile technologies. It is the fourth best city of the world to work according to independent research, and it is home for a growing and flourishing digital ecosystem.

Barcelona hosts one out of every three startups in Spain in branches of dozens of international tech companies. And for the next few days, thanks to ICANN, it will be your home as well. We very welcome you to Spain and to Barcelona again.

I'm going to start this speech by recognizing the work of all the professionals that are part of the world of the online domain names. Our task, all of you, is fundamental for us because a domain name is more than just a simple name. A domain name is the basis of the Internet.

If Internet were a building, domain names would be the structure of that building. They would be the windows, the doors, and the walls. Without them, we would not be able to find things and people within that building. We wouldn't have rooms, nor (indiscernible), no stairs or lifts. Without domain names, we would be lost.

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Without domain names, many of the recent human advancements would not be possible because Internet has democratized knowledge, telemedicine, entrepreneurship.

Domain names are key for the economy. Domain names, geonames, are contributing to the development of many small and medium-sized companies to live in the Internet. Being on the Internet allow them to make marketing and to create more businesses.

But let's say that Internet is also a way for being a free space of problems. Internet is a net of networks created by human beings. It takes from us defects and virtues, and they are multiplied. We have certain defects such as egoism, such as greed, and we have said risk and the power that we need to have for manipulating. So what we change is the channels through with this they are created on the potential impact that they have.

Barcelona, Spain, have a lot to say about this today as the host of this meeting. But as someone -- as the host of this project, we have announced that we wanted to create a unique space of dialogue in the world to fix solutions to help citizens to face the challenges of digitalization, the space where great leaders and world leaders may debate and provide real solutions to concrete problems. That may help us be the guide for the world, to help us to be better, and to help us to take the opportunity of digitalization to materialize our dream for a fair world and for a free and sustainable world.

This forum, the digital society, will be held with the Barcelona World Capital Foundation. And we expect to have your presence there.

Before the great challenges of digitalization, the role of ICANN, the role of this meeting, and the role of all of you is of vital importance. Our mission is to guarantee that the changes in regulation and in the function of Internet should be in favor of society. Citizens should be our unique priority. We -- you are the key for that achievement.

Internet governance is a nuclear issue for the Spanish government as well as for all the countries that are being represented in this room. That's why I would like to speak about the future that we imagine for this country. In Spain, instead of being here just waiting for new changes of digitalization, we have decided to start taking action and to evolve into our own future. And that is what we believe is the responsibility of the future.

In Spain, we imagine a country where there is equal opportunity, where someone, a person with a great idea and talent, may materialize that dream, not only the privileged young person who has the means to do that but also the mid-class girl whose ideas might change the world.

We would like to have a starting point because the income or the gender should not condition the opportunities for people. And we do believe that the best way to achieve these equality and opportunities, to achieve a more prosperous society is exactly through digitalization.

Digitalization is the great opportunity for the economy of Spain. Of course, it is. But it is also important for world economy because digitalization creates efficiency, and efficiency creates productivity. And productivity, good productivity, creates jobs.

And because of that, the government of Spain is committed to turn this country into the next startup mission, a country that is going to be an international (indiscernible) for digitalization, a sustainable digitalization and an inclusive digitalization. We want to create a country fighting for inclusion facing social inequalities. Nobody should be left behind.

And in order to achieve this, the government of Spain has a plan. And this is the strategy, Spain Nation and Entrepreneurship, that was announced by the government some weeks ago.

This strategy is more than just a set of measures to start startups. It is something -- a plan of the state to modernize Spain and to provide better opportunities to citizens.

It is not just providing incentives to startups, but it is to help to connect ecosystems with the rest of other stakeholders in the society and in the economy; for great corporations to be able to find more agile and better ways to connect to innovation; for people without digital capacities may be able to adapt; for people who already have these digital abilities may be able to develop their own potential without moving to other countries; for startups and universities, for example, to be closer so that startups make the most of patents and research carried out by universities.

The entrepreneurship sector that is waiting for us will give rise to more shared well-being and more jobs in all sectors of economy. And at the same time, the other sectors of economy should make the efforts to improve the startup ecosystem.

To sum up, the technological entrepreneurship is important because it might turn into a transversal point in our country because startups are the ice breakers for paving the way for a new economy, for a sustainable economy. Startups are key to materialize the productive model that we need.

The governmental proposal compensates in the social sphere, and it also compensates in the economic sphere. In Spain, the digital reinvention may have an impact between one to two points on the GDP. And the European Union estimates that 5G technology deployment will generate more than 1 million euros per year. And between 10 and 15% might be directed to Spain.

We do expect that we share with us our vision, the vision of a better future thanks to good governance of digitalization. But in order to achieve this, we need to be on the same page. We all have to make our own contributions for digital change to be materialized.

You are the best example that change is possible. In only 20 years, you have seen Internet with only 1 million users turning into a space of collaboration, communication for more than 4 billion users all around the world.

So spreading the word and being ambitious and creative in our task from now on, making the most this meeting, ICANN63, to making the most of networking. And please do not lose sight that a small change today might create or generate great things in the future. Spain and Barcelona are giving us a warm welcome, and this is how we greet our friends. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you very much, Secretary of State Polo, for these inspiring words and these inspiring initiatives. Again, thanks to everyone here in Barcelona and across the Spanish government who have worked with us for many months now to prepare for ICANN63 and make today a reality.

And the same thanks go to the next speaker, David Cierco, who is the Director-General of red.es.

David, welcome to the stage.

[Applause]

DAVID CIERCO: Good morning to everybody. I'm not wearing a tie, as you can see.

On behalf of red.es, it is an honor for me to welcome you today to the opening of the 63rd ICANN conference in the city of Barcelona. As the Secretary of State just said, we welcome you all.

Barcelona is a city where technology has been put at the service of citizens and where technology companies find a unique space for entrepreneurship, innovations, and world avant-garde. And now please allow me to continue in Spanish.

First of all, I would like to graduate ICANN on its 20th anniversary, and they couldn't have chosen a better venue for that celebration. You're

only four years apart from the inception of red.es which I lead and which supports digital advancement in our country. We are a critical stakeholder in digitalization of public services in our economy and in the Spanish society. I would like to briefly describe some of the milestones we have achieved in these 16 years.

We supported the development of the digital economy with programs that support eCommerce, business, and entrepreneurship digitalization by means of different booths that we had in the World Mobile Congress held here in Barcelona, where we have seen more than 300 startups participate. We have created an industry around smart cities, mobilizing more than 200 million euros in different initiatives to create these smart cities. We have worked towards the digitalization of our public services with programs in the fields of education, justice, and health. For example, we have digitalized our patient records, and we have digitalized medical prescriptions. We hope we can strengthen the support to digitalization from the new strategies being a start-up nation, which our Secretary of State has just mentioned. Red.es is also an academic research network that serves the scientific community and the academia by means of different programs. We have more than 500 member institutions in that network.

Also, in our DNA we have the National Observatory of Telecommunications and the Information Society in order to have a global view of the Internet. This is red.es. However, I'm going to share something that perhaps very few people know. The acronym means Spanish Internet Domain Name Registries. We are the Internet domain name registration authority in Spain for the cctld.es. That is, we are the

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entity that runs the TLD responsibility .es. We have more than 100 registrars that are leading companies in the sector and help us ensure that our domain name use is always on the increase. We want the .es domain to be a quality and safe domain, user friendly and easy to renew. We are very close to our customer base, and we want this domain name to foster the good practices on the Internet and to foster safe eCommerce.

 In fact, today we have almost 2 million registered domains, and most importantly, we have government support, which is critical for the security online and also for consumer trust on the Internet. In short, we face Internet challenges and we will be speaking about these challenges today. All of them, of course, have plenty of acronyms associated. However, we need to focus on our main goal on what we do, and that is we serve the people. We have to focus on our citizens who are the only reason that makes our job have a sense of purpose. Clearly the Internet has changed the lives of millions of people, but most importantly, we can change the life of these people thanks to the Internet.

 Today, in this forum, we will be speaking about the new technologies, about policies that governments need to face, and about the role of an organization like ICANN. We will be speaking about cybersecurity, data protection and regulations, but we will also be speaking about the digital gap and digital inclusion. Digital advancement also means social entrepreneurship.   It means access to new technologies, leveraging new capacities, and breaking the barriers of gender and

technology and any physical characteristic. In this regard, new technologies play an important role in solving this problem.

Government support in this vein, both financial and regulatory, is crucial. For example, in our 5G technologies, the government of Spain is giving us strong support. In fact, last week we published a call for participation in 5G technology pilot programs. As you know, 5G technology makes it possible to have high-quality broadband access that enables high-quality video live feed and also virtual reality experiences. 5G technology also ensures highly reliable communications for remote surgery equipment, security and emergency services in real time. And finally, this technology enables mass communications that will make it possible, among many other things, to massively deploy sensors and to increase big data and the Internet of Things services.

As you can see, our objective is to improve people's lives, to make your lives better.

And with that, I am going to thank you for your attention. And before that, in closing, I would like to commend ICANN for its work and its accomplishments in these 20 years. Keep it up. Keep on working as you have been to date, bringing together different views in the global Internet community. This is a very hard task, but at the end of the day, we have a stable, secure, and interoperable Internet.

Thank you very much, and welcome to ICANN63, Barcelona.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thanks, David.

Earlier both Cherine and I welcomed the presence here of our sister Internet technical organizations, and among this collective of organizations that work with ICANN in order to ensure the basic functioning of the Internet, the Regional Internet Registries are particularly active and vital actors in our ecosystem, especially in the face of all these innovations we have just been hearing about. So it's my pleasure to welcome to the stage Paul Wilson as chair of the Executive Council of the numbering organization, the NRO.

[Applause]

PAUL WILSON: Thank you, Jean-Jacques. Good morning. I'm Paul. I'm the chair of the NRO Executive Council. I'm also the head of the APNIC, the I.P. address registry for the Asia-Pacific. You might know that the NRO coordinates the activities of the five RIRs. One of those activities being to serve as the ASO in ICANN.

20 years ago, just three of today's RIRs were around. Just three have been around for more than 20 years. Our system was established through the IETF back in the early 1990s. So it predates ICANN by a good seven or eight years. It doesn't seem so long these days.

We have a handful of people as ICANN did to thank for the invention of the RIR system, including some people we know. Elise Gerich, the

recently retired president of the PTI, was the one who wrote RFC 1366 in October '92. And that established the regional approach to I.P. address management. Also, the first heads of the three early RIRs include Daniel Karrenberg for RIPE NCC, Kim Hubbard for ARIN, and David Conrad for APNIC who is still with us here in the ICANN community today.

But I guess most importantly right here and now today is to acknowledge Jon Postel who fully supported the establishment of the RIRs from the start right up to his untimely, shocking death in '98. He worked closely with those early RIR founders. And I had the pleasure to meet him just once in '98 during an IETF in Chicago.

Of course, as we heard, ICANN was just being conceived at that time and a set of bylaws and initial Board members, which Jon himself, I think, led in creating and selecting. So it was a huge shock to many people to lose him so suddenly. But we have to recognize him as a pioneer whose legacy persists right here all around us. What he created was a key part of what we now accept as the governance framework of the Internet.

That became the multistakeholder model, which was later discovered, not invented, by the WSIS, the W-S-I-S, as the key to the Internet success. And it's the ICANN model that graduated from an experiment when the stewardship of the IANA functions was cut lose finally by the U.S. government just a couple of years ago.

So ICANN's evolution continues. And as part of that evolution, so does that of the ASO. So you might know that the -- an ASO review was

conducted and released just a year ago. The Internet number communities are still processing the results, but we're converging on a set of improvements. And, recently, the RIR CEOs provided some input to that process with some common points of agreement.

So just briefly, firstly, the RIR communities do share a view that our relationship with ICANN is important and should continue, that's fundamental, but also that it can be simplified with a sharper focus on matters of mutual interest.

Second, that the ASO has turned out to be quite different than other SOs in the ICANN framework and that we don't need to take all of the engagements and work items that are available to us as an SO.

Third, there's a confusion -- long-term confusion in the engagement with ICANN under the dual banners of the NRO and the ASO. You may share that with me, that confusion. But that needs to be addressed by consolidating functions under one of those identities.

And, lastly, we do continue to support ICANN as the means to carry out a set of critical functions, the best means to do that while we also support ongoing evolution.

Personally having heard the recent work by ICANN on strategic trends, I think we have no choice but to collaborate, work together with ICANN very much, as Cherine said, within our own clear remits.

So the process of consultations on the ASO is not over, but we felt these points sort of encapsulate the progress that has been made so far and probably worth reiterating here in this forum.

Finally, I wanted to mention another recent piece of work that we've also heard about today. And that's a great success of the ICANN community, which is the DNSSEC KSK rollover. So a lot has been said, and congratulations due to all involved.

But I wanted to recap on some of the activities of the RIRs as I think a great example of the way we can work together would ICANN and have done very successfully to support a process in this case that's really at the heart of the Internet's health and well-being, and that's the DNSSEC.

The RIRs collectively serve a community of some 100,000, in round figures, network and infrastructure operators around the world. These are the people who use I.P. address blocks registered directly with the RIRs and who actually collectively build and run the entire Internet infrastructure.

So reaching out to all those operators was very important. It was a big task and one which the RIRs were happy to contribute to. So we were involved with making presentations to operator meetings around the world. We were publishing many different blog posts, media items, news, Web, social media updates, sharing email updates across our mailing lists and directly with our communities, doing all this in some cases in languages other than English, and also contributing measurements and data collection to ICANN's own processes.

So that rollover was completed within ICANN's stated tolerance limits with no major issues reported. And that was done very significantly through global cooperation between ICANN and many others in the

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community. And I think it just serves to illustrate the effectiveness of the global technical coordination, which has been at the heart of Internet governance for a very long time now.

So at this 20-year mark, as we gather here in what I think Cherine referred to basically as Jon's house, I'd like to say that the Internet is not a thing of the past. The legacy of the pioneers is critical and certain fundamentals must be preserved. But we all have to work together to take it forward, and there's plenty of room, space, and time for us to do that.

So I think we can all be proud of what we have achieved as we move ahead into the next 20 years. Thank you very much for your time and attention. Thanks.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you, Paul.

This is going to be an important week with many intense discussions ahead. So I would like to just remind you all to read and to follow the ICANN expected standards of behavior as well as the community anti-harassment policy.   ICANN promotes a safe and harassment-free environment for all.   Any instance of harassment should be immediately reported to the ombudsman or leader of the community so that the incident can be properly and timely addressed.

We have got a really important job together this week. So let's do it well. Let's do it passionately, nicely, and collegially.

Now, a final important reminder -- or a couple of important reminders. The ICANN63 gala will take place on Wednesday evening and will be here at the conference center. So check out the details online or on the ICANN app on your smartphone.

And on Thursday evening, we hope that all of you from Jon's house, community, will attend our ICANN@20 cocktail reception also here at the conference center.

With that, I would like to wish you a great meeting, great stay in Barcelona. ICANN63 is open!

[Applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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