
ABU DHABI – Fellowship Daily Session
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ZAHID JAMIL:

Outside the community of ICANN so you the Fellows are classic example of people you want to look at and other people, even outside the community that you can actually have interact with and maybe bring in to this fold, to try to find those folks and see who is going to be best suited to then be appointed by us to various positions, the seats to the Board, which are open. We also appoint two leadership positions in other SOs and ACs and what I mean by SOs and ACs are Supporting Organizations or Advisory Councils – am I getting it right? Committees. All the abbreviations of ICANN, suddenly you get used to them.

So these are all leadership positions that depending on the vacancy that you end up having, the Nominating Committee has a role to fill them. If there is a Board – this year we have three positions on the Board that are going to fall vacant, we as a Nominating Committee need to find people from, as I said, within the community, outside the community to fill those three seats.

Similarly, there are going to be one non-voting position on the GNSO Council, which is the Generic Name Supporting

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Organization that deals with generic top-level domains so that's one seat that will have to be filled in by us. We will have to find somebody to be selected and appointed to that.

We have two seats, one from Europe and one from North America for the ALAC, the At-Large organization, basically uses mostly individuals and that has to be filled as well so we need to find folks who are interested and then basically vet them and then on that basis, appoint them to that.

And there are most likely going to be two seats to the ccNSO, which is the Country Code Names Supporting Organization to which we need to appoint on that Council, we need to appoint to folks.

Now, what that basically means is that our process is at this stage, we are trying to organize ourselves, get together, decide what our processes are going to look like through the year and by early January, our website will have an invitation which will be an invitation to the community At-Large and anybody else outside the community to apply to the various seats I just talked about. We are hoping to have a job description possibly so please look at that.

If you know people that you think should apply to these positions, we would hope that you and encourage you to go and find those people and get them to apply because the decisions

that we make to appoint folks is only as good as the people who apply to us. We can go and find somebody and say, “Okay find, we think you’re a good appointment, we’ll do it.” You have to apply through the process. You have to fill out the application form. You have to submit the application form before the deadline. We will then consider and select. Sometimes, we interview folks, particularly for the Board and on that basis, once those decisions have been made by the committee, which by the way is a highly confidential process, then those decisions are announced and this is how we fill our positions.

To my right, as was already mentioned, Damon Ashcraft, he is the Chair elect for next year and so we have a succession process usually that there is a Chair then there is a Chair Elect and if, last year, Hans Petter, who is to my right again was the actual Chair is now serving as Associate Chair as an advisor to the Chair. So basically, when you come into this position of Chair, you spend about three years, one to basically learn, one to basically do the work and third to basically sit at the beach and enjoy your drinks. No, I’m just kidding. The third is basically to actually advise and I’ve got to tell you, I think sometimes the Associate Chair role can be a little more challenging as well. So that’s us but I want to hand it over to my Chair Elect, Damon, who may want to add to what I’ve said. Please.

DAMON ASHCRAFT: Thank you very much, Zahid, and first off, thank you very much for taking the time out of your day to come and speak with us. We are very excited to speak with you as Fellows. It's wonderful that you've shown the initiative to come out and learn about ICANN and to travel to Abu Dhabi to this meeting and so that's just fantastic.

Really, the Nominating Committee, one of the big things that we do is we recruit – and a lot of that recruitment is for the various leadership positions but it flows down from there. It's important, a lot of the leadership positions come from within the organization, some come from out of it but some come from within the organization and it's great to see how you all are here and how you're involved and I would encourage you as you spend your time in Abu Dhabi to look at the different groups you get meeting with and find the aspect of ICANN that interests you the most and to take the next step to get further involved because all of you are obviously very successful individuals and one day, you never know, you might be on the Board of ICANN or in another key leadership role and it starts here. And so I'm very, very, very excited for you and would invite you to ask us any questions that you have.

ZAHID JAMIL: Thank you so much Damon. Hans, please.

HANS PETTER HOLEN: Yes. So a couple of things I want to stress. NomCom is appointing half the seats of the Board so if you want to get engaged and eventually end up on the board in 25 years' time, once you've worked yourself through ICANN, you have the [root] through the Supporting Organizations so the GNSO, the ASO, the ccNSO appoints their members to the Board.

What NomCom brings is the independent view where all of the Supporting Organizations appoint members to be on the NomCom. So the NomCom is not a secret society of people meeting in a corner. While we do that but its people appointed from each of the Supporting Organizations for one-year term and then can be renewed for one year and tasked with appointing members of the Board but perhaps most importantly to the Supporting Organizations because if you think about ICANN as a bottom-up organization, the policy work should not happen at the Board so we really need people who wants to contribute and make a difference to put their names forward for At-Large Advisory Committee, for GNSO Advisory Committee, for ccNSO Advisory Committee to bring in fresh thoughts and fresh blood there.

I would really encourage you to think about that whether you yourself who wants to put your name forward after you've been

in a couple of meetings and think that “Actually, I have something to contribute in this tiny area.” That’s the way I got involved in this back in the ‘90s in the addressing world at the right meetings when I thought that “Hey, if we could write down the policies before we put them in place, maybe that can make a difference,” and then I got involved and here I sit today.

If you look around, even on the ICANN Board, I think you can find former Fellows so there is a lot of people actually coming in through the Fellowship program and making great contributions to the program. So I really want to encourage you to have a look at the positions when they are posted and say maybe there is some way where I can actually make a difference and we would welcome your applications. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just I think during this round of NomCom selections, we had two Fellows selected for At-Large positions. So that’s great. Thank you very much, sirs, and we will give the floor for Q&A and use the rest of 15 minutes for asking questions to our NomCom representatives. Yes, we’ll start from Victor.

VICTOR JAVIER BECERRA RAMOS: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Victor Becerra. I’m from Venezuela.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just quick note. You can speak in your native language because we do have translation. So please, use the opportunity if you want.

VICTOR JAVIER BECERRA RAMOS: I will prefer in English. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I just let you know.

VICTOR JAVIER BECERRA RAMOS: Perhaps my accent is not that well but still I want to speak English. I have a couple of questions. The first one is about the nomination process. What criteria do you use to select someone from outside ICANN? What is the most important criteria that that person should have? And what is the most important criteria inside ICANN?

My second question, perhaps, I don't know if I'm asking the right question because I saw something in the public forum yesterday about the discussion regarding credentials of Board members or something, perhaps I did not hear that right but it was like a very passionate debate and it was argument going up and down. I

did not follow very well, perhaps you can explain that better if it is the case or if it isn't, tell me where I can go to. Thank you.

DAMON ASHCRAFT:

Thank you very much for your question. I'm happy to take the first part of that. With respect to criteria that we look at for individuals that are outside the organization, there isn't really a hard and fast rule as far as here's the criteria for individuals that are outside, here's the criteria for individuals that are inside of ICANN.

In general, we are looking for – it varies by the different organizations that we are going to appoint leaders to but if you were to look at the Board, for example, or frankly any of them, the main thing that we are looking for is this individual going to advance the organization in a forward motion? That's very amorphous and I understand that we are looking for people that have proven leadership ability. We are looking for people obviously of good moral character, people that are smart, people that are interested and people that have a familiarity with ICANN.

That does not mean you need to be entrenched in the organization. We've had various successful directors whose first ICANN meeting was a meeting to come and interview for a Board position and that does happen. And that's one of the great

things about ICANN is frankly, it doesn't take much to get involved within ICANN. I mean, all you have to do is really show an interest and show up and do the work and you can really make a meaningful contribution.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

ZAHID JAMIL: So let me just add to that very quickly. You will find that if you look at the Bylaws, the October Bylaws [of] 2016, there are certain criteria that are stipulated by way of what the law requires us to do or the Bylaws of ICANN require us to do. So we do take account of them but I think the purpose of the NomCom is to actually try and find people we feel are going to serve the community the best.

So that does not necessarily mean that that particular individual is necessarily outside of ICANN community or necessarily inside ICANN community. And this is an going debate within the NomCom every year whether we want to focus on independence and people who have never seen ICANN before and people who actually are from the community and are very entrenched and know what the process looks like, and I can tell you that we have done that. We have had people who are on the Board for

instance who are individuals who have never been to ICANN, didn't know what ICANN was and have done a fantastic job and have actually been very important individuals either within the Board or other organizations and also those who have come from the community who have been appointed have actually played a very important role because they understand what the community is about as well.

So I wouldn't want you to think about things that would exclude you. I think what you want to think about is whether you are a person yourself that basically is able to contribute and have the skillset and expertise.

HANS PETTER HOLEN:

Do you want me to answer the last part? So I was not in the public forum yesterday so I don't really know what was discussed there.

What I can say is that the NomCom does not share any of its reasoning behind an appointment. So we keep all the information received about candidates completely confidential. We do publish our process. We tell you what we are doing, how the process is working but we do not at all discuss the candidates or their qualifications or the reasoning why we selected somebody.

Now, this year unfortunately, some of the receiving organizations have taken it upon themselves to challenge the appointments of the NomCom so we have received a letter from the ccNSO which I said in the open forum yesterday that I found completely inappropriate, the result of this was that the candidate stepped down. She was there and she also said that this should have been handled in a very different way because we are actually dealing with people and we need to work together to make this as an environment that is where those who wants to contribute actually can do that. That appointment from the NomCom was in my view and the legal adviser got [inaudible] within the ICANN Bylaws.

Now, the ccNSO had sent advice in 2013 that this NomCom unfortunately didn't know about and then would have been free to follow or not. I know there is also discussion in the corridors on the GNSO appointment. I don't know the substance of that discussion. I know that some of that discussion has been taken into but you need to do due diligence and investigation of whether the information that has been given is correct and I can assure you that at this time, part of our process is that we do use an external investigator to also check everything that's presented on the application form to see the LinkedIn profiles, whether you have any convictions or so on, that's in fact to the Chair and the Chair to evaluate whether there is anything in this

report that would affect the decision of the NomCom and then put it back to the NomCom in that case. So without going into details, that's what we do.

For next year, we are proposing to do that even earlier in the process so we use that as part of the decision material but I think what's happening here is that some people in the GNSO may or may not have criteria that's not communicated to the NomCom because when I looked for back in the archives, I have not found any advice ever from the GNSO to the requirements for any appointees from the NomCom. So I think what you may be saying here without knowing exactly what was discussed is that there are discussions assuming something is happening or not happening but not based on facts necessarily but I'm –

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So one request we have only 10 minutes left and your intervention should be 30 seconds because we have many people in the row. Yes, Chenai first, Sonia, Abdeldjalil, Alexander and Dina, and then I'm closing so no one else.

CHENAI CHAIR: I have only 30 seconds but my question is in your own opinion, is the agenda imbalance and the application processes for leadership positions within ICANN given the question that was

raised yesterday on why is there still agenda imbalance on the ICANN Board?

ZAHID JAMIL:

I'm glad you asked that question and I think we have a very good answer for you. This year, not my year but the previous year where Hans was Chair, you will find that the Board seats that were appointed were only women. There were two slots. The maximum we could do, we couldn't put a third up there. We only have two slots. Both of them are women. And I have to tell you that the NomCom of 2017 and all credit of this goes to Hans, I mean, literally not even me. I was Chair elect but that wasn't me. It was Hans Petter the Chair at that point who really made it his mission to go out and do outreach, where there was the Fellows last year, where there was the DNS breakfast or any cocktail or whatever he could do – and you know what happened? After the second meeting of that year, within that week, our staff was inundated with women applicants. We want that to happen again.

We would like to make sure that we have more applicants from women, of course qualified women and those people who say that it's difficult to find them, I don't think that's true. It's just a question of finding them. There are many qualified women. The example is the two ladies who were appointed to the Board last

year. So I think it's very, very important that you as the Fellows and other people in the community send in the applications so we can use those applications and vet them and then appoint them. We do take account of diversity.

Now, we don't have a specific gender balance requirement but you can be assured that when the community says something about this, we have responded last year. Hans did it. Next question?

HANS PETTER HOLEN: I think we had 36% applicants from women last year.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Sonia? Can you come closer? Okay. Thank you. Abdeldjalil, Alexander, and Dina.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Okay. Thank you very much. I would like to speak in French. Before anything, thank you. My name is Abdeldjalil, I'm from Chad. And my question is how the NomCom is supposed to work independently from the Board of the many other organizations? What is the role of the NomCom in terms of geographic diversity and the choice of candidates and applicants especially?

Like you said, speaking English is a requirement for any position but if people don't speak English then they cannot participate so how do you ensure there is diversity? They first need to learn English so that they can fit in the position? That's my question.

ZAHID JAMIL:

Not necessarily. I don't think that speaking one language more than the other is a major issue. Of course, the working language within ICANN generally tends to be English. We have found French-speaking individuals, people who've come from France for instance, people who've come from Latin America, etc. be able to basically participate. In fact, as you can see, the number of translations, there are seven different languages that are being translated, gives you an idea of how participation is encouraged.

Just keep in mind that it is difficult to run a Board meeting where you have to have six translations of the board minutes and I can tell you, I have worked in Africa where you have the Anglophone and you have the French speaking and I can tell you that just getting the translation process done to a degree in our document is extremely difficult and that is why it's very useful to have one language by which one works. So I think that might be something you may be referring to.

Let me just tell you what the NomCom's diversity requirements may be. The only requirement that is mandated and is a hard-coded requirement within the Nominating Committee and ICANN itself is balanced geographically. So we cannot do more, as an example with the Board, there cannot be more than five positions from one region, right? Once you're done, that's done. You have to appoint in some other regions.

So for instance as an example, say in Asia Pacific there were five Board members, those seats would be closed. We can then only look for applicants in Africa, North America, Latin America. So geographic diversity tends to be a hard coded thing within the Bylaws themselves.

In addition to that, the Bylaws say that cultural diversity, expertise and other things also need to be looked at and I can tell you that because, and this is something maybe because we didn't talk about who the NomComs are, all the AC, SOs the Advisory Committees and the Supporting Organizations send their representatives to the NomCom. That's who we are. We are not some special group. We are maybe a secret society but not really. We represent the community, right? So we have everybody who comes from Latin America, from India, from Pakistan, from some places in Asia, Africa. We have all sorts of people who basically are sitting in the NomCom themselves so

in itself it tends to be diverse but it depends on who we are sent.
Please, you have a follow up.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: This is rather a comment. How will you be checking candidates? Is it according to their country of origin or the nationality or... how would you know how many nationalities the person has? They can file their applications as being an American person and a French person, how do you check that?

ZAHID JAMIL: Right. So this is one thing that we have to some extent leave up to the candidate but it is vetted. So for instance, there is a concept of domicile, right? So I'm from Pakistan. I am an Asian or Middle Eastern individual but assume I was living in England and I've lived there five years. That means I am domicile in the UK. Now, it's up to me to self-declare in the application whether I want to be seen as someone from the UK and Europe or seen as someone from the Asia Pacific region. It's up to me but if I make a full statement about it, it will get caught up in the vetting process. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Alexander?

ALEXANDER ISAVNIN: To short interventions and questions. First of all, I would like to ask Hans Petter Holen to stay for the second half of hour because he is the Chair behind the address related community to help Filiz with the next sessions, he might get questions. The second [inaudible] actually, by request of Hans Petter Holen on such [inaudible] session at ICANN58, I've tested the work of Nominating Committee. I would like to say it's not much difficult to apply for Fellowship. Well, I'm disappointed with the results. It seems I was not diverse enough. And my question, you propose –

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Fellowship or NomCom, I don't understand.

ALEXANDER ISAVNIN: At previous Fellowship sessions I have attended, Hans Petter Holen asked us to test how they work like they mentioned about DNS cocktail and something like [that], so I've tested. It's not much difficult to apply to NomComs and to Fellowship, a bit difficult, a bit complicated. Results can be disappointing. I think that's because I'm not diverse enough. Okay? You good?

Yes, but question is not about this. You have explained how you are selecting best candidates but it seems you have not

explained that you guys were selected or elected properly so that your authority and trust or you should be really good so tell us more about this.

ZAHID JAMIL:

So let me tell you. You do have a problem. You're absolutely right. You're a male, number one strike for me. No, no, no, please it's a very relaxed atmosphere. I want everybody to hear as well. Don't worry, we don't take that as an issue.

The second is, I mean, I'm a male so I'm not diverse, it's true. And then if you come from Europe or North America then you have a particular problem. So let me give you an example. I'm going to answer your question but give me a second because this might be interesting.

So the year before last, we appointed a lot of males, a lot of men to board on other positions. I think if I'm not mistaken, there wasn't a single female but they were diverse in themselves. They are from different regions and someone was white, Anglo-Saxons, someone was Middle Eastern, etc. so we thought we did a great job with diversity. And they said, "Where are the women?" All right, fine. We responded.

We had two slots for the Board, we put in women. And they said, "Wait a minute, both of them from the GNSO." "Wait a minute,

both are not American.” “Wait a minute, both are white.” Look, with this limited slots you have, it’s a challenge so what I’m trying to basically say is no. There’s no such thing as not being diverse enough. It depends on that year. It depends on the circumstances, the slots that are available, and the dynamics that are taking place and what we are looking for.

If you have the expertise, I will tell you this, we don’t first start saying, “Let’s first pick the women,” or “Let’s first pick the non-white.” It never happens. We look at actually whether the candidate is interesting so it has nothing to do with that. Later on in the process, maybe we want to think about it but we never, never compromise on quality. Let me be clear. And you will find that women themselves also and people who come from our regions also don’t want a handout that the only reason you have appointed me is because I am diverse. That’s also insulting in a sense, right? So they don’t want that either. Trust me, we do focus on quality.

The second part of your question, which I’ve forgotten now.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think you can take off and [inaudible] this. We don’t have too much time for that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It was about trust to you guys.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: That's important.

ZAHID JAMIL: This is very important. Usually, people who are on the NomCom have gone through the NomCom themselves, the process. I mean, I came from the BC, Damon from the IBC, the ASOs where Hans came, spent time on the NomCom and then we were assessed and a subcommittee of the Board then selects the people who are going to be appointed. So it's a mixture of the Board, making the decision but based on people that seem have come maybe through the NomCom process.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: The last intervention, very short, Dina.

DINA SOLVEIG JALKANEN: Hi, Dina Solveig, and I have one short question. How do you decide on the second term of the NCA or in short, how do you follow that the nomination has been successful? Thank you.

ZAHID JAMIL: So we don't, once we appointed somebody for a particular term, that's it. We have nothing to do with that process. That's really now up to the community that person is being appointed to. But if they have to apply again and say they are interested in renewing themselves, which might happen, which might not happen, in that case, it may be interesting to ask that person, "What was your experience like?" and things of that nature but we don't have a process as you probably mentioned. We do not. But, Hans, go ahead.

HANS PETTER HOLEN: The Board does a 360 review of the leadership of the NomCom which we made public. The NomCom has for years asked to the Board please do the same to ourselves so that we can get your evaluations of your performance and please make that public so not only the NomCom can see that but also the other sending organizations and we also encourage all other Supporting Organizations to do the same so not only those who we sent somebody to in the organization but the rest of the community can actually see how people work together.

So it's actually an excellent point and part of the problem is that three years down the line, when somebody reapplies, it's a different NomCom so they don't know why that person was picked in the first place. We really need to work on a better way

of actually getting feedback to the NomCom on the performance for those who has been in positions before. Thank you very much for that question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. I know there are a lot of questions to Nominating Committee because we are really interested to learn more about your committee but I would encourage all my Fellows who have questions, do you know now Nomination Committee people, you can go and talk a bit with them and with that I just would like to thank you for your time to come here and we are looking forward seeing you next time with us.

[ZAHID JAMIL]: Absolute pleasure. Thank you. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I would like to invite our next speaker, Filiz Yilmaz, who is already here. My apologies. We took five minutes of your time for this.

HANS PETTER HOLEN: If I can do a last add on my way out, tomorrow morning at 9:00, there is a review, a section about the review of the NomCom so if you are more interested in NomCom, you can come there and

you can talk to the reviewers who are doing the review of public how we are working. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Hans, and I would like to introduce you Filiz Yilmaz who is the Chair of ASO which is Address Supporting Organization and just with no further ado, will give you the floor.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Hello. Thank you for the introductions. Yes, I do Chair Address Support Organization Address Council. That is not the entire ASO. Let me start mentioning that straightforward from the beginning. I have some slides but I really wanted to be also interactive as in the NomCom session so please stop me whenever you feel the need.

Oh, okay I have the controls, that's great. I do like to control things myself. I'm not a control freak at all.

So what I thought I'm going to talk about here, I'm sure you've got a bit of introduction to all of the Support Organizations and Advisory Councils within the ICANN scheme of things but one thing that is often special about us – it's flickering, sorry, that's why I'm thinking – is we are the last N of the ICANN in the name, I-C-A-N-N. The last N stands for numbers and that is literally they are numbers. We are talking about IP numbers and AS numbers

and there's a system out there for the registration of these numbers. It's quite different than the domain name registry system and it is still attached to ICANN.

A bit of history. In fact, Address Support Organization, the creation of it within the ICANN scheme was a response to the creation of ICANN because the number community, that last N in the name already existed before ICANN was created. We are talking about these organizations starting already in early '90s when Internet started becoming that tool. At first, it was an academical, legal tool then it started expanding. It became commercial and everything. And if you are interested in the history of Internet, I really love that subject so come and talk to me about that. It's such a [inaudible], right?

Now, somebody was saying yesterday at the opening plenary as well, the minister I think he was, some of us are born to Internet and some of us knew what it was before. I belong to that latter part. We used to talk about faxes and stuff and now little kids, they maintain relationships with their relatives like I do with my little nephew who lives abroad and my relationship to him is totally digital over Skype. I'm the Skype auntie.

This is a whole different era. So going back there, it was like, it all started with the numbers though. They were used as IP numbers and AS numbers to create this connection, Internet connections

and they were registered in some papers very physically and that registration system turned into a number resource registration and it literally starts in the early '90s after Jon Postel started to give it out with, “Okay, Europeans, do you want to do your own thing and we still hold it in America? Because it's growing, it starts scaling, right?” It got bigger and bigger so there was a need for better administration as well as creating these... not creating but already recognizing and supporting these bottom-up communities that came along with it.

Internet itself is a very bottom-up technology. I mean, it all started with all this grassroots system finding an alternative of connections to the OSI. You may have heard about that as well. So taking things out of the whole classical why your telephone system and creating an alternative technology in a way. So it's a bit of a rebellious technology in itself.

When this happened, there were communities around the system already and they recognized the need at some point that okay, community system is already there and now we are going to make it a little more organized by establishing registries and boom, comes the RIRs, Regional Internet Registries. And in fact one of the Fellows is working for one of them. Say hi. I know him from the RIPE NCC.

When this happened then ICANN came along, there was a need to connect this to the global system of ICANN because they were doing the high-level registration for all these separate regions. So there was a Memorandum of Understanding, saying that okay, regional systems are working well, police development is taking place regarding these numbers. Bottom-up processes are placed regionally. Let's keep that. It's already working but we will make an attachment to you so that engagement can happen. And this was first done in 1999 and then the NRO was established in 2004 and there was a new MoU signed through that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Filiz, just to let you know that we have three to four minutes to go with your presentation and then 10 to 15 minutes for Q&A.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Okay, all right. I have only two slides really to go through and then I'll start taking questions or answering questions.

So our scope within the ICANN sphere, again, it's very important to know that we do not make IP and AS number policies within ICANN here. We do make them, we develop them and then I say the community again – I'm a community member, I'm not working for an RIR, okay? I am a selected representative from

the community to do ASO AC. I'll explain this in a minute but we develop policies on these regional regions on site and then there is the global policy concept.

There is IANA, which is linked to ICANN somehow as you know, needs to do something and that something will apply to the entire registration system and this is when a regional policy also becomes a global policy because it is about registration of Internet resources, these IP numbers and AS numbers from IANA to the RIRs. So that needs to be done in a coordinated way and it needs to be done in a true one policy.

So every regional area, when they talk about the same thing and there is a registration policy specific from IANA to the RIRs then it gets to be called the global policy and that coordination relies on us. Again, we don't make the policy. Regions make the policy. They develop it and then when it comes to ASO AC, we check the process. If the process was followed equally and properly in all regions so that we can advise ICANN Board, yes regional processes were followed. This is a properly followed process for the global development process and could you please ratify it so that people can receive their resources. This is our main function here.

The other function is basically they appoint two seats to the ICANN Board, Seats 9 and 10. They are numbered, as you know

and we also provide advice to the ICANN Board where necessary if they ask.

Now, diversity is a big subject and I can already hear about that. That diversity component was already inherited in our mechanics since 1999 and we are 15 people in the Address Council. Two of these people, so three for each region. I'll show the regions but you probably know them. There are five people and two of them are elected by the communities and one is appointed by the RIR Board. So that is the redundancy to make sure that everything is followed truly.

I think this is not the latest, most formal picture to show but I do like this one. I apologize. I had to dig this and slides will be there, right? Will be made available.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can I share the slides with Fellows?

FILIZ YILMAZ: Yes, of course. Yes, yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. I will send it to you for public viewing.

FILIZ YILMAZ: [Inaudible] transparent. This explains what I just told you in words, right? Putting it in visuals so regional developments happens in regions and then these regions are geographical regions in a way and they link to the service areas of the RIRs; AFRINIC, APNIC, RIPE NCC, ARIN and LACNIC and then when something becomes global, so something is about the registration of resources from IANA to RIRs to be further distributed, then it becomes global and our role starts there.

Otherwise, we are in the fourth circle most of the time. [Inaudible] is also here with me. He is the delegate to NomCom from ASO AC and we are very much intact with our regional communities and then we come here for the rest. So is there any questions up to now?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So let's start with the questions. Thank you for your nice presentation and interesting discussion. Manuela, please.

MANUELA PERALTA SANTANA: I'm Manuela from the Dominican Republic. First time Fellow. I have I think two questions.

So the first one is in order to be, only members of the Regional Internet Registries are members of the Address Supporting Organization. This is my first question and if yes, because I'm

part of the Latin American and Caribbean organization so I will be part of LACNIC and then I know that if I want to be part of LACNIC like a member, I need to have an IP assigned like an organization or work in an ISP or something like that so I don't know if end users or other technical community can go ahead and contribute to this one. Thanks.

FILIZ YILMAZ:

I'll start. They are good questions and I should make this clear already but it's good that you ask that because we get this a lot. You do not need to be an ISP or the recipient of an IP address as a registry from the RIR to participate in the policy development process. In our case for example, for RIPE, all you need is an e-mail address in fact. We don't even particularly develop policy only at the meetings. Our policy development process is attached to the discussion phase which extends over the year or the entire year and it can start anytime. It is not attached to a meeting.

You don't need to be physically at a meeting to be able to participate in room discussions but you may because we also use our Internet as a tool, right? That's a good tool. We also do remote participation so you can actually be there if your time zone fits of course and this is a good thing about regions because those issues become less. This is why it is truly a

regional bottom-up I say because regions have different needs. It's hard to participate into something if you have nine hours of difference, right? While if these meetings often happen in the regions with time differences are different, anyway, that's a practical method but you do not need to be a member of the RIR itself to participate in the policy discussions.

What happens there though, RIR is our legal organizations and they need to run this business, right? This is the part of the government's part where you need some money attached to it, finances so the boards often in different regions ratify sometimes the policies that it can be done because those policies often imply something on the RIR itself to do something and the board as the responsible board needs to say yes, we can do it or oh, there is an issue here. Hello communities, sorry hold on, you said this to us, you're proposing but there is an issue in regards to this and this and then you can go back to the discussion with that note. So no, although you need in particular to RIPE, I won't talk about all the other agents but all you need is an e-mail address to participate.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please, [Fatima] and Caleb then next.

[FATIMA]: Hi. This is [Fatima] from Turkey. I wish to talk in Turkish but it is impossible for now.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: You can do this offline.

[FATIMA]: Yes, sure. I'm just [inaudible]. And I was wondering about should local Internet service providers be under the regional registry because as far as I know, they have to be accredited but it is not related with regional registry because Turkey is under the RIPE NCC, but as far as I know, ISP do not cover them.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Okay. Probably, you notice from my name. I'm from Turkey. In fact I could have taken your question in Turkish. Well, knowing Turkey, it's in our region too and I can confidently tell you that there are [LARs] in Turkey and some ISPs choose to become an [LAR] and get their resources directly from the RIPE NCC with that direct relationship and some of them choose to work with another and use that other [LAR] services to get their resources. So this is the self-governing industry in the sense that RIRs often leave which way to use to the operators themselves.

They don't dictate, well, you have to come to me if you are an ISP. It depends on your needs but often as an ISP, since you are working with AS numbers and IP numbers basically those are the core things that you need to run your business, often these businesses find it beneficial to have a direct contractual relationship with the RIRs because that makes their operations much easier.

Does it answer your question? And I can explain Turkey's case more in depth to you. I know the history too. I worked for in RIR.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. Caleb, can you come closer to mic?

CALEB OLUMUYIWA OGUNDELE: My name is Caleb. Sorry, a quick one. The regional PDP Process, Policy Development Process, I would like to ask that is if any policy is being made of the regional level, let's say at AfriNIC which I also participate in is ICANN bound by those policies and from the looks of things, I'm beginning to look at the way they arrows are flying from your slide, trying to have a good understanding that okay good, if the originals are moving their policies over to the Address Council, is the regional policy development process, sorry, the Address Council also bound by

some of the policies made at the regional level of AfriNIC, for example.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: No. Regional policy development stays within the region and in fact most of the ASO AC members are taking part in this regional policy development. This is why they know about our policies and this is why our communities put trust on us to also link them to ICANN. Then, it becomes an ICANN or global policy issue is only then old RIRs need to follow the same identical policy in regards to the registration or allocation of the resources.

And there are strict examples of that, IP Version 6 Global Policy where version 6 block needs to be allocated to the RIRs and then RIRs through the regional policies allocate these to the [LARs], right? In that first level, IANA to RIR, Regional Internet Registry, it requires this global policy because it needs to be applied all the same by all RIRs. That is only then we get involved. Same stance for IP Version 4 and same stance for AS numbers.

So we have three main global policies in place and we don't expect many to come because, I mean, those are the three main Internet resources that requires allocation/registration from IANA to RIRs to be further distributed, right? But our other function, ASO AC becomes relevant when there is advice requirement from ICANN Board and we also continue our work

in regards to providing resources to other parts of ICANN like the ICANN Board selection of two individuals from our communities again, from the regional communities to the ICANN Board and we also provide appointments to other parts of ICANN like NomCom. Does that answer?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. Do you have follow up Caleb?

CALEB OLUMUYIWA OGUNDELE: [Inaudible]

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, thank you. Susannah then Alexander and then Michael.

SUSANNAH GRAY: It's not really a question for you, Filiz. It's just a clarification. You mentioned that there is one employee from an RIR as a Fellow but there's actually another one from AfriNIC [inaudible] and I could not see him but –

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We have two Fellows from RIPE NCC actually this time.

SUSANNAH GRAY: There's actually three Fellows so there's two from the RIPE NCC, there's one from AfriNIC and I'm also a former employee of an RIR so if you have questions about RIRs, you can talk to anyone of us. You can leverage your Fellow Fellow's knowledge. Thanks Filiz.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Thanks, Susannah, for pointing up this. Michael? Alexander?

ALEXANDER ISAVNIN: Thank you very much. Hello again, Filiz. We are conducting in community. So I have two questions, simple and difficult. Difficult one is the structure of policy development and how community structure in RIRs, how much simpler [as in] here in ICANN? In RIRs, there is no [inaudible] IPv6 [inaudible] PI address console, IS numbers [inaudible]. Do you think [inaudible] is too complicated and should inherit some ideas from the beginning of distribution of numbers? So it's like RIRs and be more simple? That's the difficult question.

And the simple, I find it strange that here you're being elected by community and you are talking here with us but during RIPE meetings, actually RIR presented by staff, not by community elected people who are reporting what's going on and

something like, so I also find this strange and needs some explanation. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If you can add to that, Michael, and we will avoid your question.

[MICHAEL JOSEPH OGHIA]: Continuing this question actually it's more or less another idea of what do you think about decentralization of RIRs, right? Because we have registries, it looks like more centralized system but we live in a decentralized world at the moment, right? So what do you think about whether people could benefit from that? Thank you.

FILIZ YILMAZ: Okay. I'll answer all together and I'm not so sure if I agree your tagging of easy versus difficult because I find it the other way around. Let me give a try, so on the first one, can it be simpler? It will only get simpler as much as the needs so the structures are often due to the recognized needs in the community and nobody gives it top-down. It comes from the community. While you say that we don't have constituencies in the RIR community structures. Well, we may not have it but it's already bordered down into numbers for us, right? Alex, you know it but that means specializing DNS, specializing address policy, anti-abuse.

I mean, we also have different – you could call them constituency. We just choose not to call them constituency because it's a very quite – I call them APNIC tagging is nice, special interest groups in fact, people come together and they are like, "Okay, I want to work mostly on DNS or routing," and they come together and they form a working group in RIPE's case, right? So they emerge as we feel the need and then they disappear when the need is not there anymore. We also know there had been some working groups which were there before and now they are not functioning, right?

On your second question about the representation of ASO or ASO AC to the regional Internet communities, that's again a little borderline between need. In RIPE's case, or let me just tell you this, with the other regions, I know my colleagues in every RIR meeting, there is an ASO AC update to give but in RIPE, since it's an operator's group meeting like Network Operators Group European together with the RIR meeting merged, we often run into this agenda problem where we decided to only go with those 10 minutes informational sessions when there is a really significant thing to update, right?

But if there's more interest, we can also do that. I scored very low the last time I reported to their community because they found that it wasn't technical enough so sometimes we refrain to use the time every time.

Now, why staff is involved? ASO as I said is in fact Number Resource Organization so the Regional Internet Registries have a contractual relationship in this the whole thing, the IANA and the ICANN. We are the volunteers. I mean, we can only report on the part of global policy development and the ICANN Board and the issues we are relating within our specific domain.

The RIR Staff and COs need to report all those other operational issues and what you see is a combination, I think. So it's a perceptual thing rather than a strict separation.

Now on that, digitalization or centralization versus, there are still mechanisms. I mean, the RIRs, when they started, there were three of them. This is why the first MoU was signed by three: ARIN, RIPE NCC and APNIC and then there was interest from Latin America to do their own regional thing. They were established and then same goes for AFRINIC. I was at the first AFRINIC meeting. In fact, it was really inspirational and then they got all this.

So there is still potential there but mind you, creating, having a community and then establishing procedures and facilitating that is an interesting thing. I think there are a lot of communities that quite enjoy now using that facilitation process with the established mechanisms but if there comes a sixth RIR, there is a way forward for that too. That is like you establish your

community and you talk to the people and you can discuss that and I'm not going to –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Just a small comment. So I'm just talking about distribution responsibilities from bigger RIRs, right? To some smaller organizations because it's time probably, right?

FILIZ YILMAZ: Yeah, yeah and this is recognized in some of them, like RIPE NCC and RIPE's community like it quite flat and they like to target connection but for example in the [APJ] community, APNIC, we have national Internet registries. They put one level where they needed it, right? Or there was a request for that, so that exists, the national Internet registry even before the LIR so one more level towards, what do you call that less centralization? I don't know.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Filiz, and thank you for interesting discussion and for your time coming to us. Our applauses to you and I would like – thank you very much.

I would like to invite our last presenter for today, Robert Hoggarth. Please join us on the stage. So Robert is Vice

President in Policy Development and Government Advisory Committee Relations in ICANN and he will talk about GAC, this Government Advisory Committee and he joined us with one of our bright alumni, Rapid Sun who also serves as ICANN60 community mentor for some Newcomers. So thank you for coming. We just have five to 10 minutes to introduce and then we will have another 10 to 15 minutes for Q&A. I was told that we need to stop sharply 1:30 because we have another session start at that time here and without further ado, Robert, the floor is yours.

ROBERT HOGGARTH:

Thank you. Siranush says that to me because she knows I could just start talking and it will be two hours later and you'd all be asleep and she is giving me a clue what to do and how to approach this. Good afternoon. Thank you very much for the invitation and for the slot to be open for us. I'm delighted that Rapid could join me up here because he brings a wealth of experience, familiarization with all of the programs that you are involved in and also real Internet knowledge about what it takes to come up to speed and to learn about various communities within ICANN, in particular the GAC so I very much appreciate you being able to be with me on this panel.

I shared with you some slides that I would love to have focused, just use as their own resource for information. I certainly don't need to get through those.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah, I don't know if we will have the possibility to show them right now. Our Tech Team may have problem with that because we didn't provide it earlier but I will make sure we will share with Fellows.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I did to Siranush what other people do to me and I apologize for that. It's turning up in the slides an hour before the session. I noticed that the timer is not changing so we don't have to worry about that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I will make sure you know about time.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you. You just give me a little kick. I'm very and was very appreciative of this invitation and being accompanied by Rapid because quite frankly, I'm relatively new to the GAC. I'm celebrating my 13th week supporting the committee, having previously done other work within the Policy Development

Team. It's been a very interesting experience and I think from the perspectives that all of you have as Rapid and I were talking about this, this is in a situation where we are coming to recruit you to join the GAC.

There are certain basic requirements, I think eight or nine of you are working with governments or for governments and you are familiar with the fact that there are just basic expectations or requirements and people generally get assigned to or maybe volunteer to participate or represent their countries or governments in the GAC. But as you may have seen through some of the other materials, the GAC plays a very critical role in the ICANN ecosystem.

GAC stands for Governmental Advisory Committee and the perspectives that governments bring with respect to public policy interests with respect to law enforcement concerns with respect to rights of citizens and the way that individuals were able to conduct themselves are critical government roles to play and in an environment like ICANN, it's very important to have that perspective shared. It's very critical that the GAC be fully functioning, a full collaborative partner with the rest of the community.

And I think one of the innovations over time that has been recognized by the governmental community is that being able to

share information about their work, their processes, the way that they operate is very important to help break down barriers to communication with other parts of the community. It was only just a few years ago where the GAC changed its focus and basically said, “We are going to be open to the rest of the community,” before about two or three years ago, the GAC sessions were all held privately and there wasn’t the opportunity for people to go in and observe those sessions.

Now, every session that the GAC holds with rare exception, it is public. It’s available remotely and in person and that’s a very important part of the philosophy of the committee and the way they conduct their work.

What’s very interesting about the GAC that few people really appreciate when they look at the various communities is that the GAC is one of the communities that has the largest turnover of participants of basically any other community. That’s a product of a number of different factors but certainly something that has been very notable to me as I come on board in terms of how ultimately the committee can operate effectively and get the work done. You don’t even need to bother with that now. Thank you. We can just have the pretty picture up there.

The critical element of that turnover or change is very important because people envision I think government is being this big

monolithic entities and they are very dynamic and the GAC is very dynamic in that regard and one of the areas of substantial focus that has been important to the GAC recently and going forward is how do we onboard those new people. I mean, the GAC does not operate like the GNSO or the ccNSO on a regular basis with meetings and working groups every two weeks. There is more of this pace of governments focusing on a particular public meeting and then preparing for that and that's four months later and then we have eight hours of discussions and see you again in another six months and the pace of ICANN doesn't really reflect that and so as this turnover takes place, footnote, since Johannesburg, since ICANN59, there have been 15 new GAC participants out of a universe of about 400 approximate individuals and so if you analyze that, that's about a 40% turnover a year.

Even if you assume that that's a unique period that we just had in the last three or four months, there is significant change and if the GAC is going to be productive in the overall multi-stakeholder space to be a real full partner with the Board and with other communities, we have to find ways to get those people plugged in, participating and being thoroughly involved in the work and with your permission, if I can turn over the microphone to you for a short bit just to explain some of the efforts that you have been engaged into to help in terms of

thinking about how we bring people up to speed a little bit faster, if you will. Thank you.

RAPID SUN:

Good afternoon. My name is Rapid Sun. I'm a GAC representative of Cambodia and I would like to say with you regarding my experience in the GAC. First time I was a Fellow in ICANN54. At that time, there was no GAC represent from Cambodia and then I worked within my ministry to get the GAC representative from Cambodia into the GAC. Then we had also some ICANN Engagement Workshop back in Cambodia in collaboration with the regional office that they give a strong support not only the ICANN Engagement Workshop but also like the [DNS] security training on that.

When I joined the first time with the GAC meeting, I was selected to be the mentee into the pilot onboarding program. It was established last year, adopt the program to provide capacity building to provide mentorship to the new member in the community that be able to get the Fast Track knowledge of the community, be able to participate actively in the community. So I was a mentee at that time. My mentor, Mr. Tracy Hackshaw.

He was GAC representative from Trinidad and Tobago and now, at this time, this ICANN60, I am a mentor and I have one mentee from [inaudible] and we are now working to have the action plan

for 2018 that as Rob said that the number of GAC members are always keep changing and then we have some action plan data to assess them to or support them in the community in the GAC.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Rob, if you have- okay, we have already cue for the questions so we will go with the questions. We will start with Bruna.

BRUNA SANTOS: Thank you very much. This is Bruna Santos for the record. This is my second Fellowship, third ICANN, second Fellowship so my question is less introductory. I have also worked for the government so I have this regulatory government background and often we encounter some criticism from civil society and the rest of our community regarding transparency and openness and I see that is the same that happens here at ICANN and especially at the [inaudible] situation.

I mean, I'm Brazilian. I'm not going to wait on the question. I'm not taking any side but don't you think that there should have been a way of being more transparent or having more inputs from the community, not unlike the GAC level but from the regional internal because you often have a representative here

but they don't really get input or talk to their local community so how do you see yourselves improving in that way?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I'll start then you can clarify anything. I'm not a government representative so I can't speak authoritatively to that. I think that individual governments have different relationships with their citizens and that's a challenge that they will have to meet those expectations.

I can show that from a GAC perspective, the effort is to be pushing the envelope in terms of what can be shared in terms of participation and in terms of involvement. And I think the initial returns or feedback that people have received and provided to the GAC about that more openness has been very positive.

As staff, we are always looking at it from the perspective of how do we make the community more effective and the best way to do that is through opening channels of communication so I can't apply it to individual substantive issues or aspects but I can just emphasize that more communication always seems to work or at least reduce some of the stress levels on the challenges that some experience.

RAPID SUN: Also from my perspective that each government has its own interest and then usually we need to preserve the culture, preserve the religion or preserve the geographic data related to that country and to protect their interest.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. Destiny I think come first then will be Bram, [inaudible], Anju and Catalina and then we will see if we have time. Okay?

DESTINY TCHEHOUALI: Thank you, Siranush. Destiny Tchehouali for the record. I'm from Quebec and Fellow. I would like to speak in my in native language French.

As I see within the GAC, you have amongst your members, work that follows the states and not necessarily governments. My question in that case would be why would the government of Quebec not be represented within the GAC as an observer member as we see sometimes is the case of UNESCO or other organizations that have governments as observing members? And then I would also like to know whether amongst the governments, you deal mostly with the foreign office of countries or the ministries such that of Communications and ICT. So which is the one that overrules the other in terms of [representativity]?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Interesting questions. I'm not sure if I can completely answer them. My impression has always been that the governmental interests that are recognized within the GAC for membership of countries not local governments or anything, cities or anything like that. There are efforts that have been made over time and a good example of that would be the Public Safety Working Group where due to pleas or intercessions on the part of the law enforcement community wanting to be involved and recognizing that it is a governmental function, GAC created a separate working group to investigate those issues. So presumably if there were some unique functioning issues related to local where governments beneath the national level, that might be something that the GAC would look at.

The second question I have already forgotten but I'm sure you wrote it down, Siranush, or you remembered it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I'm writing down the names who will be the next.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you but let's talk afterwards. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Destiny, please take the opportunity to talk to Robert or Rapid. Sorry. Bram?

BRAM FUDZULANI: For the record, I'm Bram from Malawi. My first ICANN meeting in 2014, I asked the same question to say that how does GAC worked with the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team to ensure that the countries that are not represented in GAC see the value of being part of the GAC? I'm asking this because by the time I was asking this very same question, I referred to my country and the people that were listed as members on GAC website [inaudible] but I've never seen them to such meetings.

So is it just about having huge numbers? But the actual impact is not likely represented in various countries, so I'm interested in that. Thanks.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Thank you very much. I'll try. I'll do that. Always feel free that you can clarify or correct or kick me if I'm saying something incorrect, please. And I noticed you're a coach. Do coaches get to ask questions? I'm giving you a hard time.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We all are learning every single time.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: Every time, every one. I think it's, well number one it's a matter of the individual governments deciding who they send, who they appoint. Some countries can't send everybody to every meeting. Sometimes, they can't send someone to any meeting. That's why the GAC has travel support functions and capabilities, but that's not the question you asked. I think there are two departments at ICANN that deal with governments and look to encourage for increase the level of participation from governmental bodies. One is as you mentioned the GSE Team, which is the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team. They have multiple responsibilities but one of those is to go out and communicate about ICANN to various stakeholders in the multi-stakeholder community and so they have a pretty broad portfolio.

The other group within ICANN is the Government Engagement Team and they deal directly with governments almost exclusively and so I think it's really a combination of those two teams working together as one of the slides, one of the few slides we put up demonstrate. We have over 170 members of the GAC. There's not really an issue from a GAC perspective of we need to recruit and get numbers up. The real focus of the GAC now is how do we maximize the participation of those people

who are there? How do we leverage that brain power and get people involved to contribute to giving advice to the Board?

So for any particular country, I would do two things. One – identify and you have a perfect opportunity here – identify who on the GSE Team is responsible for that region.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Global Stakeholder Engagement Team.

ROBERT HOGGARTH: I said it first. I'm being a bad lawyer in that I said it the first and now I'm just using the acronym every time after that. So I think that's the first step. It's to reach out to the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team representative in your region and ask the very question that you asked here because to your point and this is always a challenge, I think many of you experience this, is how do I get some leverage working within the ICANN community. I'm coming to this meeting to participate in person, how do I maximize that opportunity?

In the face-to-face opportunity that you will have at this meeting – you still have what, two and a half days – is let's track down those individuals so you can chat with them and so can you give me some perspective why is it indeed that I still see the same representatives and I'm sure there is a story behind that

somewhere and perhaps offline we can talk a little bit more in terms of those types of issues. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Catalina? Okay. While you are doing your comment, Catalina will come closer to mic.

RAPID SUN: Back to the previous question that with ministries who nominate the GAC representative and seeing it is the internal process in your country that the ministries would coordinate or communicate each other that which ministries would be the responsible for example in Cambodia that we have Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications coming to the GAC so the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave the delegation to the Ministry of Posts and Telecomm and within the GAC in the issue, maybe right protection or intellectual property that the GAC representative for the country can have a look or coordination with the relevant ministry in their country, for example.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We have only three minutes left so very short intervention, Catalina, please.

CATALINA REYES VILLEGAS: I will speak in Spanish. My question is coming here as a representative, I work for a government and I've seen that ICANN has a lot of potential beyond the GAC but I do see that countries participate only in the GAC and they are limited to the GAC. So what is your opinion with respect of countries broadening that participation in ICANN probably as observers in the rest of the communities?

ROBERT HOGGARTH: That's an excellent question and I actually had a couple of wonderful slides that outline for you the level of GAC participation various countries in Cross-Community Working Group efforts and GNSO PDP efforts and a number of working groups in a variety of ways. So indeed, participants in the GAC take advantage of their opportunities in ICANN to work in a number of different spheres and I would definitely encourage you and anyone who works with your government or is associated with other governments to take advantage of that.

I think the real challenge is the bandwidth that individual participants have in terms of time and commitment in terms of interest in the issues and that's not different really from any other member of the multi-stakeholder community. We recognize that ICANN is not your 100% job.

In the case of some portfolios for GAC participants, it might be 10%. So it's very small and I think the challenge there as Rapid noted is individual governments have to make that commitment and see that there is a value in terms of their strategies, in terms of what their citizens are interested in, in terms of what they can devote to ICANN.

But I think you'll see and I'm very happy to have you see the slides, we identify certain governments and where they are participating and you might reach out to some of those participants or representatives to ask how they do it, how they can do that in the successful way and still maintain their broader portfolios. Thank you for the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you for your time, Rob. I know there are a lot of questions but we will take this out of the session so thank you for participation and with that, our meeting for today is adjourned. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]