
BARCELONA – Joint NCUC - At Large outreach: your guide to ICANN Architecture (2 of 2)

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: October 22, 2018, Joint NCUC At-Large Outreach, Your Guide to ICANN Architecture 2 of 2, 12:15 to 11:15 Room 113.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: So, because there's still people queueing up for food, we'll start in about five to ten minutes.

Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to start in about a minute or so, if I could please ask you to take your seats. Okay, shall we start? Excellent.

So, welcome back, everybody. We're going to have another 45 minutes this afternoon. Tatiana, as you heard earlier, had to go to another meeting, but replacing her is ... Oh, start the recording, please, I'm told. Super.

Welcome back, everybody. We've got about 45 minutes to discuss these two additional information topics here, the ICANN accountability and the expedited PDP, everything related to WHOIS.

BRUNA SANTOS: It's working.

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.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: It works now, perfect. Bruna Santos has joined us. There's one more rule for this session now which is do not speak with your mouth full. That includes, of course, the interpreters because there is no budget for cleaning the booth. So, thanks, everyone, for remaining around. We've got some of your questions basically that are here. ICANN accountability is one of these processes that has gone on for quite a while.

I think when the question was asked, the question was basically saying, "Who is ICANN accountable to?" That's quite a long answer for this. We've got a few more experts that have joined us around the room. I was going to ask – I'm not sure, Milton, do you wish to address this from your perspective and then we'll ask also ... I know that some people were in the ICANN accountability working group. They'll be able to also add onto this. Let's get Milton Mueller back on the mic.

MILTON MUELLER: Well, that's a very interesting. Who is ICANN accountable to? In the original setup of ICANN, fundamentally, ICANN did have its own board and it elected board members through its various processes. But, fundamentally, they were accountable to the United States government because the US government held the IANA contract and basically authorized ICANN to act as IANA, in addition to being in control of the root zone for the global DNS.

So, many of us were unhappy with this situation and we pushed for eliminating that link to the US government. The argument against it

always was, “Well, who is ICANN accountable to? And if they go crazy or do bad things, what holds them in check?”

The answer that many of us wanted was that ICANN is supposed to be accountable to the global Internet community. That is, the people who use and supply Internet services. We wanted a system of self-governance that transcended nation states that was not dependent on a single government or an intergovernmental organization. We didn’t want ICANN to be run by the ITU or supervised by a new international treaty or by the US government. We wanted it to be independent of governments.

So, when we did the transition, we were very pleased that when the US Commerce Department announced it, they said that they wanted ICANN to be accountable to the global Internet – they called it the global multi-stakeholder community.

So, the accountability mechanisms that we set up basically draw upon ICANN’s own representational organs to create what they call an empowered community which has oversight over the ICANN board and can replace the board or replace individual board members, can challenge certain decisions.

The idea that is ICANN is accountable to you, to the community of people who participate in and are affected by its policies.

BRUNA SANTOS:

Thank you very much, Milton. Do we have question? Question time, yeah?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I cannot break my own rule and Milton just abruptly stopped in the middle of I just stuffed a big piece of melon in my mouth. I was going to call upon Greg Shatan, perhaps. You were also in this accountability and all these working groups. Anything else to add on that?

GREG SHATAN: I think Milton summed it up pretty well. The issue was, with the IANA transition, it brought into highlight that were, in essence ... While there was a community around ICANN it hadn't been quite fully figured out how it would operate in a post-IANA contract world. That raised kind of an alarm bell that we had to deal with a number of issues. It was broken down into two – what we had to do before we could do the transition and what we could do afterwards, which was work stream two. I was the rapporteur of the jurisdiction subgroup in work stream two which had been set up to deal with specific question of any issues that were posed by ICANN's jurisdiction.

In other words, the fact that it is not only a private organization, but it is a not-for-profit that is located in and incorporated in California, in the United States of America. That is a little bit different.

It's not IGO. It's a no-governmental organization. So, it has to operate like any other corporation within the rules of its host country. Not host country – it's home country. So, that creates issues. Work stream two generally dealt with more specific issues, as Collin pointed out. We dealt with how the framework for the interpretation of the human

rights bylaw and there were six or seven others. I think Michael was involved in the transparency subgroup. I think he was the rapporteur or co-rapporteur of that group. It was things that were a little too complex and weren't necessarily issues that we had to resolve before it got kind of put into work stream two. And if anyone suggests there should be a work stream three, I'll run out of here screaming. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you. Tijani Ben Jemaa, you wanted to add a couple of things from your perspective.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much. Tijani Ben Jemaa. I used to be one of the co-chairs of this CCWG work stream two.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yes, welcome. So, one penalty for you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay, cross-community working group on accountability work stream two. So, Milton told you that ICANN is now accountable to the community, the whole community. Greg explained you what happened about the jurisdiction. There was a lot of other subgroups, such as the human rights, such as diversity, etc. So, several aspects of accountability were addressed during this work stream two cross-community working group about accountability.

For your information, the work stream two final report is not yet adopted. We are expecting that all the SO and ACs, all the supporting organizations and advisory committees will ratify it during this meeting and I hope it will happen. Some of them already did, but most of them didn't yet.

When it will be ratified, it will go to the board and then the board normally should adopt it if they agree on it and I think they will agree because we worked with them on it.

Now, after the transition, there is no more contact or no more relation with the US government. The relation is with the community and you all can control – not control, you can monitor – everything happening and you can give your opinion. For your information, the community can challenge the board about the budget, which is a very important point.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Tijani. I was going to also give the floor to a third person from our community. Sebastien Bachollet is sometimes from the 20% that is the no consensus part. I'm not quite sure. Okay, I'll give the floor to you, Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: It's not so often that I get the floor. Thank you, Olivier. Sebastien Bachollet for the record, member of ALAC representing European Regional At-Large Organization. I was a board member during when mandate from 2010 to 2014.

We talk about accountability and you heard about work stream one, work stream two, and so on and so forth. For the moment, we are at the middle of the way. We are not yet accepted as work stream two and it's an important part within accountability.

But, for the first part, we have already set up. I guess we are still trying to find some check and balance in the real world, not on paper. It's a moving target because, just to take one example, if you heard this morning at the opening ceremony Goran was given the floor as President and CEO of ICANN Org. It used to be President and CEO, the previous one, of ICANN.

For me, it's a big change. That means that he's in charge of the staff, of the money, but he's not talking on behalf of the whole, what I call the Organization, of all of us, the community, the participants, staff, board and so on. That's a big change and I am not sure that it was intended in work stream one at all. We have to really be careful because the risk is that there is no more voice to ICANN accept thousands, hundreds, millions of voices, and at the end of the day I am not sure that it will be so much accountable. That's one point.

The second is that we really need the work stream two to fulfill the full mission of the working group on accountability. I hope that it will run quickly, even if it's ... It will need some additional work at the end of the day. Thank you.

BRUNA SANTOS:

Thanks very much. Moving on, we're going to the—

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Did that answer your question? Who is ICANN accountable to, to you? [inaudible] all of us.

BRUNA SANTOS: Great. So, we're moving on to the [inaudible] everybody is saying EPDP all the time. I don't even know what is EPDP.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: So, EPDP is the Expedited PDP that is trying to solve a problem that has been around ever since ... Well, trying to solve a problem before ICANN even existed. So, that's a long time. More than 20 years.

BRUNA SANTOS: More than 20 years. So, I guess we're going to put some of our specialists on the spot. What is a PDP? A PDP is a policy development process. It's pretty much how GNSO, Generic Names Supporting Organization, builds up its policies from bottom-up.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: And the special thing about this one is that it's expedited, so it has a start and an end within a specific time period. Some policy development processes took years. It initially was supposed to take one year, but then it just went on because it was a complex issue. This one has to go very fast, so it's got a very compressed timeframe. Many of us pity the people who are on the EPDP. You will see them around, a few

people around the table who look particularly tired. I hope that they can wake up after the food to tell us a little bit about this. Who wishes to ... You can see they're so excited, aren't they? Farzaneh, the Expedited PDP, the whole WHOIS thing. You have a mic in front of you. I know it's tiring.

FARZANEH BADI:

Okay. Farzaneh Badi speaking. First of all, not to be critical or anything, but just to show the newcomers that you can always criticize and be radical in ICANN, if you join us.

This is the interactive introduction. Who are you interacting with? Olivier, you are the one that just talked and talked and you just gave the microphone to the experts and there was no interaction whatsoever with the newcomers. So, I think that is one of the problems with ICANN.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

You're right.

FARZANEH BADI:

Because if you are not always engaged with the problems, then you don't know how to bring what you want to the processes. Now, the best way of doing that and interacting and to be influential is to engage with policy development processes.

BRUNA SANTOS:

I have to explain one thing, though. We're a little behind schedule.

FARZANEH BADI: You're behind the schedule.

BRUNA SANTOS: Yeah. So, this is not what we're doing now. We're doing the discussion on [inaudible].

FARZANEH BADI: So, you can see you can also [inaudible] criticism.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: You have not paid attention, Farzaneh.

FARZANEH BADI: I was not ... We had a schedule ... Anyway.

BRUNA SANTOS: And we kind of deserved the criticism, so it's fine.

FARZANEH BADI: So, we need to talk about the expedited process now?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: The EPDP. You've been on this thing, haven't you?

FARZANEH BADII:

Yes. So, the expedited policy development process is a process that looks at the policy regarding the domain name registrant and registrant's data because when you want to register a domain name, you need to give your limited personal information, like your name, your e-mail address, your physical address now and phone number.

For a long time, this information would be just published and anyone anywhere in the world, criminal or not, could go and find that information, where you lived, what your e-mail address was. They could get that and come and steal your dog or something like that.

And there are all these privacy issues, but the problem was that, for 20 years, we tried as the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, to bring privacy to WHOIS and hide this information. With the proxies, there were some ... Proxies were solutions. You could hide it by buying proxy from the registrar. But, if you didn't buy it, then you would just be providing information that was very sensitive.

Now, we did not win this battle, so it was always public until the data protection law of Europe came into effect two years ago. I mean, came into effect in May, but we had two years to see how we can comply with this law which we didn't. But now that the law is into effect, ICANN had to, through a contract with the registries and registrars, through a change in contract to redact the personal information, which is great and we like it. Some people don't like it here, but [inaudible].

So, the issue is that they say that the personal information that is in WHOIS is very important for some of the functions. For example, if law enforcement wants to come and arrest you, it should go to WHOIS and

use your address. No, I'm joking. There are some cybersecurity usages of this personal information. So, there has to be a balance. Who should access this data? What data element are really needed? What personal information is really needed to register your domain name to operate it?

So, these are the questions that we are trying to answer and we are trying to come up with a policy that, because this data, the personal if is redacted, to see how we can – what data elements, first of all, we should collect, whether we should collect just limited personal information that is already there, and what should be redacted, which fortunately, until now, we have [inaudible] that we think that, for example, address and e-mail and these personal information should be redacted from WHOIS.

So, the EPDP consists of various stakeholder groups with conflicting interest or sometimes are aligned that discuss these issues of personal information that is being collected and how certain users that have legitimate interest, how they should – whether they should be able to access it or how that should work.

But, we are at the beginning of our work, at the beginning of – we've been doing this for two months, three months. But we are still talking about coming up with the purpose of collection of this data, of this personal information. What is the purpose of ICANN to collect this personal information?

We came up with these purpose and they are not finalized yet. I think today there will be a session that will brief you on specific policy issues,

but what I'd like to ... I think I just covered more high-level thing. Some of the things that are ... Is it okay if champion a couple of values we have now?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: If you can do it in 30 seconds, that would be great.

FARZANEH BADI: Yeah. So, what is important for the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group is the personal information of the domain name registrant should be protected and should be redacted and access to that data should be limited. This is what we are fighting for. Also, there are various things. But, this is the stance that we are coming from. For us, privacy of the domain name registrant comes first.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks, Farzaneh. And for a similar, but different, view, Alan Greenberg?

ALAN GREENBERG: I wasn't actually going to present our view, although I'll try quickly.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: It would be helpful because it will show ...

ALAN GREENBERG: I will now.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: If you have anything else you can say ...

ALAN GREENBERG: I was going to focus on the differences and why there are differences. GDPR says that if you release information that is deemed to be personal information and you do it unreasonably, there are fines associated with it. The fines are 4% of your global gross revenue. That's a lot, potentially an awful lot of money.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Or 20 million euros, was it, as well? It's also a nice number.

ALAN GREENBERG: They apply in different ways. If you look at companies with a billion dollars of revenue, 4% is a good piece of change. So, we're talking about big penalties. So, obviously, the contracted parties who are handling this data have large liabilities and want to minimize the risk, especially if you look at registrars where it's a pretty low-margin business. If you give up 4% of your gross revenue, you're probably giving up all of your profit and perhaps then some, if you were really fined.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: The registrars are the people that deal with the end users.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Essentially sell registrations, that you register a domain from, not technically selling. If you look at the other parties around the room, people who have trademarks want to make sure that they can exercise the ICANN policies that allow them to have remediation. If someone is violating their trademark – or they claim someone is violating their trademark – that policy requires release of some WHOIS information. So, how do we make sure that still works afterwards?

Law enforcement and security people have great concerns that the techniques that are used to protect the Internet, to combat malware, fraud, phishing, spam – spam, by the way, is not just content. Spam is the largest vector for distributing malware. All of the people who do that use WHOIS to one extent or another. Therefore, we don't quite know at this point, if WHOIS is heavily redacted, how is that going to impact it?

At-Large has a great concern about that. Everyone runs web browser and that web browser will warn you if you're going to a dangerous site. That depends on reputation services that use WHOIS and we don't know to what extent that's going to be impacted.

So, there's a lot of unknowns in this. This is a brave new world we were don't know exactly what the impact is going to be in all of these things, but the impact is potentially large.

From an At-Large point of view, if I may finish, then I'll turn it over to you. From an At-Large point of view, although we care about registrants, we also care about the other four billion and how their potential experiences on the web will be impacted.

So, there's different people around the room. Each of them have their own perspective. The question is: how can we balance them?

MILTON MUELLER:

So, it just needs to be said that the indiscriminate publication of registrant's contact data has its security flaws as well and it makes it easier to spam people, it makes it easier to hijack domains and so on. I think we created an expectation that this information would be available in bulk for free and people got used to that and now they're having to adjust. That's possibly a painful thing, but it's really a good thing I think for registrants.

There will be law enforcement access and other kinds of access to this data, but that's what we're going to have to work out. We have to work out the policies that govern access and that's supposed to be step two in the EPDP process where we define a policy for governing access.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thanks, Milton. Greg Shatan with just tweet, please.

GREG SHATAN:

Thanks. Greg Shatan for the record. I'm merely an observer of the EPDP which means that I can watch but not speak. It also means that I retain my sanity. Some may argue with that, but at least I'm not going to lose it over this.

I'm just saying that, thankfully, nobody is suggesting indiscriminate access to WHOIS data, at least to the extent it's an issue with GDPR.

Some may think that what others are suggesting is indiscriminate. I don't see it that way. Clearly, compliance with GDPR is a sine qua non, is a necessity, of this process. However it ends up. some would like to wrap that compliance, perhaps, in six levels of gauze and padding to avoid any way of being anywhere near liability. But the bottom line is that WHOIS is kind of one of the initial pillars of ICANN and one of the pillars of the domain name system. Of course, GDPR is a data protection regulation. It's not a privacy regulation. You can wait for e-privacy to see what an EU privacy law really looks like. That will be fun, too. But the issue is how to deal with access of data. None of this is easy, but hopefully in the end, as Alan said, we'll strike the right balance. Thanks.

ALAN GREENBERG: Just to be clear, there are people advocating indiscriminate access. They're not likely to win.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks for this. Has this been helpful? You'll notice there are several points of view already expressed around the table and that's exactly what's happening in the EPDP. That's why ... I think it's got a better chance of succeeding now than the previous efforts because now it's got a start and an end. There is a deadline by which things need to be done. The WHOIS discussion has taken place since before ICANN existed, as I mentioned earlier. Bruna, shall we move on?

BRUNA SANTOS: Yes. And for the second time, we had a lot of other policy discussions happen here but we're dropping them to do more stuff into our governance and structures. But I would ask for those of us who are in any PDP to raise their hands, just so we can see who can be the focal and contact points for all of us.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: There's Robin behind you. If you can just say what PDP you're in charge of or involved in.

ROBIN GROSS: Can you hear me okay? Okay. My name is Robin Gross and I'm with the Non-Commercial Users. I'm active in the new gTLD subsequent procedures working group and what this working group is, is it is dealing with the rules and processes for handling applications for new generic top-level domains.

So, there was a policy that came out in I think 2012 when the last round opened up and then we had new applications and they were processed and new TLDs were added into the root. So, now what we're doing is we're looking at those rules and those processes and seeing what we need to change for next time. Maybe there are some gaps or some mistakes, some other issues that need to be looked at. K

So, this particular working group is divided into basically five different work tracks, each dealing with different issues, regulatory issues, legal issues, objections, the objections process, geographic names – that's work team five, which is going on right now and dealing with trying to

restrict the use of words that refer to geographic regions in the root. So, if you're concerned about freedom of expression in particular, I'd like to encourage folks to get involved in work team five. Come see me. Talk to me about it. I'm happy to go into detail with you at any time. Thanks.

BRUNA SANTOS: Thanks, Robin. Someone else?

MICHAEL KARANICOLAS: Hi, I'm Michael Karanicolas. I'm with NCUC and I'm active in the rights protection mechanism working group. We're examining ICANN's rights protection mechanisms which are processes for trademark enforcement in the domain name space.

For example, if somebody registers adidas.com, Adidas the company would be unhappy about that and there are mechanisms for them to assert their protections associated with their mark.

Similarly, if somebody registers Adidas with an extra D and uses that to sell counterfeit Adidas or to redirect people to malware, there are protection mechanisms in order to allow mark owners to defend their rights.

So, it's about trademark enforcement but fundamentally it brings in important questions about privacy, about transparency, about due process, and about freedom of expression and fair use. So, if you're interested in that from the non-commercial side, please don't hesitate to reach out.

BRUNA SANTOS: Thank you very much. Is there any other groups that we haven't talked about? Greg, go ahead.

GREG SHATAN: I'm actually involved in both the rights protection mechanism group and in the subsequent procedures group, including in work track five. I wish it was a work team, but it's definitely a work track. I wish it was a team because we're not really operating as a team and it's a track because it feels like we're just going around and around in circles, like a race track. In any case, I'm involved in both of these and have my own perspectives.

But, from the perspective of the end user, really is the perspective that we're talking about here. The geographic names perspective is very diverse. There are some who think that the end user benefits by having the maximum ability of anyone to apply to register a top-level domain in the geographic even if the word is also used as a geographic term. There are others who think that the end user may benefit most if any term that has a geographic meaning is reserved only or first for the geographic meaning.

So, there's all sorts of interesting aspects. I don't know if you have anybody here from auction proceeds, but that's really kind of the other one that's going on at the moment that deserves a moment.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Auction proceeds next to you, Alan. Just 30 seconds.

ALAN GREENBERG: I put my hand up for another thing I'm doing, but I'll talk about auction proceeds. Associated with the last round of new gTLDs – and if I use any acronyms I'm not supposed to. ICANN made available new gTLDs in addition to dot-com, dot-net. They've done that a few times in its history, but recently in 2012, we started a process which has created about 1200 new top-level domains.

There were some instances where multiple people applied for the same name, the same string, and one of the ways that could be resolved is it was essentially auctioned off to whoever had the most money. That money went into a fund which ICANN had committed to using essentially for good projects. So, we will become a funding agency for good Internet-related projects that are in support of ICANN's mission. And there is a cross-community working group that is now deciding exactly how that money will be released and what the processes will be, what kinds of projects are allowed, and in fact I'm leaving in a few minutes to go attend a meeting of that group. So, that's one of the other things going on. Olivier, do you want me to do the other one, also?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Very briefly, please. We are running out of time.

ALAN GREENBERG: Okay, very briefly. There are also review teams within ICANN that review specific things. One of the current review teams is looking at WHOIS-type issues – not GDPR, but other WHOIS-related issues – and I happen to be chairing that review team. That’s another place that people can participate. There’s currently a draft report of that group out for public comment. So, anyone who chooses to can read the report and make comments on what we’re saying. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you, Alan. Finally, another cross-community working group. Sebastien?

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you. I’m going to speak in French. I think we need to use our interpreter services, so I’m going to oblige you to listen with your headset, to listen to the translation.

I’m in the same group as Greg on the use of the auction proceeds and I wanted to tell you that besides Milton Mueller, I am the only one here – or the second one, the second oldest one here, in ICANN. I wanted to tell you that there are people who are belonging to a lot of working groups and who belong to a lot of groups of working groups. But I have decided to concentrate myself on two or three activities because I think it’s a good way to leave room to other people, because if we do everything, people won’t have a place. So, you have to come and take those places.

BRUNA SANTOS:

And you guys want to get into a working group or start participating more actively at ICANN. We wanted to give the floor to Elsa right now to maybe say a few words on how to become a more active member of the community with PDPs and participation in comments. You two can share, I guess.

ELSA SAADE:

I think point to ... Elsa Saade, for the record. I used to be with NCUC. It's going to be hard to change that introduction. So, I used to be with NCUC leadership as Asia-Pacific leader and now it's David Cake. I'm not sure if he's in the room. Hi, David! Okay. So, right now I'm with GNSO Council, representing NCSG.

Point being, throughout this year as NCUC EC, we learned a lot. But, personally, with NCUC EC, it's more – sorry, Non-Commercial Users Constituency Executive Committee. It's much more administrative, while when we want to be joining PDPs, it's going to be more related to policy, as we all know.

The main entry point for me, personally, was through public comments. I'm just going to talk about the public comments and have Louise speak about other ways of actually joining the PDPs because it's a different topic.

But, in terms of public comments, there are always, like Alan just mentioned, there are so many public comments that are out there for the whole community to talk about and to give feedback about. Through these spaces, you're able to, through your constituencies or

stakeholder groups, to work with other people, other members, other organizations and develop a public comment about a very specific topic.

For instance, let's talk about auction proceeds. Auction proceeds have an initial report that is out there right now for public comment. A member from the Non-Commercial Users Constituency would be like, "Hmm, I'm interested in that, but I really don't know much about it." So, you just get into that page about the public comment and you'll find a whole summary of all the work that has been done on auction proceeds. You will just read it through, manage some thoughts, look back at the Non-Commercial Users Constituency bylaws, check out the values, think through it. And then, with the help of other members, see if other members are interested, you can write and express yourself, express your views, express your constituency or stakeholder group's views through that public comment.

I find so much importance in that because it's not only getting knowledge about the issue, more and more knowledge and being able to understand more about the topic and be able to read through the details and focus on one issue – it's more than that. It's, one, participation. Two, being able to express yourself as newcomers. And three, being able to get in touch with focal points who are in leadership positions and those, for instance, working groups, being able to speak to them and ask them questions so that you'd be able to develop that public comment properly.

So, you'd have an affect of a kind that, even if it's after the working group's work is done, you would know more about it and you'd have a certain affect within that community.

For instance, on the new gTLD subsequent procedures, which Robin just talked about, there were 70 comments from the whole community and that's intense. That's immense work for the working group, but that's also something that they will be taking into consideration.

So, whatever voice you will be putting out there in that public comment is going to be taken into consideration by that working group and you can lobby for it eventually. You can be speaking up about it.

So, in summary, I think that's one entry point for you as newcomers, to be able to get to know more about a certain topic and to be able to network with people, and to be able to eventually learn the politics behind a specific issue. That's, in a nutshell, for me about public comments and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks, Elsa. I was just reminded by Alan that, of course, individuals can submit public comments themselves directly if they wish to, but obviously going through an organization such as NCUC or At-Large, you do get the weight of the organization also.

I was going to give a couple of minutes to John Laprise also, who is going to look at it from an At-Large perspective.

BRUNA SANTOS: We have five minutes until the end.

JOHN LAPRISE: I'll go really swiftly. My name is John Laprise. I'm the RALO ALAC representative. We do public comments in ALAC in a couple of different ways. When members have an idea that, when they see a policy that's coming out and we think that it's something that At-Large should speak about, we talk about it, we talk about mailing lists, we circulate information. We finally arrive at someone who has a sufficient level of expertise and interest and appoint them as a penholder as they start drafting a comment.

We pass that comment around through a few rounds of feedback within the community, within At-Large, and finally if it's going to be a formal comment from ALAC, we vote on it and move it out of policy.

At the same time, individual members, similarly, can make public comments on various issues that they see or that they see from their constituent groups. So, if you're from North America and there's an issue, you can raise that up in comment. And because At-Large is not bound to simply commenting on policy processes, we comment on other events that come about. So, we commented on the KSK rollover most recently. We also commented after the Puerto Rican hurricane. We commented on some procedures there. So, we have a wide breadth of areas that we comment on. We have a number of different processes. But, generally, it's very consensual. We run it through the At-Large team and we finally emerge with something that we can all generally agree on and we put it forth.

BRUNA SANTOS: Thank you very much, John.

ELSA SAADE: Bruna, can I just one more additional very quick point?

BRUNA SANTOS: Yes.

ELSA SAADE: I just want to encourage newcomers. Don't be afraid of being penholders at all because that's how you would learn. Even if you're alone in actually reviewing a certain initial report. Don't be afraid to take up the pen and just write.

For instance, in the Non-Commercial Users Constituency, or Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group – I'm talking about individual comments. Thank you for mentioning that, because that's important, too. But, in the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group or User Constituency, there's a policy committee who actually reviews the comment. So, even if you wrote something that is a bit iffy—

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Ish.

ELSA SAADE: Thank you, yes. The policy committee will actually look at it and they will help you work it out and make it better. So, just a very quick point. Don't be afraid. Just get on.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: It's the same, also, for At-Large. You're not going to just write something completely out of the world. It might look, for some perspective, out of the world, but no, there certainly is a whole process for it. We were looking for Adam Peak around the room but he isn't here, apparently. It gives us a few more minutes. How to become on next leadership. How to work with other groups, we've seen ICANN is an amazing place in that you can walk around the corridors and actually get to talk to people. They're not behind rows of body guards and you're not about to get chopped into pieces and stuff, if you say the wrong thing.

I'd say that if you want to talk to someone about something, then please go to them. As far as we're concerned, we're encouraging this and answering any of your questions.

BRUNA SANTOS: And if it's worth mentioning, NCUC also has some sort of a fellowship. So, if you're a member and you happen to be involved in PDPs and want to come to one of those meetings, we often open the calls for you to come. It's a [inaudible] basis policy, but you get to come and help us and learn from all of us in participating [inaudible]. This is another good opportunity.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: And then how to become our next leadership is an interesting one. There are regular requests for positions on all sorts of working groups. You've heard about so many of the working groups. You've heard about the review groups, the policy development process groups. The cross-community working groups. In At-Large, there's also some positions to run RALOs, to do outreach. We've got our own internal working groups as well. So, all sorts of positions. Unfortunately, we never have enough people to fill those positions. Not all of them come with a travel package. In fact, most of them don't come with a travel package. But, this is not what we're looking for. We're looking to get the voice of end users moving forward. There's a constant struggle as people move on and we always need new people to help.

Anything else? Have we answered most of your questions? Is there anything that has remained unanswered?

BRUNA SANTOS: Is anybody leaving the room even more confused than you joined? No? Great.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sorry, shameless plug. I just wanted to remind everybody that if they want to continue talking about human rights and the picket fence and the things that we were talking about earlier, they can follow me to room 119 immediately after this. Thanks.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: I had a question from a staff member who said, “How do I get in touch with you?” Well, that she should know. It was actually how can anyone get in touch with us, NCUC and At-Large?

BRUNA SANTOS: NCUC has a website, ncuc.org, and there you have a lot of information on us. We have a great part of it which is the onboarding and NCUC newcomer part. You get to learn a lot of it and then the membership approval form, just so you can become a member of us.

If not, you can write to us, leadership team. You can write to EC/LAC or each of the regions @ncuc.org and chair@ncuc.org so we'll be answering your e-mails.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Super. You've also got brochures that you've distributed around the table. I've got some brochures in my hand for the different regions. Each region has got a different e-mail address that you can contact or you can contact staff at atlarge.icann.org. Of course, if you're here, no need to e-mail. There's some At-Large staff in the corner, so you can go and talk to them directly after this meeting. And the NCUC support staff, where is?

BRUNA SANTOS: Maryam is over there.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Maryam is here. There you go. Maryam is here. So, there you go. You've got everyone here in the room. I think we can finish here if there's no further questions. I hope you've enjoyed this.

BRUNA SANTOS: Yes. Thank you very much for coming. It was great. [applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]