
ICANN76 | CF – North America Space
Monday, March 13, 2023 – 15:00 to 16:00 CUN

GIOSE MCGINTY: My name is Giose McGinty and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. During the session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read out loud if put in the proper form as noted in the chat. With that, I'll hand the floor over to Naela Sarras.

NAELA SARRAS: Hello everyone. Thank you, Giose. It is a pleasure to be here with you today for the North America Space Session. I am Naela Sarras. I am the vice president of stakeholder engagement for the North America region. In that capacity, I look after the North America region when it comes to the Stakeholder Engagement Team at ICANN. And with me, there are several colleagues that we work together as a team to do this, which I will let them introduce themselves very shortly here. As you see, we're a small intimate group. We wanted to keep this conversational, so hopefully we won't do too much presentation and try to invite a discussion in today's session. I'm really excited to have this session.

We introduced this during the pandemic, the North America Space. It's something new to this region. The intention of North America Space is to make it a space where we can have discussions as a community, see if we're focusing on the right things, what else we should be working on.

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We held it twice during the remote period of holding ICANN meetings. This is the first time we do it as a hybrid session. I'm really glad to be doing this as a hybrid and continue this in ICANN77 in three months' time. So in terms of agenda, we'll take a quick look at engagement in North America today, what we've been up to. I'm really excited to hear from North America Network Operators' Group is here.

We have with us Edward McNair. He's the Executive Director of NANOG. And then we also have the Chair of NARALO here today, who will also give us an update about what NARALO has been up to. And then I have a few questions, sort of open discussion that I wanted to leave for the end of this session. So with that, let me make sure that you're familiar with everyone that calls themselves the North America Stakeholder Engagement Team. So I'd like to have the team introduce themselves. And then we will start the way the order goes, I guess, on the slide. So Naela on the most left on the slide, and we'll go to you, Joe. A little bit about yourself, please, too.

JOE CATAPANO:

Thank you. I'm Joe Catapano. Many of you know me. I'm the Senior Manager for Stakeholder Engagement for the region, interfacing with all sectors. It's good to see many familiar faces here and a few new ones.

DAVID HUBERMAN:

Hi, good afternoon, everybody. Most of you don't know me. I'm David Huberman. I work in ICANN's Office of the CTO. I do technical engagement, which essentially means work with stakeholders all around the world, technical and non-technical, and try and help

everyone ensure we're on the same page when it comes to how the Internet really works. I've been doing this for a quarter century now, and I've had a lot of fun the last few years here on our new North America team.

NAELA SARRAS: I don't see Alex here, right, Julio? No? So we'll go over to you, Giose.

GIOSE MCGINTY: I'm Giose McGinty. I'm the Stakeholder Engagement Regional Specialist for North America and also for the Latin America team. I work with Naela and Joe and David.

NAELA SARRAS: Thanks, everyone. And just so you're clear, Alex Dans also supports our team. She's on the communications team. I think she's a familiar face to many of you. She's really dynamic and an excellent force on this team. We all really appreciate having Alex. I had asked her to step in just to say hello, but I know this is her region when it comes to doing the meetings, so she's quite busy.

So let us take a look a little bit about what we've been doing in terms of the engagement plan. I know many of you here worked with us, I believe, in 2021 when we were setting up the engagement plan for North America and the things that we set out to do as a region. And that engagement plan is tied to the ICANN strategic plan for 2020 through 2025 strategic plan, correct? And the strategic plan is the big vision. It's the vision for what summarizes the vision for what we want to achieve.

And the engagement plan drills down in the how. How are we going to achieve that and the what, the tools.

So those are the priorities that we set out for ourselves in the engagement plan. We did several events in the last year to report against how we're doing against that plan, and we prepared a much more detailed update on how we're doing against that plan, and that has been posted to the session page for this session. So that's already posted there. It has all the details of what the objectives are and what we did against each of the objectives.

So in today's session, and again, for the sake of keeping more time for discussion, I wanted to take you kind of a quick summary of what we have been doing. So the plan itself, as I said, it pulls out from the ICANN strategic plan. There are sessions currently that will be held to update the strategic plan. As you know ICANN refreshes the ICANN strategic plan. So we imagine that our plan will also get refreshed when that's refreshed. But it pulls directly from the ICANN strategic plan. It also focuses on regional efforts to strengthen engagement and participation in ICANN, and it's only the first day officially of ICANN, but I feel like in every session I've been in today, it talked about strengthening participation and bringing new participants in.

It seems to be a very popular theme in this meeting, as it should be. The last update we did here was in ICANN72, which it looks like October 2021. That was the last of these space sessions. So what we've been up to since then is we continued, remember, we've been in the pandemic since then until June of last year in terms of ICANN meetings. So we continued our webinar series, which we also started during the

pandemic, to offer webinars on topics of interest to the community. NARALO went ahead and held their first general assembly last year in October, and we are very happy to have had room to participate with NARALO in their general assembly, I think in the first and last five years. It had been like at least five or six years since the last GA.

And I know Greg will talk about it more, but by all measures, it was a really great time to spend time with the NARALO members and talk about what their priorities are and really just get to meet them. There is a blog that's linked here that sort of summarizes 2022 activities, and I invite you to please take a look at it when you have a chance. So that was sort of 2022 in a very, very quick summary. Looking ahead to 2023, now that we are back to doing things hybrid, such as this meeting, we will continue to have these hybrid meetings, whether it's through ICANN meetings or one-on-one meetings or other events, side events that we organize. So we'll continue that.

We will do different outreach activities to stakeholder groups, again, to work against the engagement plan and achieve those goals. And a very big topic, as you can imagine, for our team, for the North American Engagement Team, is ICANN77 coming to DC in less than three months. To give you just a little bit of a preview of what we're working on there, each region, when the meeting is coming to their region, gets involved a lot more in the planning with the rest of ICANN that always, of course, does planning for ICANN meetings. So we've already been involved with other colleagues in the organization to say, how do we take advantage of the fact that the meeting is coming to Washington DC? So this is a little bit self-motivated because we're the North America region and we're happy that the meeting is coming to us.

We do expect 77 to be -- typically 77 -- I'm sorry, typically the summer meeting is the policy meeting. So it's the shorter of the three meetings, it's four days. And as such, it's usually the lesser attended meeting of all three. But we do expect 77 to be a well-attended meeting. We are already putting together a vision for what we expect to happen in 77. There has been already mentioned this morning in the opening ceremony, I believe, by Tripti, the fact that we are in our 25th anniversary of the creation of ICANN. We're in the seventh anniversary of the IANA stewardship transition.

So in 77, in three months' time, we expect to focus on those as themes during that meeting, as well as celebrating the success of the multi-stakeholder model and that it has worked and we need to continue to support it going forward. So it's a little bit about 77. You will be hearing that our team is very involved in the next three months planning for that. So it's kind of our year, and after 77, we have other ideas too, but by then it will be the next fiscal year. So we will need to renew our engagement plan for the next fiscal year because ICANN's fiscal year begins on July 1st.

I know NARALO will be also refreshing their outreach and engagement plan. So we'll all be setting out new goals for ourselves. So with that, let me take you through a few highlights. These are just highlights that we chose. It's not really, we're not trying to rank activities from last year in any way, but a few highlights from some of the activities we've done in the last year.

If you could move to the next slide. Thank you. So one of the things that we did in the last year is that the Stakeholder Engagement North

America team here joined forces with NANOG and we participated on an invitation from NANOG in their NANOG U series, which I'll ask Edward to explain those a little bit when we get there. So NANOG hosted an event focusing on historically Black colleges and universities. That's one of their focus areas. And they hosted a two-day educational event. They invited ICANN to come and we came in and helped with the event as well. And it was an event that basically focused on careers in tech and what young professionals and students need to be aware of as they forge their careers in that area.

Two of my colleagues here were in that event. So the one you see up on the screen, I believe that's you, Joe. That's David? I can't tell. I'm sorry. So that's David and Joe, both participated. And you guys, this man right here. And I'll let you guys talk more about that event if you want to. But that was, I think, one of our first collaborations with NANOG. There are others. And it's been by far one of the most enjoyable experiences, I think. And we look forward to doing more with NANOG. And that was in September of 2022 in Montgomery, Alabama.

Next, what else do we have? In October of 2022, that was the North America NARALO General Assembly. Just a few pictures from some of NARALO's pictures. I think we can't even take credit for those pictures. Glenn? Some of your pics. NARALO held a two-day event. It was in Hollywood, California. It was an event held the same week that NANOG was having their meeting also in Hollywood, as well as ARIN.

So it was nice. It was a week where three meetings were held, and people were able to capitalize and popping in and out of the meetings. For us, it was very enlightening in terms of the discussions and seeing

the priorities that NARALO wanted to focus on. And so we really enjoyed participating in that one. And NARALO was the first, I should mention NARALO was the first railroad to actually embark on holding their general assemblies since the pandemic. And since then, the rest of the railroads are now following suit.

And then the next event I want to highlight here is something that David and I haven't even had a chance to unpack from. We just flew in another plane to come here. We just finished a week in Grenada where we participated in ICT week in Grenada in the Caribbean. So here is where ICANN regions, if you're familiar with ICANN regions, they kind of blurred a little bit because it was a partnership with, again, NANOG and our colleagues at ARIN and then ICANN. But we worked very closely with our colleagues at Caribbean Network Operators Group, and as well as organizers in Grenada that wanted to hold ICT week.

It was by far a really successful event, we felt. It was a four-day event. The first part of the week focused on engaging with the technical community and the business community and emphasizing why it was important for Grenada to continue what it defines as its digital transformation effort. It got a lot of attention. The Prime Minister was with us. The Honorable Deacon Mitchell was with us on, I believe, on Tuesday of the event, which was the first day of the event. The next day we got the Minister of ICT who also came in and urged everybody to really get on board with digital transformation of Grenada.

And then one highlight of the week is, and as you can see here, I wanted the picture of Claire. This is one of your RALO person. This is from LACRALO. She was there and she also, because we were joining forces

with, later in the week, CaribNOG holding their event. So she was the Master of Ceremonies, for CaribNOG. So you see Claire there, you see yours truly over here, David and Albert Daniels, because that was his region, the Caribbean.

As I was getting to, in the next slide, please, a highlight of the week was Friday, where we had a technical training day. And this is where NANOG folks kicked in. We have Aaron Atac. I don't see him here, but it was a trainer supplied by NANOG. And then David and another ICANN staff, Nicolas Antoniello, and they joined forces and they held an entire day of technical training focused at youth and young professionals. And we had planned for -- CaribNOG planned for 50 students, but 50 roughly students to come to that training. And CaribNOG even provided Chromebooks, brand new Chromebooks that they wanted the students to use during that training.

On the day off, we were surprised to see 130 people show up, 130 students, which was really great. It was overwhelming at times, but in a good way. And then we still had people online, about 70 or so participating. So it was by far a really great day. I'll let David describe a little bit of more of the training of what happened as the day progressed in terms of what they covered. The prime minister was aware of this event and he even came back. He's the one in the gray suit you see in the far-right picture. He's sitting with students and engaging in the training that they were conducting that day.

So it was by far a really great event to participate in, to see it unfold, to collaborate with NANOG and with CaribNOG and be part of ICT week and have this happen. And it's a demonstration of the type of projects

that I think I can say for the whole team we all enjoy working on. We feel it's the mission of what we should be working on. And hopefully, we worked, even if we get a little bit of this next generation involved and engaged for their own career development and then also for their participation in how their internet should work and participation in internet transformation in their country and policies, et cetera. So I think you should add a little bit more to that. Would you like to add a little bit more to that? Because you were there that whole day on Friday.

DAVID HUBERMAN:

Sure. So one of the fun things about our jobs and ICANN is we actually get to help people sometimes. It's not always just about policy. I've done technical training for 25 years, and that was one of the most enjoyable days I've ever had. So we had 130 students there, and they get there, and they don't know what they're in for. And they sit down, and all of a sudden, these laptops show up, and now they're happy. And we start talking to them about how when they pick up their mobile device, and they go to TikTok, how does it actually work? How did you get to TikTok? And nobody knew. So we started talking to them about it.

And for the rest of the day, we had them build an ISP from scratch. They opened up their laptops. They were at a blank command prompt, and we were able to teach them how to turn on routing, how to turn on DNS. We talked a little bit about security and RPKI. We actually did a route hijack where we saw where people were interfering with traffic. And the students were engaged the entire time. And what was really nice about

it is we didn't just do that. We interrupted the presentation many times to bring in people from the community, engineers from the community, to talk about their job, to talk about peering and transit and understand what this is and why it's important.

We talked about how the OSI stack, layer one through layer seven, what does it mean? These are terms we were talking about Ethernet cabling and these types of things. And we threw out all of these technical terms at them. And it wasn't to teach them how to be engineers. It was really to expose them to this whole world that you're not supposed to know that exists because you're just supposed to pick up your device and go to the site you want to go to. And then we also interspersed career advice. These were mostly, I think, college age kids.

And the career advice was not just how to be an engineer or how to work in ICT. It was how to work. It was how the importance of the human dynamics, they asked lots of questions about how to build a resume. What do I, best question of the whole day, what do I wear to a job interview? It was eight hours or seven hours of just fully, 130 students, not on their phones, not joking around, not paying attention, really engaging. And it was really enjoyable. It was really inspirational. It was a lot of fun.

NAELA SARRAS:

Thanks, David. It really was a lot of fun. So we bring this example, I will come back to you, sorry, just one second. As an example of things we've been doing, but the things lined up just right for this to happen in NANOG, but it is -- I'm sorry, in CaribNOG in Grenada, but we can have this anywhere in our region, in North America. So please, this is the kind

of, we bring it up to say, these are doable things. All the partners that were there are here today.

So this is an invitation for you to, if you see that this is a value to your community in your communities, to please take advantage of the fact that these resources are available. I mean David is a part of a team that that's their job is to do these technical trainings. And people like NANOG have been very generous with their time and their people to partner with. So keep that in mind, please, as we go through the discussion. Alfredo, you had a question?

ALFREDO CALDERON:

Yes. Alfredo, for the transcript record. I don't know if they're recording this, but anyway, I thank you for the offer. But, if I want to bring you guys to Puerto Rico, Spanish is our main language. Do you have staff that can actually speak Spanish, have the materials for our kids in Spanish? We have Pablo here, and I know that he will help us out with that. But we need people from ICANN that speak Spanish as David, I have to say this, you're so enthusiastic, you deliver the message in a clear, simple way. If you can learn Spanish before the meeting in San Juan, it would be great.

DAVID HUBERMAN:

So I appreciate, I appreciate that. The good news, my friend, is I'm part of a group of folks. We all work for Adia, our friend. And they're better than I am. Nicolas Antanielo, my colleague from Uruguay, he came to Granada with us because we did it together. But we're going to bring him to Puerto Rico, and he's going to teach however advanced or

however basic it needs to be. He'll speak for days in front of a class in Spanish. We do it in French. We do it in French.

LOUIS HOULE: In French? In was my question.

DAVID HUBERMAN: We do it in French. Yazid Akanho from Benin. He's on our team. He's this amazing, bright young man with this beautiful smile who's 10 times smarter than I am. And he speaks in French.

LOUIS HOULE: Smarter than you are, he speaks French.

ALFREDO CALDERON: So if I may, I'm sorry, Naela. So I'm going to put you guys on the spot. And Pablo as well. We're going to schedule an event the week before ICANN79. So set aside the week before because we're going to work on developing something so that we can engage our high schools and university students so that they can flow through the process and then go into ICANN. So keep that in mind.

NAELA SARRAS: Please go ahead, Pablo.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ:

Thank you, and thank you for the opportunity. This is Pablo Rodriguez from the registry that we are, for the record. In Alfredo's spirit, I want to share an experience with you guys. In November of last year, we celebrated the North American School of Internet Governance at ADP University. In that opportunity, we brought Steve Crocker. And we took him to a school, to a high school of students who are -- This particular school specializes in technology. We took him there. I've never seen anyone so enthusiastic and so approachable. Kids loved him. And I have evidence, photographic evidence, that at the parking lot, we're trying to leave and they're still asking questions that were so involved, that were so engaged. It was amazing.

We have a number of specialized schools that are either science and technology, only technology, business and technology. And I am confident that what you guys have to bring -- And I must say, Alfredo has a very good point. In Puerto Rico, the main language is Spanish, but do not be surprised because our students, we have many, many, many bilingual students. So English material is also very beneficial and very much needed. So both of them are important, but absolutely, this would prepare us to provide a tremendous outreach and to take advantage of this opportunity. Just recently, I began a discussion with some folks regarding reaching out to high schools.

NextGen should not only be reserved to university students. I know that there is a component of security, bringing minors, and that I understand. As a father, of course, I would be very concerned. But at least reaching out in some way, in facilitating information to high schoolers, seniors, juniors, that would be very, very helpful. So thank

you. Thank you for the opportunity. And thank you for all the initiatives that you have engaged and promoted. Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS:

Thank you, Pablo. It's really a reflection of the energy that we get from you. So absolutely. I don't think you have to twist David's arm and Nicholas' and Daniella's arm to show up in Puerto Rico a week early. So let's keep talking about that, especially in March when it's cold in DC. Yes. So I think this was, and we'll do more questions. There's more discussion. This is exactly what we wanted. So thank you, all. Guys, did we have any more? I think now we are ready to switch gears and go to you, Edward. Edward, please.

EDWARD MCNAIR:

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Edward McNair, and I am the executive director of NANOG, the North American Network Operators Group. I have been in this role close to about five years. I have a history that extends to some part, even working and supporting ICANN. I ran an organization called VARELAND. This is going back, dating myself, five, six years, well, seven, eight years ago. And we provided the IT services for ICANN. We did it for IEEE.80211 and also for IETF. So it gave me a chance to get involved within the community and to understand how things work. I miss kind of being a part of the ICANN community, so it's nice to be back here. I'll tell you a little bit about NANOG.

NANOG goes back to about 1987, when the NSF reached out to Merit and to kind of develop the first kind of commercialized internet. And NANOG kind of began itself in there because as a subset of Merit, there

were a lot of young people who wanted to know, how does this internet work? How can I get involved? How can I get engaged? So they would have sessions at college campuses, an opportunity for people to jump in. I mean, at that point in time, there were no structured education toward becoming a network operator, so everything was kind of hands-on. And that is kind of where NANOG kind of reached out from. We had our most recent event in Atlanta, and that was a couple of weeks ago. And that marked NANOG 87, so we've had 87 meetings.

NANOG meets three times a year. We focus on North America, which would, same kind of region that Aaron kind of calls North America, we call North America. I will confess that NANOG has largely been centric to the United States, and as executive director, I'm trying to push it out more to realize that North America is more than just the United States. We do have a mandate that we do meetings in Canada on a regular basis, but I'm trying to push the order to get more involved in other parts, especially in the Caribbean. We are fortunate that we have quite a large community.

Right now, the NANOG community, people kind of associated with it, I said about 13,000 people. The typical NANOG event will have close to 1,000 or plus attendees. Of those 1,000 plus attendees, on average, one third of them have never been to a NANOG meeting before. In addition, we represent people come from over 20 countries to NANOG. We are the oldest NOG. We're probably the premier NOG, fortunately being United States, which has given us some kind of advantages.

Since I've been executive director, I've been really pushing toward expanding the services that we can provide to our community. We

spend a lot of time and effort in upgrading our software tools to the point now that I'm trying to find some funding support to make our tools available to other NOGs across the globe. Again, we've been fortunate we're not in competition. So we're trying to find ways that we can be more supportive of internet expansion across the globe in any way that we can that makes sense.

In terms of the collaboration that we're doing with ICANN, our tagline for NANOG is working together to build the internet of tomorrow. Collaboration is a big piece of that. Last year when we came out of the pandemic, I really wanted to try to engage more partners in North America. So I reached out to the folks at ICANN. We'd already been doing some work with ARIN and also to ISOC just to find ways that we can find an intersection of what we're doing and it makes sense on collaboration. So to that end, ICANN hosts monthly meetings that we do where all of us are attendants. It's a very kind of a loose confederation where we just say, "Hey, this is what we're doing in the next couple of months. Is there a synergy here?" And whenever we can find synergy together, we do work together.

And Synergy brought their support for our event in Montgomery in the fall. That support also extended to their event in Grenada. And we hope to continue to find ways that we can work together to support the growth of internet expansion within North America. Another great resource that NANOG has that at every NANOG event, there's probably going to be, I'll say 28 to 35 technical talks. NANOG is an educational environment. And every one of those talks is recorded and it's placed on YouTube.

NANOG has currently, I think it's like we've had 2.6 million views of the content that we have online. So in your communities, if you're looking for people to get technical support, they can go to our YouTube channel and you'll find talks on any number of subjects which are related toward network operations or kind of associated items. So I think we have currently 20, I think 21,000 people who are subscribed to our channel. So there's a lot of content, a lot of educational content there. And if you guys know anyone who wants to give funding so I can take all that content and make it so it's in both Spanish and French as well as English, I would love to talk to you.

ALFREDO CALDERON:

Again, I know Rui and I have the same issues with language. I'm a two-time ARIN Fellow and I've been to both NANOG meetings as well. So I know the quality of the content you provide in those technical workshops and so forth. And again, the problem we have in Puerto Rico, we actually gave an ARIN on the road in Puerto Rico and it was one of the largest ones and Chris Mondini was there representing ICANN as well. And after that, we haven't had any in Puerto Rico. So if we can combine an ARIN meeting with a NANOG meeting in Puerto Rico, it would be great. We have a huge college of engineers in Puerto Rico that would benefit a lot from all the information that you guys can provide them to update their networks and so forth.

And Pablo has a great facility that we could use. And in the past, he has brought people to talk about EPV6 as well to engage the community in the new aspects that they need to learn in order to enhance their networks and facilities. So it would be great that we can start talking

about, can we sometime in the near future bring NANOG to Puerto Rico as well?

EDWARD MCNAIR: Well, I would love to figure out a way that we could make that happen. We do have an outreach program and I think that would kind of connect into the outreach that we do. And as I beat on my board, Puerto Rico is part of the United States. I mean, not just North America, it's part of the US as well.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: They're US, that's for sure. There's no doubt about that. And in addition, I want to bring to your attention that also as a vice president of the registry that PR and also as part of ALS of EDP University, there are a number of things that we can make available to NANOG and we would love to have you. And like Alfredo said, without a doubt, let's get together, let's talk, let's grab John Coran and let's talk. We could discuss this here with coffee or tequila or both.

EDWARD MCNAIR: Sure, that'd be great.

NAELA SARRAS: Please go ahead, this is the Puerto Rico planning session apparently.

ALFREDO CALDERON: Well, the thing is that I'm from academia. So we have a large group of faculty that we need to bring up to date with these issues so that they can share that information in their curriculums, which from the last 20 some years, they haven't revealed them. And we need people like you, your organization. Pablo is doing his thing from his side. We the people from ISOC Puerto Rico, we're doing our thing as well, but we need you guys as well.

EDWARD MCNAIR: It's interesting. I just had a conversation last week with a group, we're expanding to formalize education. And so we were, I'm trying to pitch them to get the idea of getting NANOG money so that we can hire a full-time curriculum development specialist to help us build curriculum. And they were very interested in doing so. And this is circling back to what you said, their caveat is they would want that education to be open source. So we'll see what we can make happen.

ALFREDO CALDERON: That actually brings me to the next point.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Before you go to the next point.

ALFREDO CALDERON: Go ahead, I'm sorry to interrupt.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: We can provide resources to help out in learning that curriculum in Spanish.

EDWARD MCNAIR: That would be wonderful.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, absolutely.

ALFREDO CALDERON: And as a follow up, we have an organization which is based in Puerto Rico that's called the Hispanic Educational Technology Services Consortia. And they have members from community colleges and universities that their mission is to serve the Hispanic community in the United States, the Caribbean and South and Latin America.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Mexico, Columbia.

ALFREDO CALDERON: Columbia, Mexico as well. So it's a win-win situation for all of us.

EDWARD MCNAIR: I would agree. I would agree.

NAELA SARRAS:

So thank you all. This is exactly what I think I wanted how this session to go. A discussion from the community and for people to connect. This is excellent. Thank you so much. And if we can help in any extent of this planning, please let us know. And we have Puerto Rico on our list. That's perfect. No, thank you. No, no, that's perfect. I want to make sure we give Greg, Chair of NARALO time because he has an update for us. So I want to switch to Greg and then if we have time, let's also still have more discussion if needed. But Greg, over to you for the NARALO update, please.

GREG SHATAN:

Thanks. Hi, I'm Greg Shatan, relatively new Chair of NARALO. Started at the end of the last ICANN meeting. It's my pleasure to report to you on NARALO recent accomplishments. But first I'll mention that if we could have a NARALO General Assembly in Puerto Rico to coordinate with the ARIN and NANOG meetings, that would be really great too. Not least because I'd like to get back to Puerto Rico as often as possible. And maybe I'll learn Spanish by the next time I get there. Well, I'd like to put all my random vocabulary together into words that I have the words, I just don't have the sentences. In any case, as Naela has mentioned and Josie mentioned, we had the NARALO General Assembly, which was in Hollywood, California.

We've got some detailed slides, but this is our overview slide. We also, and I know this is a little dry, but it's also important. We did a major update of the NARALO Rules of Procedure, basically our bylaws, our constitution, and you'll see why that was important in terms of advancing goals and opportunities that we have to work with ICANN

and other parts of the at-large community. We also completed our fiscal year 23 Outreach and Engagement Strategic Plan, which I guess shouldn't be such news because we supposedly complete one every year, but it's still worth mentioning what's in this year's plan. And in connection with that, we have in progress, but pretty close to done a new application form for our individual members.

As you may know, NARALO has both at-large structures as members, and the at-large structures could be anything from Internet Society chapters to Bar Association committees, as is the case in Hawaii, and universities, other things. So any place you can put a bunch of people together who are interested in ICANN and its role in protecting the interests of end users, we could have an at-large structure. We have also been increasingly emphasizing the ability to have individual members as well. So we're continuing to refine how we bring in individual members and what they represent, in the sense they don't represent a group, but we want to know how they fit in and how we can serve them and vice versa.

So next slide, please. Of course, nothing happens alone. Everything needs to be done with a team. I've got a great team, all more experienced than I am in working in the NARALO leadership, veterans all. Over to my right, we have Glenn McKnight. And we have, not with us, because she's in the NomCom meetings, which take everybody away from ICANN to their own private island. Judith Hellerstein is our NomCom representative. Jonathan Zuck is one of our ALAC members, and he's also the chair of ALAC, which is both wonderful and terrible, because it means he can't do as much in the region and be our guy, but

we're happy to contribute every inch of Jonathan to the betterment of at large and to ALAC.

Bill Jouris is also an ALAC member. He's also to my right. And last but certainly not least, Eduardo Diaz, ALAC member selected by the NomCom, but does not come to us as a stranger. He's actually my predecessor as NARALO chair, and oddly enough, I'm his predecessor as the NomCom selection to the ALAC, which was, at least for me, completely coincidental. I don't know, maybe. Eduardo knew everything that was happening. He's a magician behind the scenes, the puppet master. Anyway, next slide, please. So the NARALO General Assembly, you saw pictures earlier. I don't have a picture. I had a picture, but there it is. There's the picture. Now we can go back to the words. Thank you.

So it was October 19th and 20th. We met in Hollywood, California, at the W Hotel, which was very, very nice. We had a hybrid model. We had people who were remote, but most everybody was there. I inherited but felt very comfortable with the theme of empowerment, encouragement, and engagement, the three Es. So we kind of assigned, we had 17 sessions and informally, semi-formally decided which one of the E's, or in some cases two of the E's it fit under. So we sort of had a track, even though we didn't have competing meetings. We wanted to emphasize the connectedness and variety of our program. We had physically there 16 ALS representatives and individual members that were more participating remotely, relatively intimate group because each ALS only sends one member as their representative.

And the idea is for them in part to go back and empower and engage and excite the members of their at-large structures. And for the individual members, they can go empower, engage, and excite themselves. Or more seriously, they can work in their communities and take back what we talked about there. We have a post-meeting report which can go into more of the substance. Don't have the time right now or the slides for it, but it was a very good discussion, wide-ranging. We had an opening reception on the W Hotel rooftop and we were coordinated with the ARIN meeting. We had one kind of joint session. We also attended the Madame Tussauds event, which was very nice. I got to meet Tom Cruise. Apparently, he's not much of a talker. Not much of a mover either.

So this is one of our many pictures. Glenn made sure that even if he was in the picture, somebody was taking pictures. And if Glenn's not in the picture, that's because he is taking the pictures. The revised rules of procedure, that was led by Alan Greenberg, who's a former ALAC chair and has done everything in ALAC and at large. So ideally suited to update our rules. There were a bunch of inconsistencies that had crept in as things had changed and there were things that were written in ways that were overly legalistic, overly convoluted. So that we solved those for those problems. But the biggest reason to change this is that there is a push and at large to mobilize the ALSs and to mobilize the individual members.

And so we wanted the rules to be more supportive of that. So we revised and clarified and extended the criteria for individual members to make it more clear what we're looking for and also what the concept is. And we also revised and clarified the expectations that we have of those

individual members, which is enthusiasm and self-capacity building and engagement and all sorts of things. And we also revised and clarified the criteria and the expectations for our at large structures. And as I said, we made it more readable, more consistent kind of rang it out a bit. And the last thing that was important was that we extended the term limits for ALAC representatives in our region.

Every region gets to decide whether they have term limits and if so, how much. We were having kind of a problem where our term limits were potentially keeping our ALAC representatives from serving in leadership because they would have to leave by the time they got experienced enough to be elected to be a chair or vice chair. So we basically pushed out the term limit far enough that someone like Jonathan, for instance, could move from the regular member position to a leadership position without running into his own term limit. So it took a lot of time to discuss because once you have term limits, people are jealously guarding the concept of term limits to avoid having a permanent establishment. And it's all good, but you still need to have the ability to serve in leadership. So you have to avoid friction between rules at different levels and roles at different levels.

Next slide, please. So I inherited an outreach and engagement strategic plan in progress. I just had to drive it home, lots of credit to our staff support and to my -- not my team, I'll start sounding like you're on if I keep referring to my team, the NARALO team to getting this done. So as I said, we refreshed our commitment to ALS and individual member mobilization, making that an important topic.

Also emphasized our communication role, by which I mean the communication from ICANN meetings and ALAC to at large to NARALO to the individual ALSs and to individual members and into communities. And also emphasizing two-way communication, which is communications from the communities to the ALSs to NARALO to at large to ALAC, or even short cutting that and creating shorter loops, more direct networks with fewer hops, so to speak, that will enable more communication because while we can't talk to every one of the nearly 500 million internet users in our region.

We should be able to find better ways to communicate to more of them and to hear them better. So consistent with that, we also renewed our commitment to seeking out new ALSs and new individual members. So if anybody here is in North America, not already an individual member and is not leadership of an ALS please join us. And if you feel like you have a few friends in your neighborhood or colleagues in your neighborhood, form an ALS. If you already have an organization most of our organizations don't exist only as ALSs, they are multipurpose structures. So anyway, that's the recruiting part of this meeting.

Last part of this is a goal of enhancing cross-RALO coordination. Each RALO is making its own plans for outreach and engagement, but there's also things we can do coordinating webinars and information write once, publish many times, sorts of things. And working out larger goals creating more of a network at that level. So that's kind of the last piece of that. There's of course more to it, and I encourage you all to read every word of it. And I will do the same. So lastly, our new application for individual membership, which is in a sense driven by the rules of

procedure, which in turn were driven by the individual member mobilization plan. So this is implementation at its finest.

When I took a look at it, I realized it didn't ask very much about the applicant themselves. Like who are they, what do they do, why are they interested? It was more we got their name, address, and serial number, but that was about it. And then we made sure that they agreed to stuff. So I put in a few more questions to kind of find out what we were getting. And allowing people to express themselves.

We also revised questions consistent with everything I said to confirm that they meet our criteria. And also to confirm that they agree to individual member expectations. So that's just all had to be kind of matched up. Again, here I inherited a great piece of work that I just improved. Well that I moved along. I don't want to pat myself on the back too much. But anyway, I think I made it a little bit better. I have a value add. No, but it was the icing on a cake that I did not bake.

So again, teamwork makes the dream work and all that. So that's a report. The last thing is mentioned is that Washington is coming up as the next ICANN meeting. That's our, so we're kind of the host RALO. We'll be doing more to get things ready for that and having an event of our own and working with all the other pieces of the puzzle to make it happen. And really looking forward to hosting you all. But certainly want to thank, well, firstly LACRALO and Cancun for bringing us to this marvelous place and putting me in the only hotel without a beach. Thank you very much.

NAELA SARRAS: Thank you, Greg. I will say it's a pleasure to work with Greg and his team. It really is. It's really a pleasure to work with everybody in NARALO. And thanks for the update. Before we go to you, Glenn, just one second. I mentioned Alex at the top of the session and I see that she walked in. So that's Alex Dans. With this, you have seen everybody on the North America team. She's our comms person. Excellent person that we rely on very heavily.

ALEX DANS: I need to say something, so I will say thank you, Naela.

NAELA SARRAS: And over to you, Glenn.

GLENN MCKNIGHT: Great. Yes, we work together on the universal acceptance training year before. I just wanted to add a couple of little things to the great presentation by Greg. One of the things that was alluded to earlier by Eduardo and Alfredo was our working relationships with NARALO and NASIG, which is that we talked about the event that's going to be held at American University on the June 10th and 11th. Now what's interesting with that, it's a relationship with the university, which we hope to have a similar relationship in California in the next year. But we're also reaching out to Elon University and George Washington University for students.

So just a quick update, we have had 43 applications for the fellowship program, and that is, we asked a very simple question, would you like

to join NARALO? At the end of the day, we want to find good quality people to come in. And right now, we have 14 people expressing interest just from potentially coming, which is a great idea that Eduardo created for our stuff.

So that's not bad numbers that we're going through. So we're looking forward to ongoing relationships with universities. But one of the things that led by Bill and Louis is reaching out to indigenous groups in North America, particularly Inuit. So Louis is the best person to talk about that, because we're looking at particular groups like Nunavik and Inuit peoples who have a pledge to encourage indigenous languages, which is consistent with government policy.

NAELA SARRAS:

Alfredo, go ahead.

ALFREDO CALDERON:

And actually, Glenn mentioned the next North American School of Internet Governance. We have a couple of sessions that actually deal with indigenous groups that we want, and we have a panel actually in place, and we want to discuss this kind of issues, how to get involved in internet governance, being from the underserved or not served communities in the region. And we are planning, thanks to Eduardo's question that we have in the registration form, on if they want to belong or interested in being an individual member in NARALO to reach out to them and mentor them through the process so that they can get involved.

So actually, I have to say this just in case, I'm the academic program chair for NASIG for the last four years, five years, five years with this one. So I'm looking forward to having a longer event instead of a two or three-day event, probably a whole week event. But in order to do that, we need more partners to help us out, to support us, sponsor us. And I'm looking at you, actually, because you're an important component of the process. There's some topics that you guys are the experts, that you can bring the knowledge into the discussion. So I'm looking forward to adding you to the partnership. Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS:

Great. I'm going to ask you guys to connect after the session, because that's exactly what the session was about. I see one more comment there, and then I'm going to have to close the session.

KEN HERMAN:

Yes, thank you very much. And it's actually a very good segue. I'll introduce myself. I'm Ken Herman. I represent the non-commercial stakeholders' community, NCUC. I'm the North America regional representative for NCUC. And those of you who know, we're at the Non-Contracted Parties House. I'm very interested in working with both NARALO and other groups in trying to bring organizations. We are the voice for civil society in the policymaking mechanism for ICANN, and I'm happy to engage. We can certainly connect at various points. So thank you very much, everyone.

NAELA SARRAS: Thank you very much, everyone. This has been a great session for us. I hope it felt the same for you, guys. Did you have a comment? I just saw your hand up. We are at time. I can give you 30 seconds.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Rukaiya. I'm a fellow from Canada, PEI. I just wanted to know what I as a fellow could do to be more involved with NARALO. And one more thing, as Glenn mentioned that they were interested in having a project with Native people. I'm from PEI Canada, and we have lots of Native people there. So I wanted to know if I as a fellow could do something in PEI, and if I can get help from ICANN, or how does it go?

NAELA SARRAS: Louis.

LOUIS HOULE: I just want to say that we have a meeting in just a few minutes.

NAELA SARRAS: Perfect. Please talk to Louis. Please come and find us. This is exactly our job. We're supposed to be facilitating these discussions. So thank you so much for making this intervention. With that, I want to thank everybody here for your presence, for your input. This has been a great discussion. I look forward to having more of these sessions where we get your input and put it into action, which is what our jobs are supposed to be. So thank you again so much for your attendance, and

we look forward to continuing to work with you in whatever capacity we can. Thank you. The session is closed.

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