
ICANN76 | CF – GNSO: NCUC Membership Meeting
Saturday, March 11, 2023 – 15:00 to 16:00 CUN

ANDREA GLANDON:

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BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Hello everyone. Good afternoon. I'm excited to see everybody here. We haven't seen in a while, and this is exciting. And also, pardon my voice. I don't know what happened. I think time zone is having an effect on me. With that said, we have a very simple agenda today. Today's meeting is going to give us quite an ample time for us to discuss and engage actively, so I really encourage interactions. But I'll quickly go over the agenda items. There's still room. If you feel like we could add one or two things, that would be okay if you have.

So I'll give a welcome remark, not so long, just to welcome you. And then we're going to mention a few things about our administrative, launch of our website to talk about our online presence. Then we're going to do introduction of what NCUC is about for new individuals who probably are present here, and to the fellows, if we have any. And then we would hope to get Kathy into this meeting. I hope she's online to tell us about closed generics, because she feels that we need to take that. She's on-site. Oh, then I hope she shows up, because that slot is for her. And then finally, we're going to get updates from Farzaneh on what is happening at this ICANN 76, or today in particular, so that we look out for it and we are present anywhere some of these conversations are happening. As you know, it's how much we participate that shows how sustainable we'll be as a group. So it's important that we distribute ourselves to all conversations and make sure our presence is felt everywhere that it needs to be felt.

With that said, I'm just going to quickly throw it open, if there's anybody who feels that we could still add any agenda item to what I've listed so far. Anyone? Okay, going once, going twice, it's finally gone. Okay, thank you. So I'm just going to check with Andrea. How much time do we have

for this meeting? Wow, that's a long time. 55 minutes. Thank you, Andrea. I appreciate that.

With that said, I think I would want all of us in this room to introduce ourselves, rapid fire. We could quickly go around the room. We are not that many. So can we do that? Don't go into many details. Just tell us who you are, and then maybe that can make us more comfortable to be able to chat further. So please, hello. Manju, your neighbor. We're starting from her. Tell us your name. Something fun about you. Well, just self-introduction.

DESIREE MILOSHEVIC: Okay, we start from this end. Desiree Milosevic, GNSO councilor for CPH and NomCom appointee. Also a longtime NCUC member. I have a few hats I wear here.

MANJU CHEN: This is Manju. I'm the NCUC appointee to the GNSO Council. Thank you.

KEN HERMAN: Good afternoon, everybody. Ken Herman from North America Regional Representative. Thank you.

MILI SEMLANI: Hi, I'm Mili, NCUC APAC representative.

FARZANEH BADI: Hi, I'm Farzaneh Badi, and I am the founder of Digital Medusa and a member of NCUC.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Good afternoon, all. Claudio Lucena, LAC representative to the NCUC.

WISDOM DONKOR: Yes, my name is Wisdom Donkor, NCUC on GNSO.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: Hello, my name is Tomslin. I'm the NCSG policy chair. Thanks.

EPHRAIM KENYANITO: Hello, my name is Ephraim. I'm the cross-community working party on human rights co-chair. Thank you.

TAPANI TARVAINEN: Tapani Tarvainen, NCUC member since I've forgotten when. Now nothing much else.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Raoul Plommer, member of the NCUC and chair of NPOC.

DAN GLUCK: Hey, Dan Gluck, ICANN staff support.

ANDREA GLANDON: Hello, Andrea Glandon, and I support all of the noncommercial groups.

FLAVIO WAGNER: Hi, Flavio Wagner from University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, also an NCUC member.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay, so I think we all know each other now, and we're excited that you're here. And also I want to thank our new LAC representative and to also respectfully call him our host because we're in his region. So thank you. With that said, my name is Benjamin Akinmoyeje, and I have the rare privilege of being the NCUC chair. And today I just want to welcome everyone to today's meeting. And if you ask me for the theme of today's meeting, I would say it's how can we make our voice more effective in this multi-stakeholder galaxy. How do we make ourselves heard? How do we operate more effectively in the community without dissipating our energy within our rooms, but rather across the community?

And we're counting on everyone's support and expertise, contribution to make a difference. And I personally think we have all the resources required to make the difference. We just need to apply them. And we also need to embrace the changing situations that we're seeing around us. Maybe prior to now we have been used to working physically or participating face-to-face or speaking loud in the room. But I think now we need to start using the tools that are available. We need to start engaging in the new topics. We need to now be more strategic in the different conversations that we want to engage in.

Personally, I'm interested in SubPro and things around those conversations. I know that there have been different conversations that have been going on. However, what is most important is how we come out strong with most of our ideals being upheld. Privacy, freedom of

expression, respect for human rights, all of these things that are core to our values in the DNS policy development space. How do we continue to champion them either within ICANN or outside of ICANN? Because we see a lot of engagement happening also outside of ICANN, and they are very strong. And how do we, as noncommercial, come out highly visible and impactful?

So that's what I want you to all put at the back of your mind as we have these conversations. Irrespective of the directions the conversations will go, what you think we should bring on board. I mean, I've heard people complaining that, oh, maybe we're not contributing enough in our public comments or our councils or our contribution to different working groups or our submissions are always late. All of those things, this conversation should be, how do we change those narratives and become the galvanizing agent that we've always been, such that it attracted some of us to this community. Is it still the same way around now? So that's what I want our conversations, irrespective of what we talk about on those agenda items, that we should have at the back of our mind.

So with that said, I want to say again, welcome to today's session.

ANDREA GLANDON:

Ines just wanted everyone to make sure that she knows she's online as well, the EC from the Africa region. She's in Zoom.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Oh, Ines. Okay, my bad. So I'm going to give Ines a few minutes to introduce herself. I totally forgot those who are online. And everybody who is online, welcome as well, virtually. Thank you.

INES HFAIEDH: Thank you, Benjamin. Thank you, Andrea. Hi, everyone. I just wanted to say that I'm Ines Hafez, the EC Africa representative, that I'm attending remotely just for the information. Thank you.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay, thank you, Ines. It's great to have you online. With that said, I think we can—so I've said welcome to everyone. And if there's no reaction to that—you want to react? Okay.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Sorry. That was a question already you have posed. I would like to drop a word here. Engagement has always been kind of a sort of an issue at NCUC since I've taken part in the constituency. And I believe the ones that are here for longer also have that same impression. Also, I think we went through a moment that was very complex for us, which was the time for the pandemics and the absolute absence of face-to-face work. And I believe from all the constituencies and from all the stakeholder groups, we are the ones that suffered most from that absence. The industry found a way to go through. Academics still find a way to cooperate and do it all together. They keep doing their job. Governments found a way to go through. And for civil society, it's always an issue. So we already suffered from a lack of engagement. And with the time of the pandemics, it just deepened our problem.

So what I would like to bring as a reflection here is, and I think we can already touch upon, if I'm not jumping too much, Ben, if we can already touch upon the strategies for the website, relaunch and revamp and all this, is how do we find new ways to convey content? I know it's already too much to ask from our constituency members to meaningfully engage with the policy production and the actual debate. But concerning outreach, and we're going to have an opportunity with the fellows, I suppose, I was with them a little bit earlier, but I suppose we're with them tomorrow again. I think the idea here should be to rethink how we produce content so that this content can reach out to potential members or actual members. It's a serious issue of redesigning how we address our members to keep them engaged. And I think the website relaunch is a good starting point from which to start that conversation.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Claudio. Yes, we need to review the way we engage, and yes, you're correct, thinking about the website is also a new way to start engagement. So I know that this week we're going to have multiple ways of engagement, and I think your presence will really be helpful. For example, we're going to be meeting the fellow programs. If you are free at those times, please show up. Let's be like a legion in that interaction so we can really make a good impression. Also, we're going to have an engagement session. Claudio and Farzaneh are putting something together. Also, let's show our presence. If we show up with quality interactions, it will really inspire the community, and either they bring to us conversations they think we should be championing or cooperation they think we should be forming. So thank you, Claudio, for that intervention. Any other person before we move to the next?

DAN GLUCK: We actually have a question from chat. Question from Jean. Is there any documentation where we can see the new website stack, services, etc.?

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. That is a good question. So this issue about the website was a long conversation, and at this moment, the document we're going to see today is a document generated by Ken. We're just going to flash it on the screen just for everybody to see the way you'll see it. We'll send it to you. But I must say about the website, we were not able to get it up and ready at this meeting, but there's also a conversation that needs to happen. That's what we're going to use that agenda item for, how do we sustain our website. So we're going to have that conversation during that agenda item, but the website is not here.

And I'm going to forward to Andrea shortly a draft governance document that we have created that Ken has taken his time to put together to guide us, and that might inspire everybody to look at it and see if it's a good document or if it's a document that needs some enrichment so that it will help sustainability of our content online moving forward. Thank you.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: I think I have a question to address or follow up to what... I forget his name now. You were talking about outreach. And what came to my mind was the strategy for outreach that we have and awareness, how is it directed? Is it directed to users that already exist within the ICANN

community, or is it a strategy that looks at both users who are not within the community and those who are?

Because if that strategy is not clear as to whether it's someone who is not already in the ICANN community or not, then we have a situation where... Or what I've heard is sometimes making users aware of ICANN, there is a disconnect between what they do today and how it relates to ICANN. And all they might need is just to know what they do today, how does that fit within what ICANN does, and they immediately understand how they can participate. But oftentimes we have like a single silver bullet in terms of information we provide people, and therefore it reaches some ears and they understand, and then for the majority of users, they have no idea how they can fit in. So that's something we should consider when we're thinking about the strategy for outreach.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you. I think you've spoken directly to those who can influence that. We target all kind of people as long as they can participate and bring some energy to our community. But as you said, we should make it contextual to their reality. So thank you for that.

So let's move to the next. Thank you, except there's another reaction to that. But we can quickly move to this website conversation. So in my mind, when Cancun was mentioned, I was thinking I was going to do like a big, grandiose opening of a website, of a new website. But our current website has a lot of technical glitches behind. And Tapani has been very grateful to help us handle some of the problems we had. But it requires that we rebuild one way or the other the WordPress component. Except if we had someone who was good with WordPress.

However, that also generated a lot of other questions. Like, what budget do we have for websites? Who's going to sustain the website moving forward? And all of that. And the governance issue, what content are we allowed to have on our website? And Ken, in his generosity, created a document for us. This document is a lot. I know it's difficult to read on a slide. But Ken, do you want to speak to the document? Okay, please go ahead.

KEN HERMAN:

So, good afternoon again, everybody. Some time ago, during our discussions of websites, we recognized not only was the site itself challenging or had some technical issues as Benjamin indicates, but also there didn't seem to be any clear mechanism for how content would be managed on the site. Who has the rights to do what with what?

And this was an effort on our part to try to wrestle and come to some conclusion about website management procedures. So, it's just basically an early draft that talks about some of the basics of administration and content governance so that there is a clear path of accountability and responsibility for managing the content that is placed up on the site.

Some of the oversight of the web's functions are clearly indicated in the NCUC bylaws. So, the site administration should be fairly straightforward but content governance isn't really addressed and so I took some time to talk about the website administration, sort of who has credentials and in what manner are they provided, that content governance, who can approve and who can post. Basically, anybody

can post but we do have a channel for approving and then sort of the content contribution mechanisms.

So, in one page, this was an effort to come to terms with those issues. Happy to discuss. And I'm sure as Benjamin suggests, there's many areas of improvement here, but that was the intent. Thanks very much.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Ken. So if you're wondering what's the essence of this, the essence of it is I would like members to engage with this document and either identify the gaps or the good part of it so that it can become a guiding principle towards our website. And we're going to be counting on everyone to contribute to putting things on our website and understanding how it works.

One of the major complaints we've heard is how do you maintain the website moving forward? Who will be in charge of it? As you know, ECs come and go. And when they go, what do you hand over or what do you receive? Those things, we need to put that infrastructure in place and that's one of the things this document is hoping to achieve. Because, unlike every other constituency, NCUC is the only constituency that says ICANN support or ICANN staff don't touch our website, don't touch our content, we can take care of ourselves and we want to put our voice out there. Whereas others get some kind of—I think ICANN has this system where if you use a particular carrier or I don't know, maybe it's registrar or something, they'll compensate you for the maintenance of that website. At least BC is getting that done. I don't know if you understand what I'm saying. If you are using a particular provider,

ICANN will support you. Because BC is doing that. But I don't know why we are not doing that.

FARZANEH BADII:

So I have some institutional history because I was for a year an NCUC chair and I was on EC. So what we argue is that we don't mind ICANN staff manage and administer our website. What we are talking about is we want to come up with the content ideas ourselves. So not the ICANN staff or external consultants, but just if they want to help us with maintaining it and updating it. And previously with Mariam, she was also updating the website and all that. I don't know if those policies have changed. I have not been involved much with that, with the admin part of things.

But I think that there was some—let me not say this because—okay, so I had the impression that ICANN also was a bit uneasy for the staff to manage third-party—so I'm right, okay. So that's why their role is a little bit more limited now. Especially because NCSG's website is like a wiki page that is on ICANN. So ICANN manages that and updates it. But then when it comes to, because we have our own operation, then that is a limited ability.

But I think that it's really important to talk about continuity. I think that the problem is that sometimes chairs have different styles. Some believe that the website is really important focal point. Some believe that it is not. So that is a part of the problem that you will face. Also, in order for content to be uploaded and new content, you need people who are actually interested in NCUC. So it goes back again to the

argument, to all the discussion that we have about not having volunteers.

But I think we need to come up with a very lightweight process of how do we keep the website just updated? If there is the names of people that are not—like for example, who are the chairs, who are the working groups and stuff like that. That kind of update, we should come up with a process that somebody's responsible for doing it. But for content and getting members to write stuff for us, that is another issue that, as I said, goes back to the discussion about volunteers.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

When we were trying to get visas, and we needed to show the authenticity of our positions, now the website is reporting old names and different roles. Mexican Embassy went there like, ah, but this is this, who are you? And so if we can really find regularly who can—irrespective of who is in, as the chair or occupying, those can really be updated easily. And then the other aspect about content and what motivates people to put on content, that will really be helpful. Thank you very much for making it that simple.

MILI SEMLANI:

I'm just going to use Farzaneh's opinion to segue into what I think there are three different problems here. One is zooming out a bit, just the website itself. Coming from the EC, we've learned that it's sort of in a bit of a mess, technically as well. There is some kind of information on it which makes the website lag, and there are some kind of technical issues to it which we've probed into, so that's one, which is technically

fixing it. Two is obviously content, and what kind of content goes onto it, who's in charge of updating it from time to time, etc.

Now, here's what I'm proposing, which sort of is like, I mean, like a potential solution. There are two approaches we have. One is to take the existing website, work with a third-party vendor, which also means spending some amount of money to fix it at a technical level, clean up the content, and decide what kind of content will continue to be on it. This will be obviously managed by the EC with input from the community.

The second, and this is my preferred option, is we keep the website really simple, like Farzaneh also said. For some people, the website is everything. For some people, it's just an information hub. I'm probably the latter. I think we should keep it as an information hub. It serves the primary purpose of telling people what the NCUC EC is, what it does. Perhaps you could have some more tabs like what the current EC is and all those things, but simple content which does not need regular updating. By regular, I mean at least like monthly-level stuff.

For anything that is more regular, our mailing list, which is our direct point of contact with the membership, will be used more extensively. That way, we have very clear communication channels. The website is for anybody who's new to NCUC and wants to learn about it, but the clear call to action there would be to join the membership to know more about what are the discussions we're having, what are the topics we focus on, etc. I don't think we need to have all of this on the website at any given point of time. It adds a layer of who's going to do this work, and we all collectively realize volunteer time is limited.

So I propose keeping the website simple doing a one-time effort, hopefully without a third-party vendor and not spending too much of our funds on it, but if we could have people in the community who have some expertise. It is a WordPress website. A lot of us might be familiar, and if we put two or three good brains together, I'm pretty sure we can remove any information that's causing any of the damage, keep the basic stuff, and we should be able to sort it.

And for all the extensive information, we should tap into the ICANN Wiki, which a lot of other constituencies do, too. So let's say summary of our meetings, any of those working group proceedings and their updates, etc., can rest on the Wiki, because the mailing list can be used for discussion, but it's really hard to consume information off it when it comes to complicated, in-depth matters.

So this is my proposed solution. We do a basic job with the website so that it functions, and then use the wiki for more extensive-level stuff. It's quicker, easier, cheaper, definitely, and I think I would probably take the liberty of speaking on behalf of the EC that we've just started our term, so given the whole next six to eight months, I think the EC can put out a plan to do this in the next four to five months together, and I hope the EC will support me on this. Thank you.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Mili. Just to quickly say, Mili put out a call there, but nobody, maybe you didn't hear it, so if you're interested in supporting our E-team, please raise up your hand now so I can just quickly recruit you before I go to you. Anybody who is interested, please. You don't need to be a guru in WordPress. Please. We're putting out a call. We want

individuals who are good with WordPress or has interest in content management and all. Oh, thank you. That yielded the result. Thanks.

ANDREA GLANDON: Benjamin, one question. The document, people would like to have access to it.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Ken, are you willing to share the document with the group? People are really interested in it. It's popular now.

KEN HERMAN: Absolutely. I mean, it was prepared on behalf of the NCUC Executive Committee, and if you wish to share it, then for comment, I think it would be a very productive thing to do.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay, we're going to share it. I will update that. Thank you so much. So I know that you are interested in the E-team, right? So he's also interested, so we can start something. So thank you.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yeah, I think Ben asked a question about whether there will be any budget for maintaining the website, and I think that NCSG and its two constituencies, NPOC and NCUC, are all allocated some money by ICANN, which basically pays for the hosting and plugins for the WordPress and so on. I think we are talking about a few thousand dollars per year.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Andrea, I got the information now. We do get some support, so I'll come to you and ask about it. So we're going to round up this whole thing about website, and I think we did get some things out of it, and I'm glad you guys took time to listen to it. Thank you. Let's move to the next agenda item.

ANDREA GLANDON: Benjamin, there's a couple of things in the chat. Do you want to...?

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Dan, can you help us, please?

DAN GLUCK: Absolutely. All right, so first comment from Jean. I'd argue that it's important to distinguish NCUC reference into policies, SOPs, etc., and public content. The audiences are very different. Even if public content is not developed, reference info is fundamental to understanding volunteers issue.

A second comment here from Bruna. In order for folks to know more about NCUC, it would be interesting to have some further explanations about where the constituency falls within ICANN's structure and even some historical recollection of the constitution of the group and classical position.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. Our members online are saying that we should have some interesting, easy reference materials on our website so that for new members, it would be easy for them to quickly understand our antecedents, our context, and also historical facts on our website. Thank you very much.

ANDREA GLANDON: Bruna has her hand up as well.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Bruna is also asking for an opportunity to say something. Bruna, please, can you go, if possible, short and sweet? Thank you.

BRUNA SANTOS: Thank you. Just to add a suggestion because other than the money that ICANN gives both constituencies and the stakeholder group, there is often also the opportunity for us to apply for an ABR. So maybe you guys can start working on an ABR for the incoming fiscal year in order to add some more improvement to the website. And we already have some money for improvement of communications and things like that. So I do think that there will be a ground for bringing up an ABR on that topic. That's all. Thank you.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay. Thank you, Bruna. So Bruna is saying we might also be needing expertise of communication experts to help us frame things that we put on our website. So thank you, Bruna. That's well taken. Guys, we need to round up this. We have some interesting resources here.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Yeah. So I was thinking that since she's mentioning communication expert and you guys have a budget, why don't you, if you can, like to reduce the work on the e-team to just be on like a supervisory note, why don't you have like a third-party organization you can hold responsible to do the development and while your e-team does like the administrative management? That's just my general thoughts.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. I think the ECs and the e-team are listening to this and I think there might be a need for the group to have a conversation during Cancun or schedule something, but I will facilitate that and see that I connect both teams and then let them know the resources we have. Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Benjamin, I'm sorry. I need everybody to state their names for the transcript, please.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Oh, okay. So can you communicate that to all of us clearly?

ANDREA GLANDON: Yeah, so everybody, before you speak, please state your name for the transcript so that everyone knows who you are. Thank you.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay, thank you. We've exhausted this conversation. Thank you for everyone's contribution. That was really helpful. So can we have the agenda on the screen again? Welcome, Kathy. So the next agenda item is—Farzaneh is just going to make a quick introduction, so like three minutes.

FARZANEH BADII: I had this idea to do an introduction for newcomers, and I see that they are not here. There is one. I think you need to raise this with the people who are scheduling meetings. NextGen at the moment has a mandatory session to attend elsewhere. So they can't come to these meetings. And it would be really great to give them speaking opportunities to tell us how they want to get engaged and also tell them what we do. But this schedule conflict kind of creates a problem.

Another thing is that the discussion about the website and stuff, it is useful, but I think it is more of an admin thing that cannot keep people very interested, especially if they don't know us. So I think that maybe we can make these discussions at a more high level in the future meetings, and EC can talk about it internally.

Another thing that I wanted to raise, but I don't think we have time to talk about it, is the actual role of NCUC within the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. And I think that NCUC's role here can be kind of empowering NCSG to do policy more and we should be very much goal-oriented. We want freedom of expression. We want to advance human rights in the domain name space. We have these set of values, and we take those as our goals, and we look at how we can support NCSG policy to do those things, to write public comments. And when NCSG cannot

do it, then we bring it to NCUC, and we pass it like that. So this was just like a comment. That's about it.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. Farzaneh. I'm sorry that we don't have a lot of fellows here, but we have one person or two. They really want to be acknowledged. So I don't know how you're going to deal with that, but it's okay. Maybe Mili will help me deal with that. But just to welcome the fellows to our community. She came, right? She's a new fellow.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: If I may, Ben, on that note, just complementing what Farzaneh had said, some of the—sorry, Kathy. Oh, right. Some of the fellows to which I talked today in the morning, they are already NCUC members, and they are now having an introductory session, which is very well designed. It's called The Art of Small Talk. It's definitely an interesting skill for someone that's coming to ICANN.

But if these fellows have already shown some kind of commitment to NCUC, we should be able to be a little bit more flexible with the program direction with the fellows, so that if we are always complaining about the lack of hands and arms here at NCUC, we have fellows that are engaging in their first moments at ICANN, but have already committed to the NCUC. I don't see why they shouldn't be already here with us, trying to allocate this enormous amount of tasks that we have here.

ANDREA GLANDON: Bruna has her hand up again.

BRUNA SANTOS:

Just to add up to what Claudio and Farzaneh were saying. I'm not sure if flexibility is necessarily the take on this, but normally we are invited to introductory sessions with the incoming fellows, but we have identified for years now that our access to the NextGen community is kind of like the one that lacks a lot more attention in this.

So, I don't know, maybe a suggestion. I know Ben has been doing really well in kind of hosting these town halls or something similar to that in the ICANN booth or things like that, but maybe moving towards the next meetings, we can do kind of an online outreach or something like that in order to have either interested NextGens or fellows or anyone that's coming into the community to join our discussions and to kind of know who we are. It's somehow in between an informative session and something else. We can definitely kind of like hash this idea out, but I do think that although we should be understanding of the need for flexibility, it is indeed a problem that these sessions keep being booked on top of community sessions in general. So, that will be my suggestion. And I know there's echo, so I'll type it in the chat as well. Andrea, thanks for flagging that up.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Bruna. We will take all of that into consideration and ensure that we do as much—especially the online welcoming session that we can come up with, and probably plan something for next meeting targeting fellows and co. And we're really running out of time, and we still have about one or two agenda items to pursue. Yes, you can.

KATHY KLEIMAN:

Hi. It's so good to see everybody in the room. Amazing to see you after so much time. I wanted to follow up with what Farzaneh said. NCUC has a long history of deep policy work predating the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, and it is free expression, privacy, due process. We often speak for those who can't speak for themselves. We've often spoken for groups that don't exist yet, and then they've come into existence. We try to see the future. Other people are trying to deal with the present, and we try to see the future. We definitely need you in the policymaking process. That's what ICANN's about, the PDP process.

So I wanted to echo Farzaneh's call. Please get involved in policymaking. I was talking with two of our executive committee members. Benjamin, you weren't there, but over lunch we were talking that we have to find better, faster ways to onboard people so that we can get more NCUCers out there helping do the heavy policy work. It shouldn't be done without us. Thank you.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Kathy. Caleb, you want to take the mic? Quickly, please. We need to move to the next one.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

I think on the fellows' part, I think there is need for maybe getting involved in some additional planning. Although we have an outreach, joint outreach, I think, NCUC, NCSG, and NPOC tomorrow with the fellows, but I'm pretty sure it's just a small-time talk that we're going to have with them. So, I'm just putting the information out there that we

have, like, an outreach engagement with them tomorrow. If anyone in the room feels you want to come in and support, please do come in and support. It's NCSG, NCUC, and NPOC outreach for the fellows.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: We announced that earlier, and thank you for reiterating it. So, I think that issue has already been well-established. So, I think we can move to the next agenda item because we're running out of time right now. Kathy, can you make this short and sweet as well? I don't know how much time you have, but, yeah, we're 15 minutes off the mark, and we still want to be able to have some conversations.

KATHY KLEIMAN: Benjamin, I'm so sorry. I did not know I was on the agenda. Maybe I missed an email. So, let me just explain a bit and maybe suggest an alternate topic. So, for those who don't know, I am the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group representative on the closed generic small team. Julf, what time is our meeting tomorrow, 10:30? Okay.

So, I've prepared extensive slides for tomorrow to talk with you about this closed generic small group that will go through a brief history. If you don't know what closed generics are, we will tell you a brief history and then catch you up on this very, very unusual and special small group of GNSO and GAC members, six and six, and two ALAC members, a primary and an alternate, who have been meeting, I can't even tell you how many. I mean, we've been meeting. We've been spending a lot of time, and I can't wait to bring you up to speed on that. It's really, really interesting stuff, so I hope you can make it.

But it's very difficult to talk about, Benjamin, without the slides, without a little bit of background to show you. But if I might, there is something, and I don't see it on the agenda. Maybe you covered it already. Applicant support. You are on a special group. Farzaneh and I joined your group. By way of background, there is a group of people meeting to learn about ICANN's policy development process through a case study of looking at applicant support. And this group has done, because I dived into some, you've been meeting for weeks, you've gone into the history.

Module one, development of the applicant support program going back 1998 to 2012, which was a tremendous flop. It didn't work. Some great ideas there rolled out way too late, or a lot of problems. Module two, subsequent reviews of the applicant support program, why it flopped. And if anything, this is a really good time. We're going in front of the Board to talk about applicant support. And again, Farzaneh and you and me, and who else is in that small group, that team that's studying applicant support? Is anybody else here?

MANJU CHEN:

It's Rafik.

KATHY KLEIMAN:

No, there's a team that's working in the pilot project with Benjamin. And Rafik is, but it's a pilot project on education. But Rafik is our representative as well. Avri has been. But anyway, I just wanted to pose that as something, another topic. I'll go closed generics or applicant

support. But applicant support is near and dear to everybody's heart in this room. Thanks.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Kathy. Apologies again. I thought when you showed interest that you wanted to talk about closed generics, I should have come back to you to let you know that you were on the agenda. But it's okay. I mean, you've given us some insightful recommendation of things we should pay close attention to.

In case you don't understand what Kathy is saying, there's a program going on right now called Policy Transition Program. It identified a few—it was a public call for fellows, individuals who have gone through the fellowship program and were interested in moving to the next level, and especially those in the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group.

So we've gotten a couple of individuals who have started participating. And since Kathy spoke to me, I've been reaching out to all of them. And today we're supposed to have an informal interaction after today's meeting, if I'm correct. I've reached out to them. It's just slow coming, but I'll get two or three individuals who are around. There's a lady called [Candy.] She's here. Most of the fellows have mandatory sessions right now. That's why they couldn't come here. So I know about one or two that is in those fellowship sessions. And Buki is also here. She's participating as well. And they all have shown interest to meet with you after today's meeting.

I hope that did not create confusion, but created a context for others to understand what we're talking about. And it's in hope to have more

hands to reach out and represent our interest in all of this strategic conversation, as well, like applicant support program. I think yesterday when we met the Board, I particularly just stated it outright that the applicant fee, application fee for people from developing countries, need to be significantly slashed. That's what I said.

KATHY KLEIMAN:

I think it will be significantly slashed, but the Board has rejected the recommendation of the SubPro working group that other help be provided to groups that qualify for the applicant support reduced application fee, including lawyer fees and technology consulting fees.

The other thing is that the timeframe is way too short. I've reached out to indigenous peoples in my community, in my country. I don't know about you guys. 18 months is not enough for these groups to prepare for an application. How do we reach out earlier? And I'd love to know what else bothers people about it. But you're absolutely right. The fee has to be slashed.

By the way, guys, the fee is supposed to be, according to projections—anybody know if the fee is going up or down from \$185,000 in 2012? It's going up. \$240,000 is the estimate right now. That's a lot of money. But it also costs a lot of money to prepare the applications. So anyway, thank you for the opportunity to update you, at least on what's bothering me. Appreciate it.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

Thank you, Kathy.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: I'd like to speak, but I thought Bruna was in the queue first.

ANDREA GLANDON: Bruna doesn't have her hand up now. She did have a comment.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: All right, thanks. Kathy, hi. I have a question for your group. You mentioned, I hope I heard correctly, that you guys are in a group working on applicant support.

KATHY KLEIMAN: Benjamin's on the group. Farzaneh and I just presented to them. Go ahead.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: I have a question, and the question is regarding fees for preparing the application and attorney fees. Because I've heard the Board say in their response to the Council regarding the recommendations that they have fiduciary concerns. They don't know how ICANN Org can pay those two fees as recommended by the SubPro recommendations without the Board having those fiduciary risks in terms of doing that. So do you have any ideas or proposals? And I haven't spoken to Rafik yet. But do you have any ideas on how this can be addressed?

KATHY KLEIMAN: Yes. Tomlin, great question. And you've heard more about the Board's reasoning on this. And I appreciate it. I mean, this is exactly the

discussion I was hoping to have. Benjamin, is this okay? Can we continue? Can I respond to Tomlin's question?

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: In 30 seconds, please.

KATHY KLEIMAN: Oh, I don't think I can do it in 30 seconds. But I can do it in a minute, probably. Okay. So fiduciary concerns. So they're afraid that if they pay for someone's attorney fee, it may create a conflict of interest. Who does the attorney represent? Do they represent ICANN, who's paying, or do they represent the indigenous tribe who's being represented? That's an old problem. It's a very legitimate one. It's been solved many times. If I want an attorney to represent my child, I can pay for that attorney and say, you are representing my child, not me. You can do that.

But here, I actually think ICANN could serve a different role. And maybe indigenous people don't even know who to go to. I mean, we could create boards or groups that are willing to work at low cost or pro bono. They could create—lawyers who want to help, technology consultants who want to help, and create a repository where people could go. Electronic Frontier Foundation does this all the time. You know, does anybody want to represent someone for—it's called low bono, for lower than retail cost, lower than commercial cost, to help someone on a freedom of expression issue? In this case, does somebody want to help a tribe that needs some help with their application? If ICANN can manage that process, they wouldn't have any fiduciary problem whatsoever. They would create a central repository of names that

people could go to. ICANN doesn't even have to vouch for these groups. We could create some kind of star system if people know that. There are lots of ways to do it. But I think ICANN saying no is just too much.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Kathy. So I'm just going to throw this open to Farzaneh and Adam Peake. Adam, thank you for coming. So, yeah, it's in line with our outreach.

FARZANEH BADII: Okay, thank you. So I'm just going to be very quick and highlight a few issues that are going on during this meeting that you should focus on if you care about privacy, if you care about freedom of expression. So there are groups that talk about DNS abuse, and those discussions can get very technical, but they have some aspects that if they can encroach upon the rights of people to freedom of expression. So follow that.

There are also regulatory initiatives that will hamper privacy, or, well, regulatory initiatives that could potentially hamper privacy of the domain name registrants, and also there is the WHOIS disclosure system implementation conversations that can get very technical. But again, if you care about privacy of domain name registrants, those are the conversations you should focus on.

Now I'm just going to pass it on to Adam. We have invited Adam to tell us about all the possibilities that we have in the future to do outreach. Money.

ADAM PEAKE:

I didn't say that on mic, did I? Anyway, hi, thank you very much. So Adam Peak, Global Stakeholder Engagement Europe, and I'm responsible for engagement with civil society, of which I think you are. So hello. Let me just go back to some things Farzaneh was saying about issues you might be interested in.

DNS abuse. The country codes managers have done a survey of their DNS abuse policies. There's about 54 responses to that survey, and I think they have three meetings on that topic during Cancun, so it will be interesting. This is different, of course. It's country codes as opposed to generic top-level domain names. They have very different rules, but it still might be interesting just because it's quite comprehensive research. So just as a point of interest, it could be fun to listen to.

There's also the update on regulation, etc., that's affecting the Internet from the government engagement team. I don't remember the date, but it's quite a comprehensive review of different pieces of legislation around the world and how we see them affecting the Internet and so on. There's also a plenary session about the World Summit on the Information Society plus 20, so 20 years after the World Summit, WSIS, multi-stakeholder approaches and how we include multi-stakeholders into the WSIS+20 process. That's a community plenary session. So those all should be of interest, particularly as many of the early members of NCUC were extremely active in the World Summit 20 years ago.

Anyway, what was I here to do? I was here to say that the Global Stakeholder Engagement Group, we're divided regionally and we have regional vice presidents. All the regions, GSE regions, have developed

outreach and engagement strategies that they would like to share with you and NPOC and NCSG. I think that's on Wednesday afternoon. So what we'd really like to hear from you is what are your engagement priorities.

I know that the NCUC as the executive has regional appointments, so this would be an opportunity for those regional executive members to talk to their respective GSE regional vice presidents so that you can talk about engagement at the regional level. I don't think NPOC and the NCSG particularly has that regional structure, but that doesn't matter. Talk about your engagement plans. What do you want to hear from GSE generally? What do you want to hear at the regional level? Because we have strategies that we would like to include you in one way or another.

Someone mentioned money, because money always comes up. Well, you already, when you have your CROP funding, talk to the GSE regional vice presidents about how those are used. So that's one thing to consider. The other is, so if you have a CROP strategy, then please come along and be ready to discuss that. What do you want to get out of your engagement? We're very aware that the pandemic has been a difficult period for NCUC and not-for-profits in general. So that's one of the reasons for wanting to do that.

ANDREA GLANDON:

We do need to wrap it up, too. We're over time.

ADAM PEAKE:

I'm over time? Always. Excellent. I can always talk down the clock. Thank you. But that was basically what it was. Thanks.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Adam. So we now see that we have some opportunities, and the ball is in the court of our EC members. I think we should quickly reach out to Adam and see what we could do. And I know that Andrea has secured some meeting slots with some of the VPs with us, right?

ANDREA GLANDON: There's a session.

BEJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So let's take full advantage of this. Our members are welcome to give our ECs tips on the ways to succeed with this engagement. With that said, that's the amazing thing about NCUC. Adam, I thought you had something for us. Okay, he doesn't. So with that said, thank you, everyone, for showing up. We hope that you show up at our membership meeting, our outreach sessions, so that we can continue some of this conversation again. Please, one hour is never enough for us. We need maybe five hours. Thank you, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]