
ICANN76 | CF – Get to Know the ICANN Community: NCSG, NCUC, NPOC
Sunday, March 12, 2023 – 15:00 to 16:00 CUN

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can I have all the presenters today come up here with me in the panel? Please have a seat here, my friend. The session will now begin. Can we start the recording please? Thank you.

It's my pleasure for this third session to start with an important community introduction, which is Non-Commercial Stakeholders. But before going and introducing my presenters here, I would like to go to announce a short logistical part.

Welcome to the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Engagement Constituency Session, getting to know ICANN within this framework, which we specially planned for NextGen and ICANN Fellows for this round, ICANN76 meeting. I am the remote participation manager. My name is Siranush Vardanyan. Please note that this session will be recorded and it is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During this session, questions and comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form as I post in the chat as well. So if you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in the Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will unmute their microphones in the Zoom and start speaking. Onsite participants will use a physical microphone over here. I thank Benjamin for helping me with microphone in the room.

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For the benefit of other participants, please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace for our interpreters here. With that, I would like to mention that we have this session being interpreted in six UN languages. So, if you speak in the language other than English, please use headphones and headsets over there and you can listen to the interpretation as well.

With that, I would like a brief introduction of our new associate ombudsman, Linda, who is here. I just want you to welcome her. This is her first ICANN meeting. I would like to know her in person and greet her. Welcome. And if you have any questions to our ombudsman, always feel free to reach our team in ICANN with all your questions. With that, I would like to introduce our great panelists for today's session. Julf, is it the right pronunciation?

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. Caleb and Claudio. These two young men next to me, they are Fellows. They came through the Fellowship program, which is making me even more proud that you are today amongst panelists. Today's session, what we agreed with our panelists, we will start the main Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, NCSG. So we're starting learning new acronyms today. Then we'll go to two other communities which are under NCSG, which is NPOC, Not-for-Profit Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, and NCUC which is Non-Commercial Users Constituency. Sometimes I'm getting used to abbreviation so I forget

the real name under it. The way how we'll go, five minutes each presenter will tell about the community, and then we'll give more opportunities for questions to our panelists. Because I know a lot of Fellows are interested in non-commercial community within ICANN. With that, I would like our tech team to request to upload the first presentation on NCSG to be on the screen, and give the floor to you to start, Julf, please.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Thank you. I'm not so young man here. If you wonder about the accent, I am actually originally a Swedish-speaking Finn but now living in Amsterdam. But neither Finnish, Swedish, or Dutch are unfortunately translated language here so I will have to speak in English.

I'm the chair of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. And the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group is a little bit of an odd construct in that it's basically just a top-level construct for the things where all the non-commercials have to be represented as one entity. While we have a few direct members, that is very rare. There are people like I used to be who only belong to the NCSG and not to the sub-constituencies. But that is really unusual. But you can do that if you want to. Next slide, please.

If I can ask for a new slide, that would be great. Where are we really are? Of course, by now, I'm sure you know that the GNSO consists of two houses, the Contracted Parties House and the Non-Contracted Parties House. Under the Non-Contracted Parties House, we have a Commercial Stakeholder Group and a Non-Commercial Stakeholder

Group. So I represent the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. And inside that stakeholder group, we have the two sub-constituencies, NCUC and NPOC. Next slide, please.

We have six councilors in the GNSO Council. They come from the sub-constituencies. Whatever, they are not earmarked in that sense. They are NCSG councilors. They don't have councilors from this group or that group. They are just NCSG councilors. We have an Executive Committee. And above all, we have a Policy Committee which is really the one that formulates policy and addresses policy questions. We nominate, together with the Commercial Stakeholder Group, one Board member for ICANN. That's pretty much all for now. I'm happy to answer questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Any questions on NCSG? We will hear all three presentations and then go for the questions. If I request to upload on the screen the second NPOC presentation and give the floor to Caleb. Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Hello, everyone. My name is Caleb. I was once a Fellow, like Siranush mentioned. It all started in a room like this. That was how I've been able to grow in the community. I'm here as the membership chair of the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns. I do have my chair here as well, Raoul Plommer, who is also supporting the presentation today. Thank you very much for coming.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can we have Raoul to stand up so people know his face? Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Can I change the slide? What does NPOC really stand for? It's the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns. And one of the things you will have noticed is that you Julf mentioned that we are one of the constituencies on the NCSG. We also have our sister constituency, the NCUC. But one of the things that I'd like to mention specifically is that to be part of us, there is a very simple requirement, you just have to be someone who has a not-for-profit organization that you are representing. One of the requirements is you must have a website that has .org and have a not-for-profit orientation in some of the things that you do in your organization. It's basically more for NGOs. I can give you some good example. If you know your ISOC chapter, if you are part of the board of any ISOC chapter, this is a good place for you to start your ICANN journey representing your ISOC chapter. Maybe if you have an organization that is focused on Internet governance and stuff like that, this is a very good place that you can start some of the things that you do. And basically, we try also to support the policy efforts of the NCSG towards the GNSO as well. Next slide.

In the scheme of things, on that GNSO, you will probably have noticed that this is the way you probably see us in almost the scheme of things. I know there are a lot of acronyms here but please do not be confused. We all started as Fellows as well and I'm still getting used to acronyms as well. So if you see any of these acronyms, just pretend they don't exist and just research on them and then you get used to them as well. In the scheme of things, this is how you can find NPOC

and how we exist within the bottom of multistakeholder approach in the community. I think Julf has mentioned this, so I'll quickly skip some of my slides to go to ... Yes, can I go back?

How can you join? The requirement for you to join is just make sure you are a not-for-profit or a non-governmental organization with a non-commercial outlook. And then try to own a domain that has a .org, which is one of the requirements. Because when you do your membership application, we usually do a background check administratively to make sure that you conform with the tenets of NCSG as a whole. If you're really interested in learning how the DNS works, this is a very good place for you to start. There are a lot of opportunities with this particular group.

I would rush through quickly to share with you some of our concerns or things that we work on, which is DNS abuse, transparent domain name registration, privacy, cybersecurity and intellectual property abuse. If you know that you have some interest around this area, this is one of the places where you can join us and be part of some of the good stuff that we do in the community. These are just breakdown of some of the things such as domain name fraud, some of the issues that we deal with. But I don't want to talk so much about it because of time. I will just want to go quickly onto the place where you can see how you can join us properly or what you can do.

I'm pretty sure most of us are excited about all the fanciful things that we've talked about. You see the baby? She's screaming and she's so happy in the picture. If you're excited, here are some of the things that you can do and how to participate to become a member. You have to

go to our website. This is a link where you can sign up for your membership application. One of the things you will also notice is that there are two consequences there when you're signing up. You can either choose NCUC or you choose NPOC. But for this conversation, I will be biased and I will say if you have all the requirements we've talked about before, please choose NPOC. You can also be a member of NPOC and you can also still be a member of NCUC as well if you have an organizational member of NCUC and an organizational member of NPOC as well. I think by that, you are naturally a member of NCSG and you can participate in some of the things that we do. These are just links that you can follow. On that note, we'll thank you all for listening to my very boring talk.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Caleb. Just for everyone, all these presentations, which you can see during today's session, they are uploaded on the meeting website so they are available for you. If we can have the last NCUC website up. While the slides are uploading, I would like to introduce Claudio to talk about NCUC and what are you doing there.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Thank you very much, Siranush. Thank you for the effort of putting this session together. I'm Claudio Lucena. I'm the Latin America and the Caribbean representative at the Executive Committee of the NCUC, the Non-Commercial Users Constituency, which is as we like to say, the home for civil society at ICANN. It's Sunday afternoon after lunch, the sand is wildly beautiful. The refreshing waters are wildly green. So

having slides here one after the other will not get your attention. I'll try to motivate you a little bit.

This session is very important for us because the Fellowship programs are very naturally connected to civil society. This session is where we used to prospect our potential collaborators sit on ocean level. Thank you very much for that. I also would like to discuss with you the possibility of trying to schedule the mandatory sessions for the next meetings in a way that some of the Fellows that are already connected with the civil society can attend our membership sessions from the next meeting on.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We actually planned that on Constituency Day. On Tuesday, everybody based on their sector of interest, will go and participate to those sessions. So we will not be holding Fellowship sessions during the entire day.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: That will be awesome. Thanks a lot. I don't know if the slides are working but we are... I would like to frame the question set in this way for you. The ICANN governance model is very unique. You're aware of that and you're getting more used to in the program. There are not many governance structures in the world that looks at the end user and says, "There's space for you here to sit and help develop policies." There are not many. Think of any industry, there are not many. At ICANN, that happens from its Bylaws. The civil society is required to have a seat and to have a say in a very important segment of business,

of economy, of institutional relationships. But that participation is only as good as our engagement. And this is the place for civil society. This is the place where issues of privacy, of intellectual property, they are discussed in a way that is much, much more our environment.

That's the mission of NCUC. In a nutshell, I could say this is where we sit and advocate within the DNS system for the interests of civil society. Our mission is to ensure the voice of these non-commercial users. Are we in a perfect multistakeholder model? Definitely not. I don't think there is such a thing. But here at ICANN, for all other Internet governance environments, there's something very interesting. Most Internet governance environments are debate and discussing spaces. At ICANN, things get done. Do they get done in the best possible way, though? We can discuss about that. You'll have the public forum to discuss about that. But things get done at ICANN. And if civil society does not engage here, things get done without the proper input of civil society. So that's our mission. And it's very important for us that we're here with you from the Fellowship programs. I say there is a natural connection between the mission of NCUC and the non-commercial constituencies in general and the Fellowship program and the NextGen program.

We do have a number of issues which we are directly focusing on. Right here I think Farzaneh is somewhere around here. Thank you very much. She might be more specific with you about the specific issues and the policy debates and discussions that we are involved with right now at ICANN. But I think that's the main message, Siranush. At ICANN—for the Fellows and the NextGen specifically—policies are developed. They will go into force. They, in such a way, shape our

lives. There is space for civil society interaction engagement. This will be just as good as our engagement. So I'd like to thank you very much, Siranush.

Ben, our executive committee chair is here. I also have Mili and Ken, our representative from Australia, Asia Pacific and North America. Probably, Olga and Ines, our representatives for Europe and Africa are also following us. We are here to answer your questions and keep this conversation to you. Please engage. Thanks so much, Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Farzaneh, would you like to take a mic for a minute?

FARZANEH BADIEI: If we just go back to the slides on the regulatory issues and stuff like that. Okay, great. These are the issues that we are focusing on. Hi, everybody. My name is Farzaneh Badiei and I'm a member of NCUC. I was an ICANN Fellow, actually, a long time ago, 2013. If you're interested in this space and in digital rights and generally domain name access, ICANN is the right place for you. Also, NCUC is one of the constituencies that focuses on bringing freedom of expression, privacy, access to knowledge and all that in general, but within the domain name space. That's what we work on. That's what ICANN's mission is.

While we have members, for example, digital rights activists from around the world that work on broader issues as well, but specifically, when they want to focus on domain name issues and domain name

registrants, non-commercial domain name registrant issues, they get involved with ICANN processes and usually through NCUC and NCSG.

In this meeting, we have a few of these issues that are going to be discussed throughout the week that you might want to pay attention to. One is new gTLD SubPro. You've probably been hearing about this. ICANN has started the second round of applications to come up with a policy for applications for the new gTLDs like .baby and .host and stuff like that.

At the moment, we are just discussing how the policy should be implemented. Unfortunately, the ICANN policies or the policy development processes are very much drawn out. They are very exciting but you're not going to get excited all the time. So what you need to do is that you need to pick an interest. For example, you are interested in developing countries access to new gTLDs and how we can make that process smoother. So if that is your interest, then that's one of the issues that new gTLD SubPro is working on and you're going to be discussing the implementation for the recommendation this week that you can pay attention to.

The other thing is the Statement of Interest. At ICANN, what we do is that there is the process that we work with. How much time do I have? Because I can go on.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If you can briefly summarize, then we'll go to Q&A, it would be great.

FARZANEH BADIEI:

Okay, great. At ICANN, we work on governance structures that are our own internal governance structures but also governance structures that ICANN have in place to bring transparency and accountability to our own work. One of the issues that we are going to talk about, which is very important for NCUC because transparency is important for us, is the Statement of Interest. So if you want to be involved with policy groups, you need to submit a Statement of Interest and you should say who you're representing.

This is an interesting example to show you the dynamics of the group. The Intellectual Property Constituency believes that they don't want to disclose who they're representing because of attorney-client privilege. But the non-commercials will go against that because we believe that if you're representing a client and you're getting involved with the policy process, it should be transparently disclosed who you are actually representing.

Then we have these meetings with ICANN Board, they give us questions, we ask questions. If you want to attend ... It's not at 8:00 AM again. I don't know. Have a look at the schedule and go to these Board meetings with different constituencies to have a better understanding of where each constituency and stakeholder group actually stands. It's a really interesting exercise. I'm going to skip what we are going to talk about. It's going to be very interesting because we are going to tell the Board... we are going to criticize the Board for their question that they're going to ask us. I think you should definitely come to our session with the Board.

Then we have the DNS abuse. DNS abuse is the malware and phishing, the technical attacks that take place in Domain Name System. We are very interested in this conversation. Because a lot of the times when you're fighting with DNS abuse, you could be encroaching on the freedom of speech and the right of people to register domain name. Anyway, privacy on WHOIS is very important. I don't have time to say that, but then there's also the regulator issues. But these are the meetings that are interesting that you should go to and if you're interested in all these.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Farzaneh. The entire group here of Fellows and NextGen or the majority of them actually are newcomers. So I would like to request our panelists to avoid using any acronyms. Please, talk to them without acronyms.

With that, I would like to open the floor for questions. I would like to start with the remote question which was posted by Achille. "What if someone is willing to join as an individual member not representing an organization, then is NCUC the right place for this kind of person?" Is it?

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Yes, absolutely.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, Achille. The question is, yes, you should go as an individual member to non-commercial.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Can't get shorter than that. Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Please give clarification because NPOC is telling that yes, NCUC is saying yes.

FARZANEH BADIEI: You can, in your individual capacity, even if you work for a commercial organization, you could potentially join. But consider that if you are a member of IPC or the Commercial Stakeholder Group, you cannot join the Non-Commercial Stakeholder. You have to pick one. We have some conflict of interest and stuff like that. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you for clarification. Any questions here in the room? We have one question from Namra, and then Hannah, and then we'll come to Pedro. Thank you.

NAMRA NASEER: Thank you. I'm Namra. I'm a second-time Fellow and a new member of NCUC. So my question is addressed to you, Claudio, you said that we are not in a perfect multistakeholder model yet. I would love to really know what is your opinion of a perfect multistakeholder model and where do you think ICANN is lacking at this moment?

CLAUDIO LUCENA:

Thank you very much, Namra. That's a very interesting question. There is no definitive answer to that and it's difficult to answer. It's impossible to answer that without considering the other multistakeholder models that we have available, specifically in the Internet governance space. To that extent, I think ICANN has an enormous advantage, which is you, us, in fact, the Fellowship program. I think this is one of the best structure Fellowship program for boarding newcomers into the multistakeholder environment. That already puts ICANN in a different level concerning the scale of—I don't like that expression. I didn't use it because there is not going to be a perfect model. But considering the scale we started to talk about, I think it puts ICANN in a different stage.

Interestingly enough, the Fellowship program went through a lot of difficulties. From ICANN61, Caleb and David, who was just right over there, we were forced to fight for the continuity of the Fellowship program. For us, it meant a lot because it meant exactly that difference that the multistakeholder model at ICANN which includes the industry but it's not that hard to include the industry. It includes government. Again, it's not that hard. Industry and governments, they talk whenever they have to. The missing pieces that are not present in other multistakeholder models are academia—a little bit less funded, I'm a witness of that—the technical community, and the civil society.

Now here, there is a difference. Many of the Fellows join Non-Commercial Users Constituencies in ICANN in general. I would highlight our model at ICANN as a little bit differentiated and next to what would be the ideal considering the other multistakeholder governance models.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: During the previous session, there was a question, “NCSG or At-Large?” What will be your input? What is the difference between these two communities and why they need to choose one of them or the other?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Siranush, I’ll hijack that question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, pleas. Go ahead, Benjamin.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: My name is Benjamin. I’m fortunate to be the chair of NCUC. We had a session before this meeting, the leadership program. Jonathan Zuck, which is the chair of At-Large, put it nicely, and I’m going to repeat what he said. He says NCUC is for end users, but end users that care about rights. Freedom of expression, the rights. Human rights, the right. Privacy, the right. I can’t speak for At-Large but they are more concerned about everything that concerns end users. But for us, it’s about the rights. Sometimes, the right you’re fighting for doesn’t necessarily mean it affects you, but we are fighting for the vulnerable. We are fighting for people who can’t fight for themselves. That’s what differentiates us from the At-Large.

Also, there are things we also participate actively in the policy development process but we don’t want to use that because At-Large also participates even though it’s through the vehicle of advice. But we

participate in the policy development process via NCSG. We send councilors there, we look at those documents, we review them, we write them, we make sure that they were taken care of in the policy development process.

So if you're concerned about the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, all of those things, we're very vigilant looking at those things in all of the things ICANN do, make sure that none of these rights are violated. So if you're passionate about these things, yes, it's a place you can come to.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Benjamin. Hannah, please?

HANNAH FRANK: Thank you. Hi, everyone. I'm Hannah. I'm NextGen participant from Argentina. I was just looking at your brochure and I saw some common factors regarding sustainable development goals. I was wondering if you have any ... Because my recent researching and that I am going to present tomorrow is regarding DNS and sustainable development goals. So I was wondering if you have some recent researching regarding this topic. Thank you.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Thank you very much, Hannah. Thanks for the question. I would have to consult with Ben and other Fellows if there is a recent research correlating SDGs and Internet. What I can tell you is that I, myself, engaged from the contacts with the community. This is a very unique

moment for you, Fellows. The bonds you make here—the bonds and the knowledge both are going to be important for the rest of your careers. I can assure you that. The bonds you make here and the knowledge you exchange are going to be important for the rest of your careers due to one of those exchanges.

In my career, I was able to get in touch with the Internet Universality Indicators Project from UNESCO. And from that project, I remember having contributed with the connection between the Internet Universality Indicators that UNESCO was proposing. It's a project that they're still carrying on and the SDGs. We're specifically looking at SDGs when we're pushing forward our ideas but I will have to consult with Ben. I'm just joining the EC again. This is my first meeting back. So if there is anything more specific, please, Ben, come up with it.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you. In terms of research, we don't have an in-house research. However, our members have. Wisdom is here. Ken is here. People, organizations who are doing similar work which we can just easily point you to. I think Raoul has something to say about that. I think he can also intervene.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Hi. I guess you mean the sustainability of the Domain Name System. But I got to say I'm going to a meeting right after this where we're discussing ICANN becoming carbon neutral. But at least in the beginning, it will focus on compensating for the flights. Actual compensation, not just what the airline industry has been using, for

example, because it's just not effective. But it would be very interesting to know the real numbers behind the Domain Name System, how much emissions that creates. But that's only beginning here.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: There is a comment in response to what has been discussed. If it is well understood by Achille, who was asking the question, NCUC is a kind of activism within ICANN in regard to human rights online. Is this the case, actually? What do you think?

FARZANEH BADIEI: I wouldn't go say yes. That's exactly is our difference between At-Large and NCSG. I mean, I'm not saying At-Large doesn't care. But we are advocates. That's from our members, if you see, for example, we have Article 19, we have the Electronic Frontier Foundation as our members. But I have to say that the advocacy is limited not to digital rights. We don't look at this broadly to digital rights at ICANN because ICANN's mission is limited. So it's solely about domain names. It can get tedious and boring but domain names are important.

Also, actually, I forgot to mention this, there is a session on human rights in ICANN that is happening during the week. If you're interested, you should definitely attend that. NCSG is leading that with Article 19 and you can get engaged and see what are the intersections of human rights and domain names. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Farzaneh, for clarification. Yes, Claudio?

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Siranush, thanks a lot. Thanks, Farzi. She mentioned something very interesting here, which is the scope of the mission of ICANN. I think this has already been conveyed to you Fellows. ICANN has a very limited scope of acting or trying to develop policy within the Domain Name System. Then an unaware person could think so, there's nothing we can talk about rights within the Domain Name System. No. And that's the beautiful thing. We discuss intellectual property, we discuss human rights, we discuss freedom of expression, privacy is embedded. All those human rights issues are embedded in the Domain Name System. Is it intuitive to understand that connection? No, it's not. That's why we're here. If the civil society needs to understand what is the connection between the domain, how do we embed human rights discussion within the Domain Name System? Please feel free. We're here to help you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Claudio. This is a really very good intervention. I have a question remotely, and then I will get back to Pedro, and then you ladies. The question is from Olévié Kouami. "I want to know what distinguished an organization which is a member of NCUC from an organization which is a member of the NPOC."

CALEB OGUNDELE: That is an interesting question. Earlier on while I was speaking, I said that the big sister for both constituencies, NCUC and NPOC, is NCSG.

For you to be a member of NPOC, basically the basic requirement is that you will be an organizational representative, meaning you as an individual. For example, you represent ISOC Mexico, you can talk to your board, and then apply to be an organizational member of NPOC.

Now, there is also organizational member of NCUC as well. They have the opportunity for individual members as well. NCSG also has individual members as well as the organizations as well. But the good thing is if your focus basically is on the operational concerns of how not-for-profits can't steer the way across in the DNS industry, then NPOC is that very good place for you. We talk about the privacy, the intellectual property domain name fraud and the rest of them. But more importantly that I want to emphasize on is the fact that we are the other side of the activists sisters to NCUC and NCSG as well but our focus is only based on organizational domain name and DNS activities within the ICANN structure.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Let's take a concrete example. Let's take Electronic Frontier Foundation. They could be a member of many various ways of all three organizations represented here. They can be concerned about their own use of the domain from an operational point of view. And that could be one person from EFF joining for us. But there could EFF as an organization deciding to join, we actually are concerned about civil society in ICANN and that could be a different person from the organization joining a different part of this. Of course, then it could be private people who happen to also be working for that organization

joining as individuals. So there are multiple ways. You could actually belong to all three at the same time, if you want to.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Pedro, we'll go to you.

PEDRO LANA: Hello. Peter Lana, NextGen at ICANN for the record. Can you please put the slide of the Board's composition? Again, I don't know if it's possible. If not, I can go without it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: NPOC presentation for the—

PEDRO LANA: Yeah, I can get both.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can we have NPOC presentation up?

PEDRO LANA: I will just talk while it's going there. From I remember, there are two spaces on the Board that NCSG can influence to be a part of but also a lot of different groups with really different interests related to what NCSG does and are interested about who we will share the same two spots. So how that works? Is that balanced? How the positions are decided? How NCSG can protect their interests in this kind of representation? I think it's the previous or the next one.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: It's NCUC. The one is NPOC. It says NPOC.

PEDRO LANA: I think NCUC has it as well but right after.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: You have one, too? NPOC's slide will be up soon. Meanwhile, if you can talk about Board selection, that would be good.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So while we're looking for the slides, I just wanted to remind everybody that NCUC also has this arrangement where we have regional representatives. So we're very close to you. We have the Northern America rep, Ken. We have the APAC rep, Mili. And Ines is online, she represents the Africa region. And Claudio, he represents the LAC region. Olga is also online, she represents the Europe region. We are scattered that way and that's how we also engage. So we have one representative in each continent to get to our end users. Okay. She has your multistakeholder.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: This is the slide you were asking, Pedro. Any specific question on this?

PEDRO LANA: There are two spaces together with the NPOC and NCUC, you have [ESPs,] Business, IP interest, gTLD registries. They're not aligned. They're not the same interests all the time. Sometimes they are. But

how is the process of deciding who will be on the Board? Is it balanced? There are safeguards to make it possible to have NCSG's interest protected, considering the sheer amount of people that are part of the NCSG?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent question. Julf will take this.

JULF HELSINGIUS: I'm happy to take it, considering I am very much in the middle of that process right now. It's a complicated process.

GNSO has two seats on the Board. And Seat 14 is shared between the Commercial Stakeholder Group and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. It's a very interesting construct where we both have one vote and there's no tie break. So we have to agree on a candidate. So even if you have very different interests, we have to work together to find a candidate we can all agree on. The procedure prescribes itself. We will just continue doing that until we find somebody we can agree on.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ladies over there? Cindyneia? Okay. Next to you.

CAROLINA ARAUJO: Hi, I'm Carolina, NextGen from Brazil. I'm really interested in NCUC but it wasn't really clear what is the process of becoming a member and is there any requirement and which requirements? Also, second question, if I do become a member, what are the expectations? Is it

like a mailing list or is there any working group with some topics of interest that I could join, and which topics? It wasn't really clear for me. Thank you.

CLAUDIO LUCENA: Thanks a lot. Can we have Mili hop in? Thanks, Mili. This way you get introduced to all of us.

MILI SEMLANI: Thanks, Claudio. Thanks for your great question. I think that goes to everybody. Being a Fellow myself, I totally resonate with that. I think to start with, it's sign up and become a member. The journey is not a very easy one compared to the whole ecosystem at ICANN. But compared to before, there are more mechanisms for you to learn and keep up, so one of them being the recent Policy Transition program. I would personally see that as a great step too of the Fellowship. When you enroll into the program, you learn a little more about the active policies that are happening right now in this sphere and then pick one that you would want to be a part of.

To be a part of any of these policy programs, if any of them do catch your interest, you have to be associated with one of these constituencies. Ideally, better on the GNSO side because that's where you do active policy work. There are other players depending on your interest and talent where you could sit in, but also to take note that there is Supporting Organizations and Advisory Councils. So you want to do active work. In my understanding, Supporting Organizations work better.

There is mailing list, yes. So that will be your basic. Once you sign up, you're onboarded, you're part of the mailing list. There are tons of discussions happening.

So I think just expectation would be using some amount of your time in your schedule. I'm saying this at a very personal Fellow level. I understand where you're coming new to this, you also have a life, education, job, whatever going on. I would say keep some time in your schedule to just get into the space. You're not going to get anything in the first day, or even the first few months, for that matter, if I can be completely honest here. Hopefully, my colleagues will agree. So just observe, be there, be on the mailing list, follow some of those conversations. To start with, pick one or maybe two interest areas or threads, rather, on the mailing list to just stick to. Because if you want to follow every conversation, it's great, you could, it's just hard to keep up. So I would say commit to one or two. Start with those.

The program could be the great next step. If any of them catch your interest, learn about how that process works. I think as Fellows, you will already have or will go through the policy process at ICANN, like how a policy is actually made. So you'll understand a bit of that. The Policy Transition program is more practical. You actually get to do hands on stuff. And then the third phase will be you actually being a part of any of these working groups and doing this policy work. But remember that there's this little bit of education that needs to happen and you guys are already in the first phase of that, which is great. Think of the next steps. Always do find people like me or any of my colleagues, depending on the region or not, and we'll help you with more tips on how to get there. Hopefully that answers your question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Mili. Everyone here, you have the opportunity to see these people during the entire week. Whenever you have any question or need any clarification, please reach them. They are really very supportive and open to answer your questions. Cindynea, we'll go to you. And we have two more questions, remote.

CINDYNEIA CANTANHEDE: Okay. Thank you. I'm Cindynea Cantanhede, I'm from Brazil. I'm very interested in the topic on geopolitical and also regulatory issues. Because I believe this goes on in transition with a lot of representation that we have here. What I would like to understand is if you have any collaboration on geopolitical and regulatory issues with other agents outside ICANN, for example, agencies in Brazil or other countries that are contributing to the discussion, what's your—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Sorry. Slow down, please.

CINDYNEIA CANTANHEDE: Sure. I'm sorry. Lawyers. My main question is if you have any collaborative work with agencies from Brazil or to other countries in geopolitical and also regulatory issues, there are [crony brooding] to your profession now, and what's your main challenge currently? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Who would like to take this question?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: I can reiterate. She's saying on the issue of geopolitical issue, if we have any concerns or any interest, do we have any arrangement in different regions, especially when in Brazil, that's currently going on? Do we? Cindy, everything happens on our mailing list. One of the things we try to do is to take this conversation from one Internet governance space to another. The WSIS is coming up. The conversation is going to happen in the plenary session. That is the place we can shape geopolitical conversations that we have at ICANN76. Whatever comes out of that, we'll move it to the next Internet governance center again. And that's how we'd go. Look out for that plenary session on .gov WSIS. A lot of our members will be there and we're ready to go. We hope to see you.

In regard of individuals, I think once you are an individual and you are passionate about this right, you're qualified to sign up. We have a link, just click on it and fill in your details. You'll be in the pipeline to be considered. That's all.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Benjamin. There is a question from Abdullah, "Can you please comment on how NCSG is preventing ICANN from becoming a content regulator?"

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- JULF HELSINGIUS: Well, that's fortunately not something ... We are very strict about maintaining scope of ICANN, but a large part of the ICANN community is very much there. Nobody wants to take ICANN beyond their scope and charter.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Farzaneh, if you also can, together with this, cover, if NCUC or NPOC has the voting power or NCSG in the Board or in the Council? If you can cover this as well, it will be great.
- FARZANEH BADIEI: Sure. Preventing ICANN from becoming a content moderator is one of the core missions of NCUC. Because if ICANN gets involved with content moderation, there will be a lot of implications for freedom of expression and also access to essential services and many other things. So throughout these years, we have issued multiple statements that ICANN should not become a content moderator. Then when we were talking about the domain name registrant and privacy, there were some issues that sometimes some parts of the community was arguing that ICANN should actually get involved with content moderation because of this information and all that. And we went against that. That is one of the main issues that we focus on. We remind the ICANN Board every time something like this comes up that their mission is limited and it should never get involved with content moderation. The other thing was—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: The question relates like NCUC and NPOC under the NCSG, how the decision is being made? So how they're voting?

FARZANEH BADIEI: NCSG is the umbrella stakeholder. We do policy mainly. Not that we don't do policy in NCUC or NPOC but when we want to do policy, we—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We lost the mic audio. The second mic is coming. Thank you. It's the third session today. Thank you, tech support.

FARZANEH BADIEI: I spoke so much that the battery just died. NCSG is the policy. It's where we actually make policy. At NCSG, we have six councilors on the GNSO Council. The election happens, so you can be an individual member of NCSG and you don't have to belong to any constituency or you can pick NCSG and a constituency. We have elections and people running the election from any constituency or the stakeholder group and then we elect them. Then that is how the interest of NCSG as a whole is represented on the GNSO Council.

For the Board, I think Julf explained that we share the house with this Commercial Stakeholder Group, so we have to appoint the Board member with them. But also there is Nominating Committee that appoints Board members that we have. NCUC has a representative there, and NCSG and NPOC don't, which is something that we've been trying to fix but it hasn't fixed. Things at ICANN take a long time, like 10 years.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Farzaneh. And once again, you have text here saying ICANN Fellow and ICANN NextGen, if you want to learn more, you go to the sessions and everybody can see who you are, and you are newcomers here. Everybody's happy to respond to your questions. So please, please, please. I know there are a lot of questions which we couldn't take, but the session is coming to an end. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the panelists here with me and all the representatives from NCSG, NCUC, and NPOC group here. Guys, you are doing really important work here and playing a great and important role within ICANN. So I thank you all. Benjamin wants to take the last question.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Siranush. At every ICANN meeting, we always have an outreach. We have an outreach for the LAC region. It will have all the paparazzis but it will have a good time for us to really interact. It's on the 14th. We will make that known to you. It's on the 14th and we'll really have the attention focused on you in this region to tell you more about our business. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Benjamin. With that, I would like to thank our interpreters and our tech support for being here with us the entire day. With that, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

All the Fellowship program participants, alumnis are invited at 4:20, 4:25 maximum together on the second level terrace for the group

photo. Please be there. Thank you. NextGen is at 5:00, so Fellows should be quick.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]