
ICANN76 | CF – How it Works: ICANN Policy
Sunday, March 12, 2023 – 13:15 to 14:30 CUN

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Kim, can we have slides up? Everybody, please take your seats. We're starting our session. The session will now begin. Can we start the recording, please?

Thank you. Hello, everyone. Welcome back to the second session today for Fellows and NextGeners. My name is Siranush Vardanyan, and I will be the remote moderator for this session today. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN 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 noted in the chat. 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 and start talking in the Zoom. Onsite participants will use a physical microphone over here to speak.

For the benefit of other participants, please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace for supporting our interpreters. We have interpretation for this session in six UN languages. So please have your headsets ready if someone would like to speak other than English. Onsite participants may pick up a receiver and use their own headphones to listen to the interpretation. Virtual participants may access the interpretation in the Zoom toolbar.

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With that, I would like to introduce our guest speakers for today's session. My colleagues from Policy Team, Chantelle and Ozan, and they will tell us today how policy works in ICANN. So, early in the morning for the first session today, you had the opportunity to hear how technically ICANN works. Now it's very important to know how the second pillar, the policy part, works. With that, without further ado, I would like to give the floor to my colleagues Chantelle and Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you very much, Siranush. Hello, everyone. I'm Ozan Sahin. Based in Izmir, Turkey, I've been with the ICANN Policy Development Support Team for more than eight years now. Today, my colleague Chantelle and I will cover how ICANN policy development works, and hopefully take your call questions on that.

So going to the agenda for today, we are going to start with the policy development in the ICANN Supporting Organizations. Then we would like to also give you an overview of the advice development in the Advisory Committees. There are some policy development processes in place. So we will talk about the current policy development processes or PDPs. Then we will give you an overview of the policy development support function at ICANN.

We will try to answer any questions you may have. Although on this agenda you see the Question and Answer session as an agenda item number five, we will actually stop at the end of each section to take your questions because we think it is more valuable to be able to address any questions you may have along the presentation than to cover all of the content in this slide deck.

So starting with the policy development in ICANN Supporting Organizations, first, you may have already seen this slide. Let me remind to those who have already seen it that ICANN ecosystem has three components. One is the ICANN Community who works together to develop policies and provide advice on the policies being developed. And then it's the ICANN Board who review these policies that have been developed and recommendations from ICANN Community, and then instructs ICANN Organization to implement them. ICANN Organization's role is not only to implement those policies. As you see, we are the policy development support function, and even before the policies are approved by the Board in the development process, we do support ICANN Community to develop these policies and provide the advice. So, what you see here is the centralized power structure and responsibilities. This works well with strong checks and balances in the system.

Starting with the Supporting Organizations, we have three Supporting Organizations. The first one is the Address Supporting Organization or the ASO. ASO Address Council or ASO AC is the body that handles the policy development for the Address Supporting Organization. It is composed of 15 volunteers. So, three volunteers from each of the five Regional Internet Registries work together on the global Internet Protocol Address Policy.

Then we have the Country Code Names Supporting Organization or the ccNSO. Within ccNSO, you'd find the ccTLD managers who agreed to be members of the ccNSO and also the ccNSO Council.

The Generic Names Supporting Organization, it has two houses inside the GNSO. One is Contracted Parties. These are the registries and registrars which have contracts with ICANN. And the Non-Contracted Parties House includes the commercial and non-commercial groups, which I will cover in a minute.

Finally, there's the GNSO Council which is made up of representatives from these groups.

So, here you see an infographic of the policy development work in these three Supporting Organizations. I know the fonts are small on this infographic but it is available in various languages on icann.org, and I thank my colleague Chantelle who is putting the link to this infographic in the chat box. So you if you'd like, you can review yourself how the policy development works in these three Supporting Organizations. There are many similarities in terms of the steps and some nuances. So, today we will focus on the GNSO policy development process. But I also would like to highlight a few differences that you will find in the ccNSO and ASO policy development processes.

So, let's start with the GNSO and what it is responsible for. GNSO is responsible for developing policies relating to generic top-level domains such as .com, .org, it can be .biz, .shop, .movie, or some of the .brands. The GNSO Council manages the generic top-level domain policy development process.

So, let's look closer to the composition of the GNSO Council. There are 18 members from the two houses, the Contracted Parties House and the Non-Contracted Parties House. There are three members

appointed by the ICANN's Nominating Committee. So, if you look at the structures in the middle, the Registry Stakeholder Group and Registrar Stakeholder Group, they together form the Contracted Parties. The groups on the left-hand side and right-hand side, the Commercial Stakeholder Group and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, they are the Non-Contracted Parties House. Under each of these, there are additional constituencies that you would find. So for the Commercial Stakeholder Group, we have three constituencies, Business Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency. Whereas under Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, we have the Non-Commercial Users Constituency and the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency or NPOC. So this is a good representation of how the different interests are represented within the GNSO Council.

Let me come to the GNSO policy development process. So this slide illustrates the first three steps in this process. Also, before getting into these steps on the, again, right- and left-hand side, you see some arrows. These are not just nice graphics. They indicate where in the policy development process there's an opportunity for outside input. So the policy development process is not going within the GNSO bubble but there's room for outside input in the process.

So in the first phase, which is the identification of the issue, the GNSO Council or the ICANN Board or an Advisory Committee identifies an issue, and then the GNSO Council considers if this issue is within its scope and will result in a Consensus Policy. Then if the answer is yes, then this takes us to the second phase, which is the scoping. In this case, GNSO Council requests preliminary issue report. The staff

supporting GNSO Council then publishes a Preliminary Issue Report for Public Comment period. So, this takes us to the second arrow.

During this Public Comment period—and we will talk about Public Comment at ICANN later—other groups or individuals will have the opportunity to provide their input to the process. Then these comments are received, and following the Public Comments Review, the Final Issue Report is submitted for GNSO Council consideration.

Then this takes us to the third phase which is the initiation of the policy development process. Then the GNSO Council considers the Final Issue Report, and then decides whether to initiate a policy development process. And if it decides to initiate one, they adopt a charter for this Policy Development Process Working Group.

Finally, GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form this Policy Development Working Group. You may have noticed there's another arrow there. In this working group, you may find members from other groups and the composition is not solely members from GNSO structures.

Then this takes us to the fourth phase which is the formation of the working group. The working group starts its deliberations, works on the issue, and comes up with an Initial Report. Once this Initial Report is published, it is again up for Public Comment. So the ICANN Community as a whole has the opportunity to review this Initial Report and provide their input again. After taking these comments into consideration, the working group finally submits its Final Report to GNSO Council. Of course, this may take time, it's not happening in a week or so. But many policy development processes take a few years.

So yeah, I just wanted to let you know how the duration of this phase can last so you may have an idea on that.

Then once the Final Report is submitted to GNSO Council, this takes us to the fifth phase, the deliberation on the Final Report. The GNSO Council adopts the Final Report after consideration. And if adopted, then the GNSO Council submits the Final Report to ICANN Board.

In the final step, we see a vote from the ICANN Board. The Board consults the ICANN Community and the Governmental Advisory Committee, and finally votes on the Final Report recommendations. If it goes through, then this becomes a policy and it can be implemented.

So this is the GNSO policy development process. I believe this was the last slide for our GNSO example, PDPs in the Supporting Organizations. Let's go to some extra slides in the end, but that's going to take some time. So I'd like to stop here to see if you have any questions about this policy development process. Siranush, I don't know how the participants will be able to ask questions. I don't see any microphones. Do we have any mic?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

We do have microphones here in the room as well. Virtual participants can raise their hand or post in the chat. But for now, there is no question and I don't see any hands here in the room.

OZAN SAHIN: So let's just then go to the advice development in the Advisory Committee. So I'll turn it over to my colleague Chantelle.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Ozan. My name is Chantelle Doerksen. I am based in the Los Angeles office for ICANN. I'm going to walk you through what the advice development process for ICANN's Advisory Committee looks like.

As Ozan mentioned—or at least maybe I think you did, I will mention it. There are four Advisory Committees. They give the advice and they provide recommendation a variety of topics at ICANN. So the first one—and we'll get into this more in a bit. The first one is the At-Large Advisory Committee or also known as the ALAC. They are the voice of the interests of individual Internet end users. Similar to the GNSO, the At-Large is a community that's open for anyone to join. In the GNSO you have to join a membership through one of their groups, but as Ozan mentioned, there's quite a variety of groups to choose from. Within the At-Large community, everyone here is an end user of the Internet so you can join as an individual or through a membership process, which isn't a part of this conversation per se but it's something to consider if you do decide to get more involved at ICANN.

The second Advisory Committee is the Governmental Advisory Committee, also known as the GAC. They provide advice to the ICANN Board on a variety of public policy issues, particularly on the interactions of policies and national laws or international agreements. So the GAC has several sessions here this week as well, and you've probably had a chance to sit in on a few of them.

The next one is the Root Server Advisory Committee, also known as the RSSAC. They advise the ICANN Community and the ICANN Board on the operation, administration, security, and the integrity of the Internet's root server system.

Then finally we have the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, also known as the SSAC, which advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

There's an infographic that talks about the advice development processes for each of these four committees. Ozon, my colleague, will be posting that link into the chat in a moment. As I mentioned, we don't necessarily have time to go into detail of all four of these. So we're going to focus on the ALAC or the At-Large community because of just its openness to end users and Fellows like yourselves, if you'd like to get involved. So we're going to jump into this in more detail.

The ALAC expresses the interests of individual Internet end users, as I said, and as a part of policy development and an advice to the ICANN Board. So the ALAC is the committee that formally offers the advice to the ICANN Board but At-Large is the broader community, and both are very important. We have lots of members that participate in the GNSO policy development processes. We write statements on ICANN Public Comments, which Ozan will talk about in a bit. We also work on submitting formal advice to the ICANN Board.

The first step here would be also to identify the issue. Any At-Large community member can bring up an issue to the ALAC. And the ALAC is that Advisory Committee that is the official voice of the At-Large when

it talks to the Board on advice and whatnot. Internally, At-Large will discuss issues to determine the impact on individual end users and scope. The ALAC is responsible for determining key elements of its positions.

Now, within At-Large, you have the Regional At-Large Organizations, also known as the RALOs, and you have two working groups within At-Large that are very important to development of advice. The first one is the Consolidated Policy Working Group or the CPWG. We hold weekly calls that are recorded and we have a variety of community member SMEs that give updates on their contributions in the broader policy development processes that are happening at ICANN, as well as other subgroups related to SubPro or whatever other topics, policy-related that might be happening.

The second group we have is the Operations, Budget and Finance Working Group, also known as the OFB WG. We love our acronyms. They look at governance and operations. So anything to do with Bylaw changes, the reviews. I'm just trying to think of something else. The ICANN Budget and Operations. So there's a lot of work going on over there as well. They are also open and recorded, and you can listen to them online. That was within these two groups that any sort of policy advice or governance and operations advice would be discussed before it goes to the ALAC for consideration.

So that talks a little bit about step number three, which is the participation. ALAC, once it has determined that they're going to move forward to develop advice, the ALAC will designate issue shepherds usually from one of these two groups to participate in the drafting.

They will draft the response, and then they will work through their working group to refine it before it goes to the ALAC.

Now, in step four, the ALAC reviews and calls for consensus or votes on a final statement. Now, this is when the official ALAC committee will look at the draft statement that was developed and prepared, that can take a few weeks, and then they'll vote yes or no. It's usually yes at this point because it's gone through such a strong revision process. That it's pretty quickly. Once it's ratified, then it will officially get submitted to the ICANN Board, and the Board will consider it as part of the recommendation process. Just the last bullet on step four, it says, "If ratified, ALAC sends advice to the ICANN Board, ICANN Org, SO/ACs or other ICANN Community members for consideration." So this is all public and transparent and you can find links to a number of previous advice that has been submitted.

Next we're going to look at a couple of the current policy development processes that you might have seen so far this week or that you will be seeing in the upcoming days. The first one that you have on the screen is from the ccNSO. It's called ccNSO PDP4. ccNSO is the Country Code Names Supporting Organization. So these are country top-level domains.

This one is to develop a process for the (de)selection of Internationalized Domain Name country code top-level domain name strings associated with the country codes of countries, territories, and other areas of geopolitical interest listed in ISO-3166. The results of this PDP will replace what is currently used, and that is called the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process. If this is something that you're interested in,

we can get you more information. There is a session that was held today with the working group and they will be proposing their updates during the ccNSO Policy Update session later this week.

Now, the other three are all within the GNSO. So that's the generic top-level domains such as .com and whatnot. The first one is the EPDP on IDNs or the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names, and this is focusing on two areas. The first is a definition for the gTLDs and the management of variant labels. The second is how the Implementation Guidelines of IDNs should be updated in the future. Now, they met on Saturday, and those session recordings are online if you'd like to learn more about them. I'm sure the GNSO Council will be getting updates from that working group as well. So if you want to, please go and listen at the GNSO Council meeting.

The next one is the GNSO EPDP on the Temporary Specification Phase 2 recommendations. They are looking at the Operational Design Assessment and what was called SSAD Light previously. It's now transitioned into the WHOIS Disclosure System paper, and it's a ticketing system. This will include discussions related to the design of service, determining what data is being shared, and the ease of use.

Then finally, we have the policy development process and the Transfer Policy Review. They also had a session earlier this week. I think there's either one today or maybe tomorrow. This is one of the oldest policies at ICANN. It's been launched into two phases to review the current Consensus Policy that governs transfers of domain names from one registrar to another. So if you think you having a domain name as a

registrar or an end user and you want to transfer it to another company, this is something that will affect that transfer and how it's processed.

Currently, the Phase 1A Initial Report was published in June 2022. The deliberations are now focusing on preliminary agreements and recommendations related to the transfer emergency action contact, reversing inter-registrar transfers, and the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy. There are links to those policies as well online and we can get you more information if you are interested.

How to participate in policy development? We talked a little bit about the ability to join an open community or working group. You can observe a request to be added to open mailing lists which we call public. You can participate or observe in some of the working group calls or you could submit a public comment. I think with that, Ozan, I'm turning it back over to you to dive into Public Comment.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you, Chantelle. Let's now talk about the Public Comment process a bit more in detail. It is a significant part of ICANN, it adds to the transparency and also helps make sure all different views and interests are heard. So you have already seen in the policy development process that there are a number of opportunities for the ICANN Community to provide their comments to an ongoing policy development process. But the Public Comment process is not only about the policy development. There can be public comments about the ongoing policy development processes, their Initial/Final Reports, but also the ICANN budgets, any vital changes. So these all go to Public

Comments so that groups or individuals may provide their view on the action being taken so they can provide their feedback. And finally, an outcome where we have many views from the ICANN Community can be achieved.

There's a Public Comment Team within ICANN to kind of overview of the process and constantly review the guidelines so that the community is given enough time to provide their comments to this process. Then they do it in a transparent way. There's a Public Comment section when you go to icann.org. So when you go to this section, you will be able to see all the open Public Comment proceedings, the Public Comment proceedings that are being planned for the upcoming ones. Also, you can find reports from previous public comments. So once the public comment is closed, the requesting body writes a report out of the public comments received so this adds to the transparency of the process so that you can see the comments submitted for this Public Comment proceeding.

Okay. We have recently opened Public Comment proceeding. So there's one open Public Comment proceeding at the moment. That's what you would see if you go to this page. But you can also see all these past proceedings, comments submitted, the summary reports, and the upcoming proceedings.

So, let's stop here to see if you have any questions relating to the Public Comment process or what Chantelle has covered with respect to the current policy development processes or how you can be involved. Yes, please.

ASMA AWAD: Hello. Asma Awad from Sudan. Thank you for good presentation. I want to ask about, besides my interest, how can I select the group that can I join to it? There are a lot of groups, a lot of communities. How can I select the group can I join? As a part of technical community, also I work at a government institute. Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Asma. Based on the interest, you could select an existing group to join. So, in your case, if you are coming from a technical part of the community, then we have a technical group called SSAC, Security and Stability Advisory Committee. On the website, you can find an application form for membership. You can apply to be a member of this group. Other than that, we have, of course, Governmental Advisory Committee composed of members from member governments' representatives. Of course, in this case, you will need to go through the endorsement of this government to be a representative in this committee. But with respect to the technical and government background, these are the two communities that I can identify at the moment.

Other than that, I have already showed the structure of the GNSO, for instance. So, there are both the Commercial Constituencies—the Business Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency. For the Internet Connectivity Providers and ISPs, there's a constituency. So based on the interest area, people choose to be a member of one of these constituencies. And also on the non-commercial side, there's a constituency for the non-commercial users. We also have for the end users the group called At-Large. Also individuals or structures may

prefer to be members of these groups as well. Is there anything you'd like to add, Chantelle?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Just to add to what Ozan said, Chantelle posted on the website the link to the Beginner's page. I will really encourage those who are for the first time here, including you, Asma, to review the page. It's called ICANN Beginner's page. If you do the search, it will give you the link. So you will find more information about each community. And based on this, don't think that from your first impression or first day of here, you can find it out. Yes, it's hard. There are a lot of different communities, their focus is different. It's hard to follow every community here, especially when you are onsite and parallel sessions are taking place. But take time to review them, to understand each community. And then based on your sector of interest, if this is Government Advisory Committee, GAC, from government, you need, as Ozan mentioned, to get endorsements if the government itself should apply to be part of GAC Advisory Committee. But as a technical person, there are tons of opportunities to be engaged. Within any community here, technical experts are needed. So you just need to go take some time to review the communities and find your place there. But it takes time. No worries, okay?

Yes. I see Namra raised her hand in the Zoom. Oliver, if you can help me with the mic? Yeah, it's there. Thank you.

NAMRA NASEER: Thank you, Chantelle and Ozan. My question is about the GNSO EPDP IDNs and that the group is working on the definition of gTLDs. I'm just wondering, wasn't there a definition already? So is it like they are kind of revising it or they have initiated it? If so, then why?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can we also explain what all those abbreviations were, what Namra said, so everyone is on the same page? Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: That's a really good question. Thank you for that. Maybe we can get your information after the session to follow up and give you some additional information. Could you repeat the question for us just one more time so we make sure we understand?

NAMRA NASEER: My question was about the second one GNSO EPDP IDNs. There is this that this group is working on the definition of gTLDs. So I was wondering, isn't there a definition already? And if so, are they revising it or they are kind of creating one? And if they're doing so, what actually prompted that?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: That's a really good question. We'll get you more information on that. But the definition here is specific to IDN variants and there's a couple of different examples we can get into. But I don't want to say it publicly since that's not my area of expertise and I might get it wrong. But we'll talk to you about that.

NAMRA NASEER: No problem. Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: You're welcome.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We also have a remote question now from Stephen Dakyi, who is ICANN76 Fellow who participates virtually, "Is there a particular format or writing style that a public comment must have?"

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Stephen, for the question. The bodies that request the public comment may have the option to ask for feedback in an unguided form or they may opt to get some guided feedback. That's a decision for them to make. This is mostly based on the scope of the issue on which the public comment is sought. If the Public Comment proceeding in question is seeking unguided feedback, then you can provide your feedback in any format. You can put it in a PDF as you wish, and then submit it as you wish. But if it's coming in a guided way, there are likely a few questions that the requesting body is keen on. So they ask you specific questions about this public comment. So the participants in this Public Comment proceeding provide their responses to these questions. But there would still be a section where you could make any additions to these questions and provide additional feedback. I hope this answers the question. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We have one question here, and then one remote. Please go ahead.

PEDRO LANA: Hi, Pedro Lana, a NexGen for the record. I actually have a few questions and maybe you are going to address them later in the presentation, so feel free to ignore them for now if it's going to be after this moment. But the first question is about how there are different levels of decision, a consensus, anonymity, how they work. And related to that one, by considering democratic theories best practice, how many [inaudible] votes, voluntary contributions in the public comments I addressed are protected during the process? The last one, more directly to the Advisory Committees part, is that I've heard and read a little bit about the GAC special advice or there's something specific about how they provide advice to ICANN's work, and I would like to know how that function inside the system.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you for those questions, they're very thoughtful. With consensus, it varies from group to group on what that will look like. I believe this group had training on this on consensus and building consensus.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Fellows only.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Oh, Fellows only. Okay. Well, you can always talk to your Fellows to see what they learned and they can share some of their expertise as well. The consensus looks different for each group. So, for example, within the GNSO, you could have full consensus or you could have consensus, which means the majority are in favor with maybe there's one or two groups that are not or they might have a minority statement. But it looks very different from within the GNSO Council, which is discussing policy, versus what the ccNSO Council does. So it really depends. We can give you some resources if you'd like to learn more about that.

Then for the other two questions, I'm going to turn it over to Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN: Sure. Thank you. Your point about the comments and how they are addressed, if there's a Public Comment about an ongoing PDP on let's say a report of the working group, and if it's different than what the working group suggests, I believe you'd like to know how this comment is addressed and how the comment is taken into consideration. All the comments are available. You can see them in a transparent way. They are mostly addressed in the summary report. But eventually it is up to the working group to review them and consider what to do with the comments. So, if the working group is still of the idea that they should stick to their suggestion which is different from a comment they received, they are of course free to do that. Usually they also provide the rationale on why they are not following some of the comments and doing something different than what is suggested in the comment.

The other point, the other question that you asked about the GAC advice and how special it is, I guess, I think you are referring to the fact that if ICANN Board is not following the GAC advice, then there's a special condition that it should provide the rationale on why it's not following this advice and have a conversation with GAC on that. So, in this sense, GAC advice is a bit more special, as you said. I believe you're referring to this point. Is that correct?

PEDRO LANA:

Yeah. I actually heard yesterday a bit before on our discussions that there was some work that had to be done. It's not just a little bit of work to go against the GAC advice. But I don't know in-depth what that means. So I wanted to understand a bit more of what this was.

OZAN SAHIN:

Yes. In the Bylaws, it's specified that the Board needs to provide a rationale on when not to follow the GAC advice. But these are really rare cases. So as you saw in the policy development and advice development processes, there are many engagements between the different groups and the Board when the policy development advice development process is in flight mode. So even before the output is achieved, if there are any concerns in the advice that's being developed or in the policy that's being developed, then these different views are put into the process even at an earlier stage. So in the end, we usually get a result that would be accepted by all the parties that had discussed this in the earlier stages.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: In addition, Pedro, I just would like to mention that in the chat space, I posted the link to Consensus Playbook. So this is the training we actually did with ICANN76 Fellows here onsite. But this is very good resource for you to review and understand how different constituencies come to the consensus. There was a comment, actually, posted on the website that it was exactly what Ozan has mentioned how to do the search for policy development processes on our site.

Abraham Selby from Ghana is asking—he suggests, actually, ICANN to develop, provide the database that can help filter such policy documents with different parameters that can help users or individuals to search through which committee documents they need in various languages. So this was exactly the link.

Now, our website provides the opportunity to do search. So if you put a keyword or put PDP as policy development process, it will bring you all the documents, all the related processes which are currently on or had been passed. So that's the opportunity for the participants.

There is another question from remote Abdulrahman Abotaleb. He's interested in digital rights issues. "I find ALAC workgroups and NCUC/GNSO are somehow related to my interest. So my question is, can I engage directly with NCUC/GNSO or it is better to do it via ALAC as given I'm a member of APRALO/ALAC community?"

Just before I give the floor for you to answer, our next session will be from Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups. So NCUC, NPOC, and NCSG representatives will be here. So I think, Abdulrahman, if you join for the next session as well, you can ask this question directly to Non-

Commercial Stakeholder Group representatives. But if you guys have something to add to this, then feel free.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush. I'm going to try to maybe give a little bit of color to this. And then I think Siranush's idea of asking this directly in the next session is a very good one.

So the policy at ICANN is limited in scope. We have our remit but that's mentioned in the ICANN Bylaws as well as what falls into operations and governance. So in terms of digital rights that fall within that remit, it's probably pretty narrow. So again, I think talking in the next session would be useful.

We can put a couple of documents into the chat. There's an ICANN Learn course on Policy Development Fundamentals which might give you some guidance on how to frame your interests within an ICANN context. There's also a PDF document that talks a little bit more about policy development and advice development in ICANN that we'll put in as well. Ozan, I don't know if you have anything to add but I'll stop there.

OZAN SAHIN: No. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Any other questions here? Yes, please. Hannah?

HANNAH FRANK: Hi. I'm Hannah from Argentina, a NextGen participant. I want to ask you regarding the NomCom. What role does NomCom play here in all this process? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for the question. NomCom is outside of the policy development and advice development process. So we already identified the bodies that develop advice and policies, Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. ICANN Nominating Committee is not one of them. ICANN Nominating Committee basically makes appointments to certain positions in the ICANN Board, in the GNSO, At-Large. So it has a different remit. So it's not involved in the policy or advice development process.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hannah, if you go to icann.org/nomcom, it will give you more insight about how Nomination Committee works. It is completely separate. This committee doesn't provide any advice or something. So they are working individually and they select people for ICANN Board, for different constituencies every year. And currently, actually, the NomCom '23 is up and they are receiving applications. So if you go to the NomCom page or do the search through the ICANN Org website, you will find the open positions and the role of the organization itself.

Any other questions about how policy works? Yes, Oliver, please.

OLIVER RISTESKI: Hello, everyone. My name is Oliver. I come from Macedonia, Fellow. My question, it is something related to public safety. Where is the place for policy development process in the ALAC, in the technical, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, or something else? If something is related to the public safety, where we can address it? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for the question. As far as I know, the Governmental Advisory Committee has a working group working on the Public Safety Working Group. But this is the only one that I know. So if any other committee groups have something similar, pardon my ignorance, but this is the one that I know. Governmental Advisory Committee as a working committee.

OLIVER RISTESKI: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, I see the hand behind. Please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. I will be speaking Spanish. My question is focused in the PDP or public processes. I was in a session yesterday where they were talking about the legitimacy of ICANN according to their members, external participants. And they said that something positive was the broad consultation that is done within each of the development of the policies. However, the Achilles heel or the negative issue of this is this process can take a long time so that then it can be considered fully. So

my question is, how long would it take to do this? Are there different types of emergency bodies that can be used so that something can be done more quickly if there's any type of emergency issue within the Internet world?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you for the question. You talked a little bit about emergency processes. We have the Expedited Policy Development Processes which skips the Initial Report stage within the GNSO. The Temporary Specification Phase 2 recommendations, the third one on the slide in front of us, was part of that, the EPDP. There's the EPDP on IDNs. That doesn't necessarily mean it's fast. These things still take a few years. The Government Engagement Team we have focuses on responding and engaging with government, so if there's some legislation coming up, they're the ones that are focused on that.

Is that what you were looking for? Do you think there's something else? I'm going to turn it to Ozan to further expand.

OZAN SAHIN: The other thing I wanted to add to Chantelle's response is that, of course, the problem that PDPs make take time is known, especially the GNSO Council is working on that to have a more structured approach to policy development process so it can be finished in an agreed on timeline. Of course, setting a timeline does not mean that the policy development process will finish 100% by then. It can take even a longer time. But this is definitely taken into consideration by the GNSO Council. The working groups are constantly reporting on the progress

that they're making to the Council, and the Council reviews them. So if there are cases that the policy development process needs to be put in a more structured way, this is reviewed by the GNSO Council and they try to adhere to the timeline that was set by the working group during the deliberation. So it is an issue that the GNSO working groups are aware and they are taking action on that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Any questions? I don't see any questions in the Zoom. So if you are thinking of asking question, this is your last 10 minutes opportunity to do this for this session, of course. Everything was clear how policy works here? I know it's hard. Yes, I see a hand raised now. Oh, we have more slides? Yeah. Let's take Andre. Please go. And then we'll come to Omar. Who else was there with a hand? Yes. Okay.

ANDREY ALEYNIKOV: I'm Andrej, I'm from Russia. I have questions. NomCom's decisions can influence the work of many ICANN units. So how to choose NomCom members?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: This is actually a good question. Each community nominates a NomCom representative. So it comprise of all the members of ICANN Community. So each community nominates a person there. If you go to NomCom website, you will see who are current members. They serve for one year. So this is the period when they announce, opening announcement for that particular year positions, then do the selection, and then announce the selected names for the PTI Board,

the one we heard about during the first session, ALAC representatives, GNSO Council members. So there are specific positions but the NomCom itself, the members are nominated by the community. So they are going there, then stay there, and select. So you will see the members who are nominated for the NomCom this year if you visit their website. Yes, of course, Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you for the question. To add a few more on the response Siranush provided, other ICANN structures NomCom has recently gone through a review process, and this created some recommendations. So, based on these recommendations, we are expecting in the next couple of months some changes relating to the NomCom membership. If adopted after the Public Comment process and the related review processes ... Currently, Governmental Advisory Committee, Security and Stability Advisory Committee, and Root Server System Advisory Committee have liaisons to NomCom. Their membership status may be changing after this process to voting members and their members also terms will be changing. So there are some changes that have been recommended for the NomCom membership. I suggest that you may want to follow this process as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Ozan, I think we can move forward with the slides just to finish because we have 12 minutes left, and then we'll go back to Omar for the question.

OZAN SAHIN:

Sure. Since we have some more time, let me talk briefly about the ICANN policy development support function. We currently have 38 full-time employees working basically all over the world. We function in six different time zones across nine countries. We cover nine languages. These are the subject matter experts and community operations managers supporting the work of ICANN Community.

In terms of how we provide the support, you may be recalling from the policy development process slides that ICANN policy support staff helps draft some reports for the community. We do facilitate ICANN committees' meetings, teleconferences.

When it comes to working groups and collaboration, the ICANN Community mostly works on some of the documents, publications. So in the editing process, the expertise that the Policy Development Team members helps edit these documents with the objective of finally having a publication for these groups.

Also, we advise ICANN communities of what is happening and ICANN to keep them informed about the broader issues. We do publish some communications to constantly report on what each of the committees is doing. So we do publish Outlook Reports prior to ICANN public meetings. After the meeting, we also summarize what has happened during the ICANN public meeting. We do hold webinars prior to, again, ICANN public meetings to help prepare ICANN Community to the upcoming meeting and so that they would know what to expect.

Am I missing any communications that we publish or provide for the community? I talked about webinar, the reports? Yes, we do also contribute with a policy section to regional and global newsletters. Thank you, Siranush, for reminding me that.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: One more thing. This is a new publication that our GDS team is working on. It's a briefing for Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs. It's the part of ICANN that focuses on implementation. So what happens after the Board, let's say, adopts one of the policies from the GNSO—and I will post that briefing in the chat as well—some of the ones that Ozan mentioned.

OZAN SAHIN: We do oversee the Public Comment process at ICANN. I talked about it previously, and also provide secretariat services to ICANN Community groups so that they can focus on their discussion topics during their meetings. So we help them prepare agendas, run their teleconferences, meetings, and provide secretariat services. Hopefully, all this support is contributing to the bottom-up consensus-driven policy development and advice development work at ICANN.

All right, this is all we wanted to cover today. So if you have still questions, we'd be happy to answer. Let me do a time check. I guess we have nine minutes left in the session, right?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes. Can we go to Omar?

OMAR SHURAN: This is Omar Shuran, ICANN Fellow. I'm dragging you back to the EPDP process. Is there any policy item that has been dropped during the development process? In other words, is there any policy item that didn't accomplish the consensus? And what happens to these items once it has not been ratified or approved? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for your question. The short answer to your question is yes. As I noted earlier in my response to one of the questions, the GNSO Council is periodically reviewing the progress that the working groups are making, for instance. So during these reviews, if it comes to a point that the working group is not making any more progress and will not be able to come up with an output, the GNSO Council may decide to shut down the working group and stop the policy development process. I know this happened, so it can happen.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Any last question? Yes, please? Over there, Omar, can you? Thank you.

CAROLINA ARAUJO: My name is Carolina from Brazil, I'm a NextGen. I was wondering, I'm having a hard time finding documentation and information about ICANN as a whole, but specifically, in development of policies or applications. I was wondering if there's any platform or mailing list where I can find all these questions related to an application or a policy? Because I imagine that the same application or policy

development is scattered in different groups. So where can I find different opinions in the same policies? I'm studying, for example, that .amazon case. I would like to read different opinions about the same case and I didn't know where to find it. So I was wondering if they're in place? Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

That's a very common question. It's a good question. We get that a lot. There's a couple of different places. So first of all, there's a process called ITI, Information Transparency Initiative, that's working on the back end to improve the documentation process. But the short answer is there are many places that you can find information this.

Ozan talked a little bit about the Public Comment feature. If there's something specific, not necessarily the .amazon case because that wasn't something that I think went up for public comment, unless I'm mistaken, maybe it did. But you can search by topics there, and then you can see what the Public Comment proceeding was that's coming officially from one of the ICANN groups. Then you can see what the various responses have been. I say that is your best chance.

If there are things specific to one of the groups what they're working on, I would say start by going to the icann.org/policy, and then accessing the various groups from there, and then moving forward. So if there's something specific to maybe the Security and Stability Advisory Committee or the SSAC, you can go to their website and see if there's a maybe something that fell outside of the Public Comment process. Maybe some of their advice the Board, you can find things there. Also, there's Board correspondence that isn't necessarily public

comment, but groups can write to the Board directly, and then that's tracked on part of the Board website as well. Ozan, did you want to add to this?

OZAN SAHIN:

Yeah, I definitely agree with that. When this specific issue that you're interested in is up for public comments, it's a great place to find the document itself on which the feedback is sought on. Also the supporting documents which may be relating to the background of the topic or issue, and also the comments of the ICANN Community on the topic. Because of the archives, they're all available. So Public Comments is a great place to find all these documents and information.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. I would like to thank Ozan and Chantelle for their time and for being here for this session. I think this was very informative session. Our applauds and thanks to you both. Thank you very much. Thank you, our interpreters and tech support. With that, our meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

Fellows and NextGeners, don't forget, we meet here in 30 minutes for the last session for today. So, looking forward to seeing you here. You have 30 minutes to enjoy.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]