
ICANN77 | Prep Week – What to Expect During ICANN77
Wednesday, May 31 2023 – 16:30 to 17:30 DCA

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Hello and welcome to today's session. My name is Deborah Escalera and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During the session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form as I've noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session. Interpretation for this session will include all UN languages. Click on the interpretation ICANN in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room. Once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor.

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and last name or surname. You may be removed from the session if you do not sign in using your full name. With that, I will hand the floor over to Naela Sarras.

NAELA SARRAS:

Thank you, Deborah, and hello, everyone. I am so delighted to be here today and to welcome you to the What to Expect During ICANN 77 session, which is a preparatory session for the upcoming ICANN meeting in Washington, D.C. in about 10 days' time from now. And we are very excited to be heading into that meeting, and thank you for joining us today to learn a little bit about what to expect for the meeting. As I said, my name is Naela Sarras. I am the vice president of stakeholder engagement for the North America region. The way we are organized here at ICANN is we have different teams, and one of the teams that looks primarily after engagement with the community is called the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team. And we're actually divided into teams that look after different regions.

I work for the team that looks after the North America region, along with several other colleagues here with me on the webinar today. And our job, as I said, is primarily to work on opportunities to engage with the community and to welcome more community into the whole ICANN multi-stakeholder system. We're very happy that you're joining us for this meeting, and I'm glad to welcome you. And I'm glad to welcome the ICANN meeting itself to come back to the North America region. As you know the ICANN meeting rotates around the world to different regions. This is the first time ever that the ICANN meeting is actually

coming to Washington, D.C. as a location for the meeting, and we're very happy to be hosting the meeting in that location.

The ICANN meetings themselves are really simply held to further policy development and advisory work that goes on in the ICANN community. This work is only successful when newcomers, much like yourselves, join the ICANN meetings to contribute your knowledge and your expertise to the different processes that go on during the ICANN meeting, primarily focused on policy development and advisory work. And you'll hear a lot more about this during this session in terms of what different work groups are working on and what to pay attention to.

As I said earlier, the ICANN meeting does travel throughout the world to different regions. This is the North America region's turn, if you will. And its aim of traveling is really to engage with different stakeholders around the world, such as academia, business, technical community, government, and so on. And so its ability to relocate to different places allows it to engage with different communities around the world.

Therefore, I do encourage you to please participate in this prep session, to participate in this whole prep week to learn more about what's going on with ICANN77. Please attend the sessions, ask questions, and most importantly, if something is unclear, do reach out to us. Our emails are listed in this presentation. So please do reach out to us if anything is left unclear. And so with that, I welcome you all to the meeting, and I wish you a successful meeting. And please allow me to pass this on to the chair of the ICANN board of directors, Tripti Sinha, to give her welcoming remarks. Over to you, Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you very much, Naela. To all of you on the call, a very warm welcome to ICANN. We are absolutely delighted that you have joined our community. As Naela just said, I'm Tripti Sinha, and I'm the chair of the ICANN board. So I thought I'd start by sharing a few words with you about what the board is and briefly touch upon the global the multi-stakeholder model, and then what you can get from the upcoming meeting in Washington, D.C. So the board is a group of 16 voting members, and this also includes, the board also includes the ICANN CEO and four liaisons who are liaisons from ICANN constituencies. And constituencies are like bodies inside of the ICANN ecosystem. So board members are considered fiduciaries and stewards of the ICANN corporation.

What does that mean? It means that we provide very high-level oversight of the corporation. We ensure that high standards of corporate governance are maintained. We ensure fiscal responsibility and sustainability, and that the corporation has the right resources to advance its mission. And the board has another very unique role, which is it approves policies that are developed by the community. And in a nutshell, we ensure that the mission of ICANN is carefully cradled and protected. And ICANN is a global multi-stakeholder community, and its mission, our mission is to, of course, ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. And these systems are domain names, IP addresses, and protocols.

And what does it mean to maintain them? It means that we coordinate the procedures that are used to maintain the databases, and there are

several databases related to these unique spaces, the Internet's namespaces and numerical spaces. And at the same time, we ensure that the network is stable and secure in how it's operated from a unique identifier perspective. And the ICANN community comes together as a multi-stakeholder body, and its governance is structured around a multi-stakeholder model. So what does that actually mean? It's a form of governance that brings together different stakeholders under one umbrella. And what we do is we come together and support the mission of ICANN. And the mission of ICANN is realized through processes.

One, it develops policies, as I said earlier, for the DNS, and procedures that maintain the Internet's identifier systems. And when these policies are developed, they start at the bottom and trickle upwards to the board, and the board then ratifies, approves these policies. The multi-stakeholder body is a rich, vibrant, and disparate community that arrive at consensus when problem-solving together. And so no matter what your background is, and I know you're new to ICANN and you come with different kinds of expertise, I can assure you that you will have a place or a constituency within ICANN where you will be able to participate. So it doesn't really matter what your background is. It's a very welcoming, all-encompassing community. So you can have a technical background, technical expertise. You may have skill sets and policy articulation, or you may come from the commercial sector in business development.

You might be part of an NGO or interface with governments or be from the government itself, or you might be working for some kind of an Internet service provider. It doesn't matter what your background is.

Each of you will find a place inside of ICANN where you can contribute in a substantive way. And ICANN's sustainability and its strength relies on the community, and the way we sustain it is this constant flow of new faces and new blood. And this is exactly what you are, and you are so welcome inside this community. So we're delighted that you'll be joining us at ICANN77 in Washington, DC. And as Naela said, this is the first time that Washington, D.C. has been host to an ICANN meeting.

And newcomers, you're a vital source of resource for the community. You increase our participation base. And we're also looking to continue to bring people in from who speak various languages, come from different cultures and backgrounds and from different countries, because the Internet is a global thing. And so at ICANN77, the agenda has been developed by the community, and it has a very broad spectrum of topics from discussions on the technical fundamentals of DNS, and there's all kinds of policies that are currently underway in development. And also the next round of top level domains is being planned. So that work is underway. So there are many, many sessions. So I urge you to attend as many sessions as you can, and embrace the agenda, the atmosphere, and soak in the content and experience.

So once again, we're just so happy that this meeting has come to the North American region and in particular, Washington, D.C. is able to host its first public meeting. And so again, a very, very warm welcome to each of you. And I hope you thoroughly enjoy ICANN77. With that, Naela, back to you.

NAELA SARRAS:

Thank you very much, Tripti. Very nice remarks. From here, we're going to jump right into it and pass it on to Joe Catapano, my colleague, to talk a little bit about what it is that we do here inside ICANN. Over to you, Joe.

JOE CATAPANO:

Thank you, Naela. Welcome everyone. As you can see here from the slide, I'm on the stakeholder engagement team here with the ICANN organization. I am based in the Washington, D.C. office. So very much looking forward to welcoming you all to my home city for the ICANN meeting. So I'm tasked with kind of going over what ICANN is. The bad news is we don't have enough time. But the good news is I can pull back a little bit and give you kind of a high level overview, build upon what Tripti commented on here earlier, give a little bit of visual treatment that will hopefully help you along as you get oriented into the ICANN ecosystem and the ICANN landscape and ultimately navigate the meeting later next month.

So if we can go to the next slide. So when you type a web address into a browser, maybe you verbalize it in virtual assistant or something, you may wonder how the computer quickly finds where you want to go and what you're looking for. It's a question that as a newcomer to the ICANN community or as a new ICANN stakeholder, you might have asked yourself. You're not alone in this. Not as Tripti had mentioned, not everyone who participates in ICANN or works for ICANN, and I'm including myself in that, knows a lot about technology, at least at the very beginning. So my background is in public relations and communications as well as political science. I've been with ICANN for

over nine years now. So now I have a better understanding of how those technical functions that ICANN runs work.

But at the beginning, it was very new to me and there was a high learning curve. But I think hopefully if you walk away from this session with nothing else, you'll walk away with confidence that there's a whole team here to support you as you kind of go along your ICANN journey, both on the organization side, the board side, as well as, of course, the community and your mentors.

If we can go to the next slide, please. So if I may, let's take a look at an example here. We have a woman named Maria. So she was a newcomer five years ago and she works in the nonprofit sector, but right now she works on a committee that works on domain name policy. That's just kind of an example of how this, what we sometimes refer to as stakeholder journey can take shape. You can come from an area of work that is really very different from the domain name system, internet protocol addressing, or even tech writ large. So there are many different ways, there are many different entry points into the community. So we're hoping that as you participate in ICANN77 and get to know people, that you'll find your way and we can help you do that.

Let's go to the next slide, please. So again, what is ICANN's role in the technical functions of resolving those names and numbers. So ICANN stands for Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. So if we go to the next slide, the internet protocol address, is the number. And you can see that on your screen, 192.168.0.7. That is the IP address that is behind the domain name, ICANN.org, ICANN's homepage. And so at its most basic level, ICANN's technical mission is to make those

two things resolved so that you get to ICANN.org, because that's where you want to be. And so the numbers are hard to remember. So that's why we use domain names.

If we go to the next slide, please. So in the beginning, there weren't many users of the internet. There may have been a couple of hundred. And the domain names and IP addresses were quite literally on a paper list. And this lovely character here is of a gentleman named John Postel, who was a researcher at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where ICANN happens to be headquartered at this time. And he kept track of all of those names and numbers in a handwritten database, if you can believe that. Wonderful. Today, the internet has billions of users.

So there's no way that a handwritten list can be kept managed by one person to keep track of all these numbers and names. It would be impossibly long. So the domain name system was created, an automated system and distributed address book system to keep track of all of these things. And at the most basic level, ICANN coordinates the top level of this system. Again, there's more to it, but if you walk away kind of with nothing else here today, that's what we want you to think about in terms of ICANN's mission.

Next slide. So now we can move to the next slide. So as I said, here's what ICANN stands for. There's going to be a lot of acronyms thrown at you, both today and at the meetings. So take your time with it. There's a glossary online of ICANN terms. It's going to be important to familiarize yourself with that a little bit and also refer back to it because we do try in the community and on staff to not speak in acronyms as

much as possible, but inevitably we fall prey to that. So it's important to kind of have that handy. So you're like, oh what this one, what does this stand for? And the community is full of talented and passionate people from across the world that really share a common interest in this ecosystem and making it work.

Next slide, please. So there's the technical functions I talked about. The names and numbers. Now, the other kind of part of ICANN or the ICANN ecosystem that function that ICANN performs is the policymaking function, which my colleague Carlos is going to talk about in a little bit. And those, that policy development process supports the technical functions. So if we go to the next slide, as Tripti mentioned this a little bit, so here's just kind of a visual treatment of the different parts of the ICANN ecosystem. So there's the community that work again across the private sector, nonprofit, government, academia, end users, technical community. They all make up the community. There's the board of directors that Tripti mentioned before. And then there's the staff. Sometimes you'll hear that referred to as the ICANN organization or ICANN org. There's about a little over 400 of us around the world that function more or less as a secretariat to support the board and the community.

And so another thing Tripti mentioned is this idea of a multi-stakeholder model. So those sectors that I mentioned before, everybody coming to the table quite literally in a scenario like ICANN77, where we're gathering in person to develop policy as opposed to more of a top-down approach. Go to the next slide. So this is kind of a visual treatment of what would be commonly referred to as top-down

governance. An example of that would be a nation state passing a law. The lawmaker makes the law and it goes to be enforced.

As opposed to, next slide, ICANN's model, which is a community of different stakeholders coming together to develop policy from the bottom up. And again, Carlos is going to go into a little more detail about how policy is developed at ICANN. But it's very important just to understand that it does start really from the grassroots, from the community, and is then filtered up as opposed to the board of directors kind of dictating decision or the ICANN CEO dictating the decision.

It may be challenging to wrap your head around at first, but it's what makes ICANN unique and it's what makes this experience unique. And the next slide, I think just shows kind of a visual treatment of those sectors I rambled off before. And with that, I will hand it over to Carlos.

CARLOS REYES:

Thank you, Joe. Hi, everyone. My name is Carlos Reyes. As Joe mentioned, I am part of the Policy Development Support Function. I'm actually in the Washington D.C. office and I work here with Joe and Fernanda. You'll be hearing from her a little later. And we recently opened this office and we were lucky enough to welcome Naela and Tripti. So it's exciting that for once one of these webinars is actually being led and managed by a team where we see each other pretty regularly in the office. And of course, Josie McGinty is also managing this in the background for us and she is in the office with me.

So next slide, please. As Joe mentioned, I'll talk a little bit about the ICANN community and the policy development mission of ICANN. But first, you're familiar or you've heard now about the ICANN public meetings. As Tripti mentioned, this is the first time an ICANN public meeting takes place in Washington D.C. Naela referenced that too. We have three types of ICANN public meetings. Roughly the first one of the year and excuse me, in roughly March is the community forum. And then we have the policy forum in June and then the annual general meeting sometime in October, maybe November. As you might expect, there's a lot of events in the internet governance landscape. So scheduling these meetings is often done many years ahead of time so that we do not conflict with other important events.

The community forum happened earlier this year. It was in Cancun. That was ICANN76. The format of the community forum consists of six days. There's community work that takes place during the six days. The board also has a meeting and there's a public forum. The AGM, which will be later this year, will be in Hamburg. That'll be ICANN78. Again, it'll feature a board meeting, a public forum, and of course, community work. But today's focus is the policy forum. So this is a shorter meeting. It's four days. There's a focus on ICANN community work and targeted outreach in the host region, in this case, North America.

Next slide, please. So the policy forum, as you've heard now, it's the first one in North America since this format was adopted in 2016. It's also our eighth policy forum. And it's the first ICANN public meeting in DC. So there's a lot of firsts for this particular meeting. As I mentioned, Washington, D.C. is also home to the new engagement center, which

recently opened. There are 13 different functions represented in this office and an additional four when you incorporate the entire eastern part of the United States.

Next slide, please. So now let's talk about the ICANN community. There are three supporting organizations. And it's important to understand what a supporting organization is. A supporting organization is a body within the ICANN community that develops policies. These policies then are forwarded to the board, which the board reviews and approves. Tripti talked about that relationship between the ICANN community and the board. Each supporting organization has a very specific remit within the overall policy mission of ICANN. So the first one I'll discuss here is the address supporting organization. This is the supporting organization for the numbers community.

So this deals with global policies for internet protocol addresses or autonomous system numbers. So anytime we're talking about the numbers behind the domain names, Joe talked about that earlier, those policies are set at the global level within the address supporting organization. Now, there is a lot of regional policy development that happens within the communities of the regional internet registries. But at ICANN, the remit is specifically global. So that means that the five regional internet registries have adopted the same policy and are coordinating the implementation of that. And ICANN and the IANA functions, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, is that implementer.

Now for the country code name supporting organization, some of you may be familiar with country code. Such as .br for Brazil or .uk for the

United Kingdom. There's a supporting organization for those policies. And this consists of country code top level domain managers. Sometimes the organization that manages is ccTLD is a government. Sometimes it's a private sector company. Sometimes it's some sort of public private partnership. There are multiple models. But these ccTLD managers can participate in global policy development within the country code name supporting organization.

And then the one you'll be hearing about the most, especially at ICANN77, will be the generic name supporting organization. This is the body that develops policies for generic top-level domains. So.com or one of the new gTLDs such as.berlin or.book, et cetera. The generic name supporting organization is pretty diverse. It represents the contracted parties, which are ICANN accredited registrars and gTLD registries, as well as the non-contracted parties. And these are commercial and non-commercial interests. So you have a bicameral structure and they develop policies. If they're approved as consensus policies, these policies are binding on the contracted parties.

So let's go on to the next slide. And I'll share a little bit about what these three supporting organizations will be doing in Washington, D.C. So we'll start with the ASO. Actually, the address supporting organization is not convening during ICANN 77, but you will see their members present. There are members of the members community who will be attending, of course. And they're not attending because, well, there are no global policies under consideration. As I mentioned, their policy development focuses on regional policy development. And those happen through the regional internet registry communities. Three

regional internet registries have had meetings recently that concluded the first cycle of meetings for the year. And we have a few, the next cycle beginning with the Asia Pacific community in Japan in September.

On the Country Code Names Supporting Organization side of things, they are focusing on the next phase of their current policy development process on internationalized domain name string deselection. So there's a review mechanism that has been approved by the ccNSO council and further steps to coordinate on implementation of that policy development process outcome. The ccNSO also consists of several committees. These are standing committees that inform the deliberations of the ccNSO as well as other activity. The DNS abuse standing committee that is new for the council, but it's essentially a platform for information exchange and best practice sharing among the country code top level domain managers.

So that's an important area of work for them. The strategic and operational planning committee. This committee looks at the strategic plan, the annual budget of ICANN, and informs how the country code name supporting organization provides input into those processes. The CCNSO is also looking at registration trends within the ccTLD space. They're going to look at registration trends before the pandemic and since the pandemic, so that'll be an interesting session. And they're also looking at the legislative initiatives, particularly potential regulation and how that impacts ccTLDs.

So you see there's a broad spectrum of work in the country code name supporting organization. With the generic name supporting organization, most of the focus right now is on the new gTLD program

next round or their policy development process, which led to those recommendations. You'll hear it referenced as SubPro or subsequent procedures for new gTLDs. Within that umbrella, there is a guidance process right now, a GNSO guidance process that's looking at applicant support for the next round of the new gTLD program. And then if you go back and read the board resolution from March 2023, there are other areas where the GNSO is making progress, including the expedited policy development process on internationalized domain names. They're also reviewing the transfer policy that is the oldest consensus policy at ICANN. And that working group is making progress.

The GNSO council has small teams that help the council explore different issues that are not quite policy development, but there's still coordination going on. One small team that will have a session during ICANN77 is the DNS abuse small team. And then another is a scoping team that's looking at the accuracy of gTLD registration data. So again, a lot of substantive policy work happening in this supporting organization. The council will have various work sessions and a formal council meeting as well.

So let's look at the next slide, which is the advisory committees. So as we discussed earlier, supporting organizations develop policies. The advisory committees provide advice on those policies or in other areas within ICANN's mission. And each advisory committee provides an input from a different functional perspective. Let's start with the At-Large Advisory Committee. This is the community that expresses the interests of individual internet end users. So all of us, all of you.

This committee is organized; this advisory committee is organized regionally. So there are different regional structures that are populated by At-Large structures and they inform the policy advice work of the At-Large Advisory Committee. We also have the Governmental Advisory Committee. And as you might guess, it's comprised of member governments as well as international organizations. And they're looking at issues, ICANN policy issues and the intersection with public policy.

So there's a lot of discussions there in terms of how domain name system policy interacts with national laws or even international agreements. And then the Root Server System Advisory Committee. This is the advisory committee of the 12 root server operators and other root zone management partners. They look at the overall operation, administration, security, and integrity of the root server system. And finally, there's a Security and Stability Advisory Committee. They look at all of these issues from the prism of security and stability. So they're individual experts that provide their expertise and guidance to the ICANN community, the ICANN board, and the ICANN organization.

Next slide. So what are the advisory committees of two? I'll start with SAC, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, simply because most of their sessions are actually private due to the confidential nature of their work. So you won't see a lot of public sessions for them. However, if you're interested in security topics, I recommend the Domain Name System Security Extensions Workshop, DNSSEC. That is a standard feature of ICANN public meetings, and they always organize a very good workshop for more technical participants. The Root Server

System Advisory Committee will have a meeting and several work sessions. They're revising some of their publications.

But right now, the focus of their work is tracking the root server system governance working group. That working group was set up a few years ago by the ICANN board to review the advice from the Root Server System Advisory Committee on developing a governance model for the root server system. There will be a one-day workshop for the governance working group, and the root server operators will be participating in that, along with other members of the ICANN community. The Governmental Advisory Committee, they're starting off the ICANN77 meeting with a workshop specifically on DNS abuse and really building the capacity of governments on this issue. The United States delegation has been coordinating with the Governmental Advisory Committee on organizing that, so that should be a good program.

The GAC is also focused on, surprise, surprise, the new gTLD program, specifically a facilitated dialogue on Closed Generics and some other outstanding issues as the ICANN community looks toward the next round. Of course, the GAC will be working on their communique. That's the standard document that is an output of an ICANN meeting. And if they reach advice on, excuse me, if they reach consensus on a particular topic, that would be issued as advice in the communique. The GAC is also looking at data protection policy and the interaction with WHOIS and RDS, the Registration Director Services. The At-Large community, because we are in the North America region, as I mentioned, there's a focus on outreach.

So the North American Regional At-Large organization within the At-Large community will be organizing several sessions. So look out for a roundtable as well as a town hall being led by the North American Regional At-Large organization. The At-Large is looking at the end-user perspective in a few areas, including auctions, which are part of the new gTLD program 2012 round, and what are the challenges with that. And they're also looking at the application window. What will that look like for end-users? So if you're interested in the end-user perspective, specifically as it relates to the new gTLD program, I recommend those sessions.

Next slide. Other sessions, not necessarily led by any one particular group, but Tech Day, again, another standard feature of the ICANN public meeting schedule. It's usually led by the ccNSO, but there's a lot of participants from across the technical community. The ICANN board search committee, the CEO search committee will also be providing an update. That's on Tuesday. I mentioned the Root Server System Governance Working Group will have a one-day workshop on Wednesday the 14th. Every night, there's networking receptions, so take a look at that.

And let's go on to our, I think my final slide here. How do you prepare? Obviously, there's a lot of material that's covered during an ICANN meeting, but if you orient how you look at the schedule based on the different groups that you'd like to observe, each group publishes either reports or their agendas, or you can read their recent publications to prepare for those sessions.

Next slide, please. Of course, Prep Week, we're halfway through it now, but there are still a few other sessions you can catch to prepare for the meeting. There's a geopolitical legislative and regulatory update, for example. You could listen to that and then sit in on the ccNSO session, for example, that's looking at how regulatory developments are impacting ccTLDs. The policy update, if you'd like more, even more in-depth information than what I provided today on specific policy and advice initiatives, take a look at that. And then, of course, the grant program. So there's a lot of sessions here, and recordings are available for all the previous sessions if you're interested.

Next slide. And that's it. So thank you very much for listening. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions. And over to my colleague, Deborah.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you, Carlos. My name is Deborah Escalera. I'm the Program Manager for Public Responsibility and Support. And I'm just going to go over some key sessions that are taking place during Prep week.

Next slide, please. And as Carlos mentioned, if you've missed any of these sessions, they are recorded, and I recommend that you do watch them. On Tuesday, DNS abuse contract amendments update took place, and also the GNSO policy update. This morning, new gTLD program next round update, and of course, this session. Tomorrow,

June 1st, policy update. And at 2200, the ICANN board members welcome the fellows and the NextGen.

Next slide, please. On Monday, June 12th, a very special upstander training is mandatory for the fellows and the next gen, but all are welcome to attend the session. The goal of this session is to enhance and complement existing anti-harassment efforts across the ICANN community. The training will be led by a trainer from the nonprofit organization, Right to Be, an industry leader in equity and anti-harassment. Now, during Tech Day, we encourage you to attend the next gen presentation, the first one starting at 10:45, and the next one at 15:30. Also taking place at 15:30 is a DNX security workshop and a welcome cocktail event starting at 17:30. Please, during the day, participate in your sector of interest.

Next slide, please. On Tuesday, June 13th, it's constituency day. Again, participate per sector of interest. At 10:45, getting to know ICANN, OCTO, and IANA is mandatory for the next gen and fellows. At 13:45, ICANN Wiki-A-Thon, this is mandatory for the NextGen. However, this is a closed session. Also at 13:45, new TLDs need digital inclusion is taking place. And at 15:30, this CEO search update taking place. And at 17:00, there's a networking cocktail, and those are taking place almost every night.

Next slide, please. On Wednesday, the fellows from the APAC region will be joining the APAC space at nine o'clock, and an offsite fellowship social event is taking place at 20:00. Finally, on Thursday, wrap up sessions will be taking place. The fellowship program wrap up session is at 9am, and the NextGen wrap up session is at 10:45. And that is it for

me. With that, I will hand it over to my colleague, Fernanda Iunes. Thank you.

FERNANDA IUNES:

Thanks, Deb. I hope you all can hear me well. Good afternoon from Washington, DC, and hello to you wherever you are in the world. My name is Fernanda Iunes, and I'm the Senior Program Coordinator of the Public Responsibility Support Team here at ICANN. I am today going to go over some resources for you because we know that while being a newcomer at ICANN can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming, we do have many resources available to help you make the most of your opportunity to participate. And as I'm sure you can tell from this call, there are also many people who would be happy to help you find your way as well. So don't be shy. Please ask staff members or community veterans to help you.

A great resource for you to begin your ICANN journey is our online learning platform. It's free. It's called ICANN Learn. And if you haven't done so already, you can sign up and start taking a few courses. There, you'll find training on ICANN processes and policies, as well as technical topics and skill building courses. These will help you maximize your participation in the work of the ICANN community. There are also other ways to connect and boost your knowledge of ICANN. You can sign up for your regional newsletter, which will give you ICANN information relevant to your particular part of the world. So that's always super helpful since we all live all over the place.

You can follow our social media accounts, which will be listed on the next and final slide of the session. You've probably already registered for ICANN77, but if you bookmark that meetings page, it'll help you navigate the schedule. Note that participation links to the sessions are only provided 24 hours in advance for security reasons. Also note that you can access presentations from any session within the schedule as well. If you haven't used Zoom before, or you're new to using Zoom, there is information in the meetings page to help you set it up and to participate more efficiently. Just a quick tip, it does take quite a few clicks to get into the session, so be sure to give yourself a few minutes to get settled and be ready so that you can attend the session fully.

You may also want to explore our newcomers webpage, and from there learn more about what we do, how we work, and how your talents and expertise can help advance ICANN's mission. These beginners pages will also help you learn more about the programs Deborah mentioned just a few minutes ago. These are our NextGen at ICANN program for university students, and our fellowship program that's designed to help participants from all over the world participate fully at ICANN meetings. Acronyms are of course a challenge in any new environment, and ICANN in particular is full of them, so it can be helpful to bookmark the acronym and terms page so that you can quickly reference any unfamiliar terms, as Joe mentioned earlier.

It's also fine to encourage people to explain the acronyms that they use. We are all trying to get better at that. Other webpages you may want to note include our communities page, policy development support, and the technical functions page, each of which can give you some great

insight into the complexity of ICANN and also how the various teams and community groups come together to achieve the great internet policy development work that gets done here at ICANN. And that's it for me. Thank you, and I'll hand it over to Joe.

JOE CATAPANO:

Thank you. Thank you everyone. So at this point, we typically take any questions that anybody may have. I believe, you can either raise your hand and do the question verbally, or you can type it in the Q&A pod. Usually at the end of these sessions, if we don't have questions, we typically end early, but I'll just leave a space here for any questions. I don't see any. I just want to check and make sure with our technical folks if there's no hands up. If there's not, then I don't know, Naela, do you have any closing remarks?

Thank you, Joe. And I don't see any hands up either. So thank you everyone for attending. I hope this has been a helpful session. There was a lot of information that we gave during this session about the different groups and what they're working on during an ICANN meeting, and specifically this one that's coming up, as Carlos explained in June, it's called the Policy Forum. So all the policy, all the groups are really heavily focused on their work during this meeting on advancing their policy development work, their advisory work, and on top of all of this, you're going to hear a lot about the next round and the different proceedings going on to lead up to the next round. So lots of information happening, lots of discussions at this meeting.

Please flag down any of us when you see us at the meeting, email us if you have any questions. Fernanda gave a really excellent overview of where newcomers can turn for information, but this is essentially our job here. If you have any questions, please don't get frustrated. Just come up to any of us and ask us. All of the team members at ICANN, the staff will have staff on their badges, and they're all there at the meeting to answer questions. So feel free to flag any of us down or email us with any questions you have.

With that, thank you so much for giving us your time today to listen to these presentations, and we hope to see you whether in person or online at ICANN77 and future meetings. Thank you again. And with that, I can go ahead and close this webinar, and you may stop the recording. Bye everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]