
ICANN78 | AGM – LAC Space
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – 4:30 to 5:30 HAM

ALBERT DANIELS:

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LAURA MARGOLIS:

Thank you, Albert. I will speak in Spanish. I will switch. Thank you. Laura Margolis speaking. Good afternoon, everyone. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening for those connected remotely. Welcome to Hamburg and to our LAC Space session. Today I have the honor to be here with you. In this session, we will have some welcoming remarks by Rodrigo de la Parra, then we will have a presentation by LACTLD on a new tool. This is a search engine tool.

And then we will have the launch of the strategy planning process for fiscal year 2026-2030. And then we will have a presentation delivered by Albert on the SIDS result and the survey. And then we will have an update by LACNIC. I love seeing that we have people representing all regions. So welcome, everyone. And now I would like to give the floor to Rodrigo de la Parra. Rodrigo, the floor is yours.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA:

Rodrigo de la Parra speaking. Thank you, Laura, and welcome, everyone. It's a pleasure to welcome you all here in Hamburg. We are now in our face-to-face meetings and we also see and welcome people in our region and we see how people from our region are occupying leadership positions. This is good, but at the same time, it's not that good because there are many of them that cannot be with us today. But this is something positive and we hope to continue with this trend.

Let me take this opportunity to, in addition to highlighting and focusing on the presentations that we will have today and on the LACTLD tool. And thanks, Rocio and Jose, for being here today with us to present this search engine. This is a huge milestone at LACTLD. We will also have a presentation of a survey that was carried out at the Caribbean region and with all the small islands and developing states. This is a classification that we have and that we take into account for ICANN engagement. And we also have Laura Kaplan. She is also here representing LACNIC. Thanks for being here.

Let me also indicate that Becky Nash and Victoria Jan are here with us. This is a good opportunity because we can take our engagement to the next level. We do not only need to take those strategies that are being developed by the ICANN community, but we do need to be part of the process. This process is about to start. This is a process for the periods 2026 and 2030. And this strategic planning process is the starting point of actions that will then be translated into activities or projects for the region.

So it is now at this earlier stage where we need to participate so that when we start working on projects, I mean those projects that you

already know that are in the additional budget requests or that are also covered by the crops, you can all be aligned with a strategy. And we also need to capture the realities in the Caribbean region and the realities in Latin Americans for them to be translated into the global ICANN plan. So that's why we have Becky and Victoria here with us today. So with that, let me welcome you all again, and I wish you a fruitful meeting. Thank you, Laura. I give you back the floor.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Laura speaking. Thank you, Rodrigo. And now I would like to give the floor to Rocío and José from LACTLD. They will be talking about the domain name search engine. Rocío, please go ahead.

ROCÍO DE LA FUENTE:

Rocío de la Fuente speaking. Thank you, Laura, Rodrigo de la Parra, and Rodrigo Saucedo for inviting us once again to participate in the LAC space session and to introduce our projects. Today I will be presenting myself, and José is here with me. He's the leader of the project. This is a project that we are going to present today, and he's also the assistant development chief or head at NIC Chile.

This is a very brief introduction. Most of you already know what LACTLD is. LACTLD is the Latin American and Caribbean top-level domain association, and in addition to promoting and gathering ccTLDs together and promoting best practices, we also support the development of collaborative projects based on cooperation and trust, ccTLDs of the region. We're also looking to offer services to the member and to the local internet community.

Next slide, please. One of our latest collaborative projects is the unified search engine. I had the opportunity to speak about this project in the past, but recently we have made great progress in terms of developing the tool and launching the tool. This is a sort of update for you so that you can learn how we're working with the search engine. These projects offer availability query or consultation for ccTLDs that are integrated to the tool, and this is supposed to be a simple and optimized and unified service.

We have one single only window, and anyone can consult the availability of a domain name. This is to avoid going to many web pages. We believe this is an effort that is a group effort, a collaborative effort, and the idea is to promote domain names and domain name registrations in the region. This is related to the role of ccTLDs in their communities as drivers of digital transformation integration in their local communities and the Latin American Caribbean countries.

Next slide, please. Let me now tell you how this project was introduced, and then I will give the floor to José. He was in the project from the very beginning. The search engine was a proposal that came from LACTLD members, from ccTLDs. It was a proposal put forward to the staff, and this is a consultation service. The initial idea was presented by the technical working group, and at that point in time there was a group of volunteers that decided to create the working committee in charge of developing the project from the very beginning.

José will be able to explain more about the technical developments, but one of the first steps was to think about the methodology to integrate the consultations and answers so that we can have a unified search

engine. This was possible due to two developments, two apps. One is the CIS app, and there is another one that is the RDAP proxy that was developed to be able to integrate ccTLDs that are operating with RDAP.

These two apps contributed to the unified integration. The work of this committee was carried out throughout different meetings, and there was a registration process, and we also drafted documents, and there was an installation guide for these to be promoted so that we can have records of all the work that has been done so far. Let me now introduce you to the members of the technical committee that made this development possible. I know that many of them, but I would like to highlight that LACTLD is composed by its members, and they are the driving forces. And now I would like to give the floor to José Urzua.

JOSÉ URZUA:

José Urzua speaking. Thank you, Rocío. Let me take this opportunity to greet you. The development of the project started when we had the first version of the app. We had to start with the first integrations, and the first ccTLDs to be integrated were the ccTLDs that were members of the committee. So this first integration was useful for us because we were able to improve and fine tune all the documents because we were testing the documents as well. And we were also improving the apps. This was being done in a testing environment within the working group, the committee.

In addition to the technical tasks, we were also working on documents on the integration agreement between LACTLD and the ccTLDs, and the terms and conditions of the service. This is a web-based service, therefore users face a web interface when making their consultations,

and this interface requires terms and conditions. So this was also deliverable of the committee. We also have the support of the policy and technical working group. We were also able to optimize the user interface as we were testing and checking with ccTLDs. There are ccTLDs that have a huge amount of domain names, and there are other ccTLDs that have fewer numbers of domains, so the replies may change.

There were some ccTLDs with reserved terms or words for registration. So that was something that we had to take into account, and we had to adapt the tools to the different ccTLD realities. We always have the goal of providing a simple service, user-friendly, and a multilingual service. We have English and Portuguese in the interface, and we had those principles from the very beginning.

Once the members, the ccTLDs members of the committee were already integrated to the project, we opened the integration for other ccTLDs in the region. We held a formal event during our technical workshop that was held in Bolivia in 2022, We held a ceremony for signing the integration agreement. This was carried out in Mexico, and we launched a beta version. This is a beta version because we know that there are some formalities that need to be defined in terms of continuity, procedures, and other aspects so that we can get out of the beta version and go to an active version in a production environment.

Let me share with you the timeline for integrations. We started back in March 2021. We started testing the first version of this tool. This was done inside the technical committee, and we conceived this in order to be integrated with the ccTLDs. That's why we used web service-based consultations. But we realized that it was not something possible in the

short run, so we had to define a standard communication interface, it was a sort of Q&A interface, and we were able to develop this CAS or ccTLD availability service app.

This is a consultation app. This is a standard mechanism with predefined parameters for questions and answers. So Guatemala was the first ccTLD to be integrated. In July, Salvador was integrated, and then we had the first case of integration with RDAP. This was for the Colombian ccTLD. After some definitions, we had the integration with .cl and Brazil, and we were also testing the different ways of integration.

In November, Paraguay and Peru were integrated using the CAS service. We realized after performing some testing that we had to create a dedicated component for RDAP, and then we had to create the RDAP proxy tool. In February 2022, we started to test the RDAP proxy tool, and we had new integrations. And this is how we moved forward. Then we had Ecuador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Argentina. We added another integration possibility, and we also added some owned services.

Then we had Uruguay and Dominican Republic integrated, and Mexico also integrated recently. In this map, we see in green the ccTLDs that are already integrated to the service. There are some of them that are in red. I don't know if they are represented in red because we have ongoing work with them because we have been discussing the tool or not. And we hope that in our next presentation, the whole map be green. The service has a clear definition. The idea is to check the availability for registration of a domain name in the countries that are integrated in the tool.

And in addition to seeing the registration availability, you can check where the domain name is registered. We take into account the user, but there might be another user willing to get information about the domain name because the user has a certain relationship with security activities. And we would like to know whether a certain domain name is available or whether there is a certain recommendation to register a certain domain name. Not long ago, some ccTLDs were registering domain names in order to avoid abusive uses of those domain names. And the objective is that to deliver the information in a way that it's integrated in a single interface.

Next slide, please. Well, the previous slide, please. So the interface, as you can see on the screen, you can test it with the search engine, buscador.lag.org. And there is a box in the middle where you can text the term or word that you're looking for. The results will be displayed on the right, country based on the country and how many options are available. And you will be able to see how many results you have per country. And you'll be able to analyze the response for each one. And with that, you can go to the application for the ccTLD of each one and try to see the certification for the domain that is registered.

Next one. Well, this service has had an impact that we have witnessed. It is a service that has been defined as simple and unified for the registrant community. I believe that there could be another tool, like a verification control. We can use CAPTCHA services integrated with Google just to ensure that we're dealing with humans and not bots. But there could also be open queries or automated queries if we decided that. There's another relevant aspect for this community, and that is that with LACTLD and the commercial group, they have helped us with

a collective initiative and a regional initiative for the domain names. So there's quite an opportunity there for us to promote this among ourselves and make this a service that can help all of us as a region.

Next slide. José, you have three minutes left. Just one more slide. Almost done. So this has led to a collective campaign for promoting the service, and this has had some impact. Some ccTLDs have coordinated to put this together, and that has also helped with the service.

Next slide. This campaign has also shown that there are some metrics for using the service. If you look at the chart on top, you see the normal use throughout time. And as of August and September, there were two coordinated campaigns which really amplified. And we were able to reach over 3,000 users in a day that were making queries and using the service. And the chart below shows the schedule when it's been used. So that means that it's been used during work hours in Latin America, and those are the main users at the moment. So that means that it's been used within the work hours.

And the next steps, well, naturally, we would like to continue with the integration of ccTLDs in the region to conduct updates for the beta version, and that means affecting the current infrastructure and the servers together with a work group that's been put together at the moment, and also to manage the software development understanding that we're using source code.

Well, another participant speaking will last. We would like to continue to promote and support the use of the service and make sure that it's based on all ccTLDs so that it will be installed as a service that's available for users and for all those interested in doing those queries

about domain names and which domain names are available in the region.

And last, I would like to mention that we're also working in the consolidation of the long-term model. We understand that it's a collaborative initiative that resulted from the work done by all of our members, and we would like for that to be available for the regional community and for all those that would like to use the service. Thank you, and we apologize for going over time.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Laura speaking, thank you, Rocío. Thank you, José. It's an incredible tool. I used it, and I believe I used the older version, and there are so many uses for it. I hope that you'll be able to incorporate the ccTLDs that are missing and make it public. I think Claire has a question, so if you could please make your question quick. We'd appreciate it. Claire.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

I'm speaking in my own capacity for this question. A significant amount of work has gone into this product, and I'm very impressed with the work that you have done. My question is twofold. What was the criteria for selecting the countries that are incorporated in the tool? Because I have noticed, I can be wrong, but based on the quick slides, there seemed to be no English-speaking countries included, and secondly, was there a cost, so could it have been that it was cost-prohibitive for countries to join, and what is the plan for integrating the English-speaking countries, because I'm seeing that there are Caribbean

countries included, but those in the Caribbean are all Spanish-speaking countries. Thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Thank you for that question, Claire. Laura speaking. Well, no, there is no restrictive criteria for the ccTLDs to be integrated into the tool. This was thought for all of the ccTLDs of Latin America and the Caribbean. In the beginning, the first documents and the installation guides were drafted in Spanish and they were translated into English. All of the materials are available in English, and we started having talks with ccTLDs in the Caribbean and in Central America that speak both English and Spanish so that they can think of a moment when they would like to come on board.

As Jose mentioned, we have had technical discussions, and perhaps the delay in their integration to this service has to do with perhaps the time constraints for the staff, but on our behalf, we want this to be a very speedy process and to include all the ccTLDs from the Caribbean and the region to be a part of the tool. José, would you like to add something?

JOSÉ URZUA:

José speaking, technically, there is no restriction. As Rocío well said, the documents clearly define. We cannot show those here because they're very long, but these documents show how it works, and there are three mechanisms for the integration or onboarding, and so it depends on what the ccTLD has, whether it's English, Spanish, or Portuguese. We can integrate it without any restriction.

As José mentioned, on behalf of the staff and the committee, communicating with them there is no restriction, and there is no cost for the integration, and it's the volunteer work of the members, and it is just them giving their time and their work to making sure that all ccTLDs are part of the service.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Laura speaking, thank you for that answer. I'm glad that's cleared up, and now we'll move on with the next part. That answer. I'm glad that's cleared up. And now we'll move on with the next presentation. It's the strategic plan for fiscal year 2026-2030. It's going to be delivered by Becky Nash and Victoria Yang. And I want to say that I'm going to have to leave a few minutes before we're done because I have another meeting where I need to deliver a presentation. My schedule overlapped, so I'm going to leave Rodrigo with the floor. So go ahead, Becky. Thank you.

BECKY NASH:

My name is Becky Nash, and I'm joined here today by my colleague, Victoria Yang, and we are both from the ICANN org planning team. So we're happy to be here to provide an update on the process to develop ICANN's next strategic plan for fiscal year 26-30, and we want to stress that participation from the community is vital to this process. I will post in the chat several ways that many of you here can follow the work as it relates to the strategic planning process, and I will do that while Victoria presents our presentation. Victoria, please go ahead.

VICTORIA YANG:

Thank you. Thank you so much, Becky, and thank you very much, Rodrigo, for inviting us here. It's really a pleasure to engage with this group of stakeholders. So as Becky mentioned, we are now getting ready to develop our next strategic plan. ICANN's bylaw requires us to deliver a strategic plan for every five years. The current strategic plan that we are operating under is for fiscal year 21 to 25.

So starting July 1st in 2025, we should have a strategic plan for the next five years ready, which covers fiscal year 26-30. So although July 1st 2025 feels like very far away, but the reason that we are starting now is because there is also a five-year operating plan, a one-year operating plan and budget that has to be developed, and the strategic plan here is going to serve as a foundation for the other plans.

So the earlier that we start, so that we can have sufficient time for the other deliverables as well, which is mandated by ICANN's bylaw. The board has a committee called the Board Strategic Planning Committee. So this committee is going to be responsible to initiate and lead the development of the next strategic plan. And ICANN's planning team is working very closely with this committee in progressing this work.

So in the next few slides, I'm going to cover briefly the approach, the process, how we're going to go about this and the timeline. And of course, to throw out this presentation, I'm going to emphasize during which phase of the development community member can be involved. So on these slides, you will see the high-level approach of how we are going to develop the next strategic plan. Basically, there are four main steps. First, we are going to start with strategic planning environmental scan.

So an environmental scan basically is a process where we are gathering information about strengths, weakness, opportunity and threat of the environment that we are operating. Many of you may be familiar with the term SWOT. So the outcome of this step is basically a SWOT analysis. With the SWOT analysis, we're going to provide that information to the ICANN board and the SPC. They will be doing the heavy lifting of a strategy formulation. This is the phase where the board is going to review ICANN's mission, vision, our core value, core competence.

And then from there, we are going to generate strategies. So although the board is taking the heavy lifting and leading the development of the strategy, however, community play a very important role. So we will have plenty opportunities to engage with the community, hear from you and make sure that the strategy that is generated by the board is relevant and reflect the shared vision with the community. So more to come on how to participate in the strategy formulation. Once we have the strategy, we move into tactic formulation.

And again, this is a place where the ICANN org and the community will all participate. That's where we are going to generate high-level tactics, roadmaps of how we are going to achieve the strategy in the next five years. With tactics, we then move to the very detailed action planning. And some of the action planning will be an input to the one-year operating plan, where we have some more detailed actions of how we are going to execute both the tactics and then subsequently how we are going to achieve the strategy.

Thank you. So this is the slides of the timeline. And on this timeline is a gun chart view, but then we did circle of the major phase that community can participate. So right now, we are in environmental scan phase. We have seven sessions scheduled in total, three with ICANN org, one with the board, and we have three opportunities with the community. We already had two completed, one before ICANN78, and we had a large session this morning in person and for both remote participation.

Now, I want to really highlight that on November 16 is our third and last session that we are going to have with the community is a virtual session. This is the opportunity for you to take an active role in this process. So come join us if you can. And this is the session where we are going to brainstorm what are the strengths, weakness, opportunity, and threat for ICANN so that this information can be considered when we move to strategy formulation. We also want to highlight that next summer we will have the draft strategic plan and five-year operating plan for community to comment on, for the public comment. And we'll make sure before that we'll have opportunities to engage with the community and hear your feedback while we progress on this path.

And if we can go to the next slides, I just want to highlight a couple of resources that community can follow this work. So we have a wiki page dedicated to provide updates and progress and share information about the five-year strategic plan development. And in there on the slides, I specifically highlighted for the November 16 session, come join us and you can register and get the Zoom information. Again, this is a brainstorming session. So there's no good or bad ideas. All ideas are welcome. So we look forward to seeing many of you there.

And again, if you have any questions about this process or timeline or how can you participate, please feel free to always email us. We have a team that will monitor our inbox. We will be very responsive. So planning at ICANN.org is how you reach us. With that, I'm going to pass the floor back to Rodrigo's. And if you have any questions, we are here to answer. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA:

Rodrigo de la Parra speaking. Thank you very much for the presentation. I hope that this is of interest for many of you. And please remember that this is part of this whole bottom-up process that ICANN has. And this is also part of the transparency process. This is where the cycle begins, and that's why we need your participation. Victoria, Becky, thank you so much for being here with us today. Let's move forward. Let's continue with the agenda today. Now I'm going to give the floor to Daniels. He will speak about the results on the SIDS survey.

ALBERT DANIELS:

To present, and I'll try to go quickly in the interest of time, the results from a survey that we did. Now, from an overall perspective, this is really a good example of how ICANN has engaged the community to get feedback from the community on what we perceive to be an issue of participation. It was felt that there was not enough participation in ICANN by the SIDS, so we put out this survey.

The survey itself ran from the 24th of August to the 7th of October 2022. And we completed the survey, and we've been doing actions. And these are the regions that the survey was executed in. What actually

happened was the CEO of ICANN indicated that the global stakeholder engagement head should discuss with the Caribbean Telecommunication Union and stakeholders the problem of SIDS participation, and with the objective of actually identifying the challenges and barriers to SIDS participation in ICANN.

Now, if we ask the question, who are the SIDS, and you look at the slide, you would see that we have SIDS from the Caribbean, from the Oceania region, from the Africa region, from Asia, and also there are some non-United Nations members who are also considered to be SIDS. And what we did with this survey is we used different methods of distributing it. In the Caribbean, we distributed directly to territories, directly to ICANN fellows, to governments, technical community, and several different organizations. And we tried to do the same thing in our counterpart SIDS from outside of the Caribbean.

Now, if we look at who participated in the profile, we see that we reached exactly the people who we wanted to reach. Because when we asked the question, what is your level of participation in ICANN, we saw that 64% of the respondents said that their participation was low. And these are the people who we wanted to ask, well, why are you not participating?

And then if you look at the profile of the stakeholders, you'd see that most of them came from civil society, and then government, and then the technical community. And one interesting aspect of the results was that we saw that most of the people who participated in the survey actually came from the Caribbean, with a small percentage coming

from the Pacific SIDS and very low numbers from the other areas. The end result can be summarized into these six areas.

The respondents to the survey indicated that there are problems with resources, there are issues with engagement, there are some issues related directly to ICANN. We will look at some of those. There are issues related to the internet and internet governance, many issues related to education, and also issues related to location.

Now, what are some of these challenges that we saw? We saw that there are typically competing national priorities for the same financial resources to allow participation. When a government or when people have to choose between participating in ICANN and paying attention to other economic priorities, you find that invariably the resources go to the other economic priorities.

We also saw that the SIDS indicated that other challenges to overcome would be the small size, the small population, small markets, small economies, natural disasters, distance was a big issue. Another key area was we found in the survey results that there was a lack of knowledge about domains and their importance to end users, a lack of financial knowledge, a lack of awareness of ICANN, and this is what was said in the survey. It may not necessarily have been the case, as we will see later on, but these are just simply what the participants responded.

It was also shown that the SIDS represent a small portion of the global population and the respondents said that they felt that they do not have much say when it comes to digital decisions. Now, moving on, one of the questions in the survey was, are you aware of the current ICANN support programs like the newcomers program, the fellowship

program, and the NextGen, and only about 61% indicated that they were aware of these programs, and again, this is what the participants said, despite all of the efforts and the activities that ICANN has been participating in spreading this knowledge.

Similarly, we asked, are you aware of the ICANN programs supporting the participation of stakeholders from developing countries, and an even lower percentage said that they were aware of those. Now, I've already mentioned that the participants indicated that there should be greater and more consistent outreach, that's what they said, including more ICANN presence and efforts to raise awareness.

It was felt that there should be an expanding of the training programs and a promoting of more capacity building and also promotion of events that are taking place within ICANN and within the region, and it was interesting that the respondents said that organizations within the SIDS region should also be doing more to improve collaboration and to support the activities that are actually taking place, and when it came to resources, you can read the slide, and these were some of the inputs that were mentioned in terms of responses to the questions on resources.

Now, we did ask the question, how does the present structure of the geographic regions lend itself to SIDS participation given the diversity of SIDS? Now, while some participants and respondents to the survey said that everything is okay with the current regions, there were others who indicated that they wanted to see some change in the way that the regions are organized in so far as SIDS are concerned. In Latin America and the Caribbean, as we know, it was mainly the Caribbean responding

here, they said that this grouping is based solely on geographic proximity, and they indicated that that might not necessarily be ideal given the different cultures, the different languages, the different needs, and the different priorities.

The respondents indicated that the Caribbean interests are typically overshadowed by the Latin American countries. They indicated that the Latin American countries are larger than the Caribbean countries, and perhaps a subgrouping within LAC to address the issues of SIDS is needed to give voice to the English-speaking countries. It was interesting to see that some of the respondents felt that SIDS did not stand a chance in competing for fellowships with other Latin American countries which have much larger populations.

Now, as I said, this may not necessarily be the case, but this is what the feeling was of some of the participants. And the Pacific and Caribbean regions are likely to be underrepresented, is what they said, given the current regional groupings, and they face challenges also in holding virtual meetings, and this came up in one of the sessions with the board earlier today because of the time zones. So it's difficult to schedule even virtual meetings when you have persons spread across many time zones.

It was shown and responded that there's not much funding in the region also to allow active participation. The SIDS is an underserved stakeholder group acknowledged by the United Nations with peculiar SIDS, and also the ITU has recognized this, and the participants felt that there should be some recognition of this also within ICANN. It was also felt that regular regional meetings with SIDS representatives in one of

the three regions should take place prior to ICANN meetings and also during ICANN meetings. As a matter of fact, we had planned one of those SIDS meetings at this ICANN meeting, and we will be looking to see whether or not we can do that in the future as well.

Now, another question that was asked is, is there value in focus groups aimed specifically at SIDS versus Latin America and the Caribbean versus Oceania versus Africa, and as you will see, a very high percentage of the respondents, 93%, indicated that they felt that there should be focus groups specifically for SIDS, and also is there value in focus groups aimed specifically at SIDS versus developing countries? Again, a very high percentage, 91%, felt that this should be the case.

And just to go a little bit more quickly, when we asked about the topics that should be discussed in ICANN, of course the usual topics came up, the DNS, top-level domain names, data protection, and other areas of interest included security, access affordability, stability, and infrastructure. When we asked the question what issues that are not being discussed in ICANN that should be discussed, these are the issues that we saw, cyber security, capacity building, and so on and so forth, of course the slides will be made available. All of the respondents indicated that they felt there should be key performance indicators focused on SIDS. There was not a single respondent who felt that there should not be KPIs related directly to SIDS.

With regard to engagement, we asked how can regional organizations such as the CTU and similar organizations in other SIDS regions be better leveraged for SIDS participation, and these were the results. Research should be conducted, information should be shared, and all

types of resources, especially staff and funding, should be made available. This is what the respondent said to help shape the discussions agenda for SIDS and focus sessions. Just to go a little quickly.

So we have 10 minutes left, so I will go quickly to some final comments that were made on the survey. It was felt by respondents that there was a lack of ICANN awareness generally. It was felt that academia should have more participation and there should be more outreach to encourage collaboration with our regional agencies. At the end of it all, the recommendations that we came up with are these. It was recommended by our global stakeholder engagement team that we look at these areas. We should first of all find ways to publicize more of the work of ICANN because when we look at the results, what we found was that a lot of the responses of the respondents was not actually accurate.

For example, they said that ICANN doesn't pay enough attention to talking about what's going on, whereas what we actually have is a very strong program of promotion of the activities of ICANN, especially when we have events going on. We also have very strong programs of support like the CROP, the NextGen, the leadership programs and newsletters and so on. To actually improve competencies, one of the things that we felt that we could do is engage stakeholders to take better advantage of resources that are being made available by ICANN, like the ICANN Learn Platform, like capacity development webinars and the other support areas that are available.

We also saw that it would be useful to solicit recommendations from SIDS territories on what they feel are the best ways for ICANN to engage them and of course to actually engage with many other groups. We should try to find out what capacity building programs the SIDS are interested in and also find out what are the SIDS issues that are not being given adequate air time. Of course, the other recommendations that we came up with are actually on that slide, including these last two recommendations.

In the interest of time, I will stop here for now and hand it back to Rodrigo, but you get a sense of the results of this survey and this will be published on the schedule as well, the full PowerPoint, so we can see what the results of the survey were and through these mechanisms, SIDS who are present can actually communicate what steps they feel can also be taken to improve the situation of participation of SIDS. I will immediately go to the final presentation, unless Rodrigo wants to take a few questions.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: No. Thank you, Albert, very much for this presentation. We will continue to let how this work evolves. We're trying also to get the other regions that are included in the SIDS definition to participate actively, but for the sake of time, we have our last presentation for the day and this is an update of LACNIC activity. So Laura, please, the floor is yours.

LAURA KAPLAN: Thank you, Rodrigo. Hello, this is Laura speaking. My name is Laura Kaplan. I am the manager for development and training at LACNIC. I

just wanted to share with you some of the spaces that we have in LACNIC for engagement. So one more slide.

So for those that are not familiar, LACNIC is part of the community of numbers. One more? One less? So LACNIC is the Internet Registry for Latin America and the Caribbean. We represent 33 territories in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. We are a membership-based organization. We have a little over 12,000 members at the moment. These are companies that are Internet service providers. So LACNIC is not just -- the core of the work that we do has to do with the management of Internet resources, but the truth is our mission goes beyond that, beyond the registry, and it's important to build a technical community in the region. So we have several activities and several spaces for engagement where we discuss all these topics.

So here, it's really a summary of the activities and the list that we need to go through. These are activities that are meant for community building in the Caribbean and Latin America. We have two main events in May and October in different countries and cities, and we have a smaller event called LACNIC on the Move, and these are carried out in collaboration with ICANN. We have an online campus for many different courses for technical level and Internet at different levels, also the basic, mid, and advanced levels.

And we also have online courses, and throughout the year, you can see different webinars that are offered, and on the right-hand side, you can see a list that you can sign up for to get the newsletters. We have the policy development newsletter where you can see what's going on at

the ICANN Global. We have the list of the women-related issues in the Caribbean and also different events and webinars that are going on.

And now I just wanted to let some support programs that we have available here. We have some organizations that have earned grants. FRIDA is a regional fund or grant that supports different projects for Internet, Internet, stability, open Internet, free Internet. We have [inaudible – 00:57:55] and other organizations that have been awarded with these grants, and it's basically a one-year grant or financing of their initiatives. A little while ago, we also included the Lideres project. This is a project where you submit papers regarding Internet governance.

I'm sorry, I forgot to mention that we have a call for papers between May and April. April and May, and all the different civil society organizations can actually submit their papers to compete for that. Also, we have the Raices, which is for root servers in different countries in the region. And what I mentioned about campus is the online campus where you have all the different courses that have to do with governance and the different areas of expertise. You have a lot of them that are free, and many of them are in English.

And last but not least, another way to engage with LACNIC is through the institutional route and there you see the different leaderships, the different commissions. We have the fiscal commission, the electoral commission, and the moderators. You do not need to be engaged with one of the associated companies or member companies, and you can engage from your own workspace. This is just a brief summary. I'll be here today and tomorrow if you want to ask any questions. I'll be around in the hallway. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Laura, for that presentation on the LACNIC activities and the relevant projects for all. We are about to wrap up, but I believe we have some housekeeping announcements about a very important event, which is the LAC IGF event. This is a regional event for LACNIC, and now we're working with Colnodo, which is a Colombian NGO, and the good news is that now we have a date, a venue. It's going to be an in-person meeting, and Lia can give us the details on that. Lia, please.

LIA HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rodrigo. This is Lia speaking for all those that are engaged in the community for the Internet governance topics for Latin America and the Caribbean. We have chosen Colnodo, the Colombian NGO like Rocío for the TLD and Laura from LACNIC, and we have a time frame until November to draft the agenda. I will share with the group what we have so far, and also share what we have in social media for LAC IGF, and also I want to share with you what we have in the agenda so that we can manage it in a multi-sectoral way and as a group, so those that are interested in participating, you can engage in this until November 1st.

We're also doing the opening, the call for papers or summoning those that want to engage for the grants, and we will have the deadline between December 4th and 5th in Bogota, Colombia, so if you're interested in a grant, you can participate on that, and we can support the new Secretariat, which is now being led by Colnodo, the Colombian NGO, and if you have any other suggestions, you can talk to us, and I can

answer any questions regarding the grant process or what are the different topics that can be included in the agenda for this event.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Lia for that. With this, we're going to wrap up our session. Thank you all. If you could, please, let's go to the front of the room so that we can take a picture. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]