
ICANN78 | Prep Week – What to Expect at ICANN78 A Guide for Newcomers

Monday, October 9, 2023 – 7:30 to 8:30 HAM

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

My name is Deborah Escalera I work for the public responsibility support department at ICANN and I manage the NextGen@ICANN program. Welcome to today's session. Today we will focus on welcoming our newcomers, we will give you some information about ICANN and prepare you for ICANN 78 whether you are participating in person or virtually. We will talk about ICANN policy development, resources for newcomers, and then finally, we will end with a Q&A section. Our first speaker is Katrina Sataki, member of the ICANN board. Katrina, thank you so much for being with us today. I will hand the floor over to you.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much, Deborah. Thank you, everyone. And hello, everyone. Yes, my name is Katrina Sataki. I am a member of the ICANN board from the European region. I live in a very small country in Europe, Latvia. And I'm very happy to welcome you all here on this call. And of course, also, I hope that you will be able to join us in Hamburg. That's in Europe. This time ICANN meeting is in Europe. That's why I'm very happy to welcome you in this region.

It's great that you have decided to learn more about ICANN. And I know it's not an easy thing. I've been there when I started many years ago. And I can't say it's an easy path, it might take some time. But I'm sure

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that you will learn all the abbreviations, all the slang that we use here. You have made the most important step, and that's the hardest one. The first step to join, become the newcomer, and to start learning more about ICANN. And I hope to see you all in Hamburg. And when you are there, when you see all those people standing at microphones, debating, proposing solutions, and so on and so on, remember that they were all newcomers at some point. So just don't give up. And you will be like any other ICANNer, ready to contribute to the work of this fantastic organization. So thank you. And I give the floor back to Deborah for the main event.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Thank you so much. Our next presenter is Chris Mondini, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement in the European Region.

CHRIS MONDINI: Hello, Deborah. Thank you for that introduction. And thank you, Katrina, for the lovely, lovely kickoff. Hi, I'm Chris Mondini. I'm based in Brussels, and I've been Managing Director of Europe for the last three years. But I also hold the title of Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement. And that means a very large part of what I do is to engage and inform and attract stakeholders like you. So I am delighted to welcome you to this webinar. I'm delighted to see such a large number of participants. And as Katrina says, we all had to take the first step at one stage. And so thank you for taking that first step.

When you arrive in Hamburg or whether you join us online, you will be joining a healthy number of stakeholders from around the world. At the latest trajectory, we expect an in-person attendance of close to 2000 participants and online of several hundred. And these are already from over 130 countries. It's going to be a very big meeting, a very special meeting and rather complex meeting with 200 sessions, but also wonderful opportunities for networking and meeting people and meeting these stakeholders from around the world. You will encounter representatives of governments, of businesses, both large and small, both within the domain name business and outside of it. You'll meet people like Katrina, who operate country code top level registries or participate in the various governance structures or community structures of ICANN. You'll meet Internet users who also participate in providing policy advice, technical experts, academics, civil society activists, digital activists and people like you that are all coming together to make the domain name system and the systems that help the Internet globally expand and remain interoperable continue to work for all of us.

We will have also some celebrations. It's the 25th anniversary of ICANN and also the seventh anniversary of the moment when ICANN truly became the purview of the global stakeholder community. And you'll learn more when you're with us during the meeting sessions. We have excellent hosts in the city of Hamburg and the Internet Association, ECO and DENIC, who operate the country code registry for Germany. And we have a whole host of excellent sponsors that are helping to make it successful and fun and a great team and staff to make it run smoothly.

One other tip I will have for you is that even though people seem like they're very busy and they're very focused when they're behind their microphones or they're looking at their screens or they're engaged in conversation, please keep in mind that they are very friendly. They recognize that to be a vibrant, vital and growing, expanding community, we need to welcome people like you. So don't hesitate to ask questions. Don't hesitate to tap someone on the shoulder, sit next to someone new, introduce yourself. And if you'd like help from Deborah Escalera, who's the host of this call, or from me to direct you to resources, online classes, abbreviation translating guides, do not hesitate to be in touch with us. And please ask your questions on this call. We'll be eager to answer. So with that, I will turn it over to a very important member of my team. Gabriella Schitteck, who is leading stakeholder engagement in the European region that includes Germany. So if it's okay with you, Deborah, I thought I would hand it straight over to Gabi. Thank you very much.

GABRIELLA SCHITTEK:

Thank you, Chris. So hello, as Chris said — Chris is my boss. Chris mentioned that I am a member of his team and I'm responsible for Central Europe and the Nordics. And that basically means that I am ICANN's eyes and ears in the region. I'm trying to listen to what the stakeholders do in the region, what concerns they have, and also try to tell them what ICANN is doing and make ICANN visible in the region. So that's my role, really. So next slide, please.

So I have a somewhat ungrateful task of telling you in like just a few minutes what ICANN is and how we work, but I'll do my best. Can you

take the next slide, please? So ICANN stands for, I don't know, Deborah, can you go for the next slide? Because it's for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. And I myself think that sounds quite complicated, actually, but I will try to break it down for you and explain what that all means. So next slide, please.

So ICANN has three functions and everything we do, everything really revolves around these three functions. These are the protocol parameters, the names and the numbers. And let me start with explaining the numbers to you. Every device that is connected to the Internet, everything like your smartphone, your laptop, everything that somehow is connected needs to have its own so-called IP number. This stands for Internet Protocol. And only by having their own number, they are able to communicate with each other because machines and servers, they basically communicate through numbers. And ICANN has the worldwide pool of all IP numbers in the world. It all starts with us. But we're not the ones that actually hand it out to you. What we do is that we break it up and hand it out to five regional organizations. And then they trickle it down to your country and make sure that you will have your own unique IP number. They need to be unique just like a phone number so that they can all communicate. But ICANN sits on the worldwide pool. This is where all the numbers first come from us.

And then we go to the naming function because as machines, servers communicate with each other through these IP numbers, humans don't tend to remember numbers very well. So there is a system that has been developed that is called the Domain Name System or the DNS, which is actually converting these numbers into letters because it's just easier

for humans to remember letters. And you all know what a domain name looks like. You can think of icann.org. So what ICANN does here, the ICANN's role is really to put in what's at the right side of the dot. So the dot org, ICANN will put it to something called the root server. It can be dot com or dot de for Germany. So we put that in there and make it live online. It's like without us, it wouldn't exist on the Internet. So we can also take it out. So, for instance, like Yugoslavia, as an example, it had its own counter code dot yu, but it ceased to exist. So ICANN then took out dot yu from the root zone. But instead, we inserted dot rs for Serbia or dot hr for Croatia and so on. So this is really what the naming function is for. And this is perhaps the function that we're most famous for of all these three functions. And this is also where we are developing most policy because it's really the busiest area.

The third function, the protocol parameter function sounds a little bit complicated. It's not that complicated, really. But to make servers communicate with each other, they need a set of rules so that they know how to do them. We at ICANN, we do not develop these rules. It's done in a sister organization called IETF. They're really smart people and they develop these so-called protocol parameters. But ICANN is kind of keeping a library. So for instance, if a web developer or network engineer needs to know what should I do to make these servers communicate, they can go to this library and check it out. Deborah, could you take next slide, please?

This is a typical protocol. I'm sure every one of you has seen this. And this is the communication to like the web developer, for instance, that something's wrong with this page. So this is a typical what you would

find in one of these protocols. Could you go back to the previous slide again? So again, so these are the three functions that everything that ICANN does revolves around. And as I mentioned, the naming function will be the one that will be the most busiest ones because policies need to be developed for to just basically keep up on the developments of the Internet. Things are developing, things need to be improved. Most things will happen in the naming functions. For instance, we have so-called registries. These are the ones that register domain names under, for instance, dot com. They need to develop rules on how that is handled. Or we also have a system for registrars. Registrars are the ones that actually register the names for the registries. It's a bit complicated, but in the ICANN world, you'll soon know how to differ between these. And we have, for instance, accreditation system for these registrars. So there that also evolves and needs to be updated, improved somehow. So this is really where most of the policy work is done. Could you go forward two slides, please? Thank you.

And the way this is done is by something we call the multi-stakeholder model. This is not a model that is unique for ICANN, there are other organizations that are using it. But it's not very common either. So maybe it's the first time you hear it. And the multi-stakeholder basically means that we have space for everyone, really everyone who wants to participate in our policy development process. Everyone can participate. We have room for civil society. We have room for technical people. We have room for business, governments, academia. Really, everyone who likes to be involved can be involved. So let's take just John Smith walking down the street, working in a grocery shop. But one day he decides, oh, I'm really, really interested in the stuff ICANN is

doing. How can I become involved? Well, there is a way for him to become involved. We have room for everyone. And all the groups have equal power to give input to the policy development that we're doing. So this is really what the multi-stakeholder model is all about. If you could go to the next slide, please.

This is a very important slide because this really shows how ICANN is working. And when you speak about ICANN, you have to think of ICANN as three parts. First of all, it's the community. And the community is really the ones that says what ICANN is supposed to work with, what topics are of interest for us, what needs to be updated, what should we look at? This is what the community tells us as an organization to do. And the community is really the ones that takes the decision. Are we signing off on this policy or not? If they decide this is the policy we want, they will kind of give it to the ICANN organization as a staff. And we are more or less the secretariat of the community. Because what we do is that we facilitate the community in their work to develop these policies. And we also help implementing these policies. But we do not, as staff, we do not write the policies. It's really written by the community. But before it actually becomes a policy, it needs to be signed off by the board of directors. And you had one of our directors here earlier, Katrina Sataki.

A board consists of 20 board members. And they are representing really all geographic regions and all of these stakeholder communities. So this is a work you can see that goes around that the community initiates a policy, creates a policy, instructs staff to develop how it's going to look like and so on. But it's actually signed off by the board of directors

before it actually becomes implemented. But really the absolutely most important part here is the community that is doing most of the work. Next slide, please.

Yeah, this was exactly what I explained, this work. I have to mention also our mission. This is from our bylaws 1.1.1. Our mission is, ICANN's mission is to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. So everything we do, really, we have that in the back of our heads. So that is really the core. We have to make sure that everything works. So this is also why we sometimes look at new technologies, like, for instance, IoT was very topical recently. So we have to look at, OK, what is this doing to the Internet infrastructure? Is this somehow destroying it or disturbing it? Is it becoming less secure? So this is why we have to keep an eye on all of that. So we also have a team that's doing technical research and is writing technical papers and so on, because this is really the core of everything we do. We have to make sure everything is stable and secure. Next slide, please.

And this is my last slide. Actually, this is just to explain a little bit how we work. We are global. We are all around the world. We have offices in Los Angeles, in Brussels, Singapore. You can read all the offices we have there. But we also have a lot of staff like myself, which are working from home, basically, so that we are even closer to you. I'm myself. I'm based in Warsaw, Poland. So I'm European. And we have many, many other staff members, just like myself, that are working around the globe like this. So we want to be close to you. And that was all from me. Now handing over to the next speaker, which I think will be Melissa. Thank you.

MELISSA PETERS ALLGOOD: Thank you. And hello, all. I am Melissa Allgood. I am on the policy team and I am a last minute replacement for the formidable Carlos Reyes. So please bear with me as I take you through Carlos's slides. Next slide, please. So let's talk about ICANN public meetings. We have three different types of ICANN public meetings. We have our community forum, which is a six-day meeting focused on ICANN community work where our board meets as well as has a public forum. We have our policy forum, which is a shorter meeting. It's a four-day meeting, again, focused on ICANN community work with a targeted outreach in the host region. So ICANN 77, which happened in June of this year, was in Washington, D.C., and that was a policy forum. ICANN 78 is our annual general meeting. We call it an AGM. It's a six-day meeting. Again, lots of ICANN community work happening. Our board is meeting. There's a public forum. We also do a lot of awards at this meeting. So you can be prepared to hear who will be our recipient of the Kamel Award as well as many other annual community leader recognition types of awards and moments of recognition. It's also important because a number of our community groups do their leadership transitions at the AGM. Next slide, please.

So what's fun about ICANN 78? Chris touched on a bit of this at the top of our webinar. It is our 25th annual general meeting, our 25th AGM. It's the first time we've been back in Germany since May of 1999. So look at that. ICANN 2 was in Berlin, and now we're at ICANN 78. So certainly time to come back. You can see it's also our fourth annual general

meeting that's happened in Europe. So we've been to Amsterdam, Dublin, Barcelona, and now Hamburg. Next slide, please.

Okay. So I am going to touch a bit upon the type of work that's going to be happening within the various community groups. I will let you know now if you are interested in a deeper dive on any of this information, I invite you to join the policy and advice webinar. It's a webinar that the team that I'm on, the policy team puts on, and it's on Wednesday. So make sure you check your webinar calendar for that. With that, we're going to start with supporting organizations. So we have three supporting organizations—sometimes they're called SOs—within the ICANN community. And each of these supporting organizations are responsible for developing policy recommendations within the areas that they represent. So, for instance, we have the address supporting organization, and it has a council that's composed of 15 members, three from each of the regional Internet registries, the RIRs. And this group works on global Internet protocol address policy. That's their area of influence. We have the country code name supporting organization. And the country code name supporting organization works on global policies related to country code top level domains. Also, they do a fair amount of best practice sharing within the context of some of their sessions as well. Then we have the generic name supporting organization. And the generic name supporting organization works on policy for generic top level domains. And you'll hear talk about GNSO council. You can see on the slide, it explains how the council is divided up between two houses and various stakeholder groups and constituencies there. Next slide.

So what are our supporting organizations up to at ICANN 78? So the ASO council will not have any sessions at ICANN 78, but members of the address supporting community will be present. And generally, the council is working on updates to operational procedures and is also working on Internet coordination policy two revisions. In that space of the ICANN community, you might hear updates on regional RIR meetings or upcoming RIR meetings. As for the country code name supporting organization, they have many sessions planned. We've got ccTLD news, which is a great best practice and information sharing session, as well as they're holding their corporate social responsibility session. Three of the ccNSO's committees have scheduled meetings, their DNS abuse standing committee, the Internet governance liaison committee, as well as the Strategic and operational planning committee. Some other fun sessions that the ccNSO has scheduled, Tech Day, which they regularly do, plus one of those celebrations that Chris mentioned at the top of the call. They're having their anniversary celebration and a really interesting session on with it plus 20 and why it's important for the ccTLD community. So lots of interesting things happening with the CCs. In terms of the GNSO and the community work happening in the generic name supporting organization, a number of their policy development process working groups are meeting. So transfer policy review is meeting, the expedited policy development process on IDNs is meeting a number of times. There's also going to be discussions around the SubPro PDP pending recommendations, as well as the expedited policy development process, temp spec phase two implementation work. Some other GNSO sessions of note include the

Council's holding a number of sessions and another celebration 20th anniversary for the GNSO. Next slide please.

The other part of our community is our advisory committees. So we have four advisory committees that give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics. We have the At-Large Advisory Committee, which is the ALAC, and the ALAC represents interests of individual internet users. It's composed of 15 members, two from each of the five regional at-large organizations, and then it's got five members that are appointed by the ICANN nominating committee. The ALAC also is supported by its broader At-Large structures. The Governmental Advisory Committee provides advice on public policy issues, particularly on interactions with ICANN policy and national laws or international agreements. The Root Server System Advisory Committee known as the RSSAC advises on the operation, administration, security and integrity of the root server system. And finally, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee known as the SSAC advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the internet's naming and address allocation systems. So let's see what they're up to at ICANN 78. Next slide please.

The At-Large community broadly is going to be talking about a number of different topics, again, including WSIS+20, various technological advancements, some emphasis on RALO coordination, so their regional structure coordination. And then there's an interesting EURALO session on new internet infrastructure. The Governmental Advisory Committee, the GAC, they're going to start out ICANN 78 with their capacity development workshop on new technologies, and they plan to spend a

lot of time talking about the new gTLD programmed. You'll hear this called the next round, kind of in shorthand, but the GAC is really focused in this space. They also plan to discuss the RDS and WHOIS and kind of broader data protection policy, as well as DNS abuse mitigation. Now, the Root Server System Advisory Committee, the RSSAC, they're going to meet, as well as the RSSAC caucus is going to meet, and they've planned a how it works tutorial on the root server system. So anyone who's interested in understanding more in that space, we encourage you to attend. Also of note, the RSSAC is tracking the work of the Root Server System Governance Working Group. Now, this is a working group that's a cross community effort, developing the future of governance for the root server system, so something interesting to watch. And finally, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, the SSAC will hold their DNSSEC and security workshop. They are holding an SSAC information session as well, and this session is geared towards building understanding in the broader community around ongoing work initiatives of the SSAC. Something that's not on this slide that is hot off the presses is that there will be a number of SSAC working sessions that will be open to observers, and this is a bit of a new development, a bit of a pivot. So we encourage you to check those out. Next slide, please.

There are so many ways to get prepared, but I really, really, really encourage you to take a look at the ICANN 78 Policy Outlook Report, and as soon as I'm done speaking here, I'll drop it into chat for you. That's a great place to get kind of up to speed on various topics and really hone in on the areas you'd like to focus on for your ICANN 78 experience. Of course, each of our supporting organizations and advisory committees puts out their own agendas and their own briefing

materials as well, so there's a ton of information out there. I know it can be overwhelming. I just encourage you to go kind of bit by bit and piece by piece. You will definitely find your way. Next slide, please.

And of course, we have our prep week webinars. So here we are in our third webinar of prep week. Again, I encourage you to attend as many of these as you can. They all provide good, interesting, and different information. I would like to again highlight the policy and advice webinar that's happening on Wednesday, as that will take a deeper dive into the topics, the policy topics that I touched on here today. So with that, fellows, I can't wait to see you in our consensus building session on Saturday. I'm very much looking forward to it. And with that, I'm going to hand it over to Fernanda.

FERNANDA IUNES:

Thanks so much, Melissa. Hello, everyone. Good afternoon from Washington, D.C. My name is Fernanda Iunes, and I'm the Capacity Development Program Manager of the Public Responsibility Support Team. Next slide, please, Deb.

So while being a newcomer at ICANN can sometimes feel a little bit overwhelming, we've got lots of resources available to help you make the most of your opportunity to participate. And as I'm sure you can tell from this call, and as Chris mentioned earlier as well, there are a lot of people who would be happy to help you find your way. So don't feel scared to approach people when you see them in the hallways. Everyone's very friendly and willing to help.

A great resource for you to begin your ICANN journey is our free online learning platform. It's called ICANN Learn. If you haven't done so already, you can sign up and then 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. That'll give you ICANN information relevant to your particular part of the world. So it's also very helpful for you. You can follow our social media accounts, and they'll all be listed on the next and final slide of the session. So take a look at those, jot them down and you can follow us there. You've probably already registered for ICANN 78, 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, so it's for security reasons. So also note that you can access the presentations from any session within the schedule as well. If you're new to using Zoom, there's information in the meetings page to help you set it up to participate more efficiently. And just a quick tip with that, it does take quite a few clicks to get into a session, so be sure to give yourself a few minutes to get settled when you want to attend one virtually. And you may also want to explore our newcomers page, and from there you'll learn more about what we do, how we work, how your talents and expertise can help advance ICANN's mission. The beginner pages will also help you learn more about programs such as the NextGen & ICANN program, which is the 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 a challenge in any new environment, and at ICANN in particular, we're full of them, so it can also be helpful to bookmark the acronym and terms page so that you can quickly reference any unfamiliar terms. And also, as has been mentioned in the chat, it's also fine to encourage people to explain the acronyms they use. We're all trying to get better at that, so don't feel shy to ask if you don't understand something. 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. So with that, thank you for your attention, and I'll hand it over to Deb.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Okay, thank you everybody for presenting today. You did a wonderful job. Now we'll move on to our Q&A section. If anybody has any questions for our presenters, or if you have any questions about what to expect at ICANN 78, the floor is open now for your questions, please. It looks like Chris, you have your hand up.

CHRIS MONDINI:

Yes, thank you very much. I wanted to say, I was very impressed by the diversity of the people represented on this call, and it's really one of the great things about ICANN. I mentioned some numbers in my introduction of the registrations, but since I did that, I now have updated numbers. So if you'll allow me, I'd like to share those. We

currently have 1,947 registered to attend in person, so as I said, nearly 2,000, and we have 413 registered to attend online, so that's over 2,500 attendees. What's interesting is also 616 are attending their first ICANN meeting, and that's nearly 25%. So as the honorary convener of this event in the European region, with the job of engaging and attracting new stakeholders, I couldn't be more delighted to see that we'll have so many new first-time joiners, and we want to make it as special an occasion as possible for you. Lastly, I think we might be on our way to break a record for countries represented. We're at 161 attendees coming from 161 countries represented among those attendees that I mentioned. So again, no matter where you're from, and again, even online, you can connect with attendees that might be from the same place you are, or interested in the same things that you are, and so anything we can do to help make those connections, we stand prepared with those tools that Fernanda mentioned, and again, personally, as the staff supporting you. So thanks.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thanks, Chris. Those are incredible numbers. It looks like [inaudible] has a question in the Q&A pod. Hello, the presentation can be in any language or in English. Thank you. [inaudible], I'm not sure what presentation you're referring to. Are you referring to the NextGen presentation? If yes, I can answer that offline. It looks like [inaudible] has a question. "I have a question about single-letter domain names which have gone live recently. I became interested in the ICANN 78 because of this issue, and that I was interested in the way this was defined in 1988-1999 when only one single-letter domain name was

permitted. Who can I raise this matter with?” Can someone answer that question?

CHRIS MONDINI:

Hi, this is Chris. This is referring to domain names before the dot, I assume, so the second-level domain names, and the policies are set by individual registries, and so there are, I think, also rules within the generic name supporting organization. I don't know precisely what the status of any discussions on that particular issue are at this stage, but I would say the best place to begin is you might talk to one of the registries that operates and participates in the GNSO, the generic name supporting organization. And interestingly enough, country code top-level domains are in a position to set their own policies on this as well, and I know that some single-letter domains exist at the second-letter for some country code top-level domains. So it's not a clear answer on one particular person, but maybe one of my colleagues from the policy team can identify either a link or a meeting, or if you show up at the GNSO meetings and, as I said, tap someone on the shoulder, they will definitely direct you to people who have better answers to your question than I do currently.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you, Chris. Are there any other questions? We still have about 20 minutes, so we're early. Any other questions for our panel?

CHRIS MONDINI:

Deborah, there's a question in the chat about the sessions that take place at the same time as other sessions, and how do you suggest navigating that? This is, you know, as opposed to some of the other meeting styles that Melissa talked about, the annual general meeting actually has only a couple of sessions that are not conflicted against other sessions. So there's a public forum, there's an opening ceremony, but other than that, you really have to choose. I know on the registration web page there are color codes to help people identify categories of sessions that they might most be interested in, and perhaps if you can follow that guide. My advice is also always to attend the things that are about how it works, and also the newcomer sessions, which Deborah can tell us about, are really a good place where you could start, and then as the meeting goes on, decide where else you want to follow. So I don't know if I've answered that question well or not, Deborah, but I suspect you received the question more often and might have some advice for how to navigate the schedule.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Well, and then also keep in mind that all the sessions are recorded and then later on posted on the ICANN archive. So if you do miss a session or there's one taking place that you cannot attend, you can watch the recording at a later date.

CHRIS MONDINI: Yes, and both in person and online. If you're a newcomer, you may find it interesting in the course of a session to drop in or drop out of a session. So this is a very common thing of people coming in in the middle or leaving at a certain moment, and also, believe it or not, some people sit in one session in the conference center and they follow online with an earphone another session happening at the same time. So that's actually been done, but what Deborah suggested I think is easier, which is to wait for the recording, or even the transcript if you want to read what was discussed in the session that you weren't able to attend.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Exactly. Okay, we have another question in the Q&A pod. Is there any group working on DNS privacy/security in ICANN, which I can be part of? Can someone answer that?

CHRIS MONDINI: Yes. And in fact, I think there are probably more than one group. In some respects, a lot of the ICANN policies are actually on these issues. For example, when you're discussing privacy, you may be referring to registration information you provide when you register a domain name, or when you're discussing security, you might be looking into either the stability and functioning of the domain name system or even abusive uses of the domain name system. And so what I would actually recommend at this stage is to review the slides that Melissa presented and have a look at some of those hot topics that she discussed under

each community structure and see if one of those might align with something that you're interested in. And once you have settled on one or figured out possibly one, let Deborah or me or Gabby know, and we can confirm your choices. Again, Deborah, I don't know if you have a nice guide to help people ease their way into a particular policy stream, but the issues of privacy and the issues of security actually fall across many of these community structures. So whether Deborah or Melissa or anybody else would care to comment, I'd be happy to engage to learn more about your specific interests and help point you to some sessions.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Thank you, Chris. Melissa, you had a comment?

MELISSA PETERS ALLGOOD: Yeah, I just wanted to support what Chris said. I really encourage you to start with the policy outcomes. I always get them mixed up. We call them two different things. The policy outlook report. Outcomes comes after the meeting. But go ahead and take a look at that. You can see the areas that each community group is really discussing, the policy topics, what they're going to focus on. And that's another way that you can structure your meeting. You can say, hey, I'm really interested in this one thing. I want to go see how different parts of the community are discussing and addressing this one topic. Right. So I'm with Chris. If you'll start there with the policy report, see what's of interest to you. I'm also happy to solicit the expert opinion of my colleagues on the policy team to make sure that where you might want to go is the right spot to be involved in.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Thanks, Melissa. Okay, there's a couple of Q&A questions. [inaudible] asked, is there a group that deals with security and stability of DNS regarding [inaudible] and emerging technologies? And [inaudible] asked, are there any groups that work with cybersecurity, but specifically ransomware attack?

CHRIS MONDINI: So this is Chris. I will again weigh in here. For both questions, I would say emerging technologies and IoT and cyber attacks, within the community, I think the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, which Melissa mentioned, is opening up its work meetings at this meeting, but also is having a general information center, will be one place where you can meet a lot of community experts in cybersecurity and I would say emerging technologies and how they interact with the domain name system. There is also, within the ICANN organization that I work for, along with Gabby and my colleagues here, an Office of the Chief Technology Officer. We call it OCTO because again, we like our acronyms, and they publish a number of papers and Gabby runs a number of webinars that often talk about things like emerging technologies or security issues. So that is service of the ICANN organization for the community, both active in ICANN or people like you who are following ICANN to talk about these issues. And again, we can connect you with the experts who are writing these papers. You will see them presenting in many sessions at ICANN 78. So I'll put a link to the Chief Technology Officer Office, OCTO, and their publications into the chat. And Siranush is pointing out there is a special session to introduce

OCTO. So this is an excellent place to ask a lot of these questions related to new technologies and securities and security. Thank you.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you, Chris. And thank you, Siranush. There is a question in the Q&A pod from [inaudible]. “I may have missed this in the presentation, but my question is on how ICANN funds its robust activities and policymaking.” I'm not going to touch that one. I mean, I don't really know a lot about that.

CHRIS MONDINI:

So this is Chris. If you have ever registered a domain name through a domain name registrar, that registrar is likely charging you a fee, an annual fee, to maintain that for you. So part of that fee, a few US cents, pennies, each year, is passed along as a fee to ICANN. So ICANN is in fact funded by these fees that come from the registration of domain names and are passed up through from registrars and registries to ICANN. So in fact, this is what allows ICANN to fund, as you call them, very robust activities. You can imagine the cost involved in a meeting like the one in Hamburg with over 2000 attendees. But happily, the continued growth of domain name registrations means a very stable flow of funding for ICANN's activities. If that if that answers the question.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you. I actually didn't know that. Okay, we have a hand raised by Adebunmi. Okay, we can barely hear you. If you have headphones or if

you can raise up your volume a little bit, you can go forward with your question.

ABEDUMI AKINBO:

Okay, thank you so much. Okay, my question is based on an experience I'm having with ICANN Learn. I discovered that it has some very unique courses that could actually help others who are enthusiastic in the internet industry to grow. So from my side, Success Bridge, which I run, which is a community network, we've started involving young people who are interested in knowing more about ICANN to pick one or two courses to just understand ICANN. Is this a step in the right direction for someone who wants to carry his community along? Thank you.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

I'm not sure if I understood the question. Can you maybe get closer to your computer and ask the question again? We can barely hear you.

CHRIS MONDINI:

Deborah, this is Chris. I think I heard the question and I think it might have been a pretty easy one. So indeed, ICANN Learn, which you can find online at ICANN, I think it's ICANN.Learn, is an online platform that if you're in some of the formal newcomer programs, you will be familiar with. But for everyone else, this was mentioned by Fernanda as a tool where you can follow courses on various ICANN topics, both governance and policy, but also technical. And indeed, if I heard the question correctly, I think that's an ideal place to choose an issue or find an issue that you care about and then follow that into the live meeting.

And if you are part of a local community or local organization and you want to spread the awareness, the ICANN Learn platform is open. All you need to do is register an account and you can take the courses and really increase your level. You have a few days before ICANN 78, so you could choose a topic and become very expert in it by the time the meeting starts and get a lot out of the meeting to connect with the people on site and online.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Thank you, Chris. Melissa?

MELISSA PETERS ALLGOOD: Yeah, if I can just add to that, one of the unique features about the ICANN Learn platform is there's also a whole suite of courses that are on what we in the Western world call soft skills that are not necessarily specifically ICANN related skills, but have a lot of applicability in different spaces and different things that you might be working on or groups you might be participating in, you know, things about running meetings and conflict resolution. You can tell that I've been involved in the drafting of some of those courses. So I encourage you to take a look at those as well, because you might find some good benefit there, too.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Thank you so much. Okay, we have just a few minutes left. If there's any final questions, now is the time to ask them.

CHRIS MONDINI:

Deborah, I see one or two in the chat, which people are answering helpfully in the chat. The first is about civil society and academia participating in SSAC or RSSAC. SSAC is, I think there are 19 members, and they have a recruitment process to identify a balanced set of experts, but it does indeed include people who do have academic and even civil society backgrounds. But it's not an open membership like other parts of the community are. But as we said, they have information sessions, and you can sit in on their work sessions at ICANN 78. The RSSAC, which is the Root Server Advisory Committee, they have something called the RSSAC Caucus. So whereas, again, it's just the operators of a root server who sit in that committee, you can follow their work in a caucus, which is a little bit like a robust mailing list. And I see a question from [inaudible] and a local or regional internet community or association can join the At-Large, especially becoming an At-Large structure. And I will ask, I see my colleague Heidi is on the call, but we will get information to you or you can learn in Hamburg about how your local organization could become an At-Large structure and be part of the At-Large community, which sends its leaders to the At-Large advisory committee. And there's Siranush with an excellent answer.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Siranush, go ahead.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hi, all. This is Siranush. Great to be here. Yes, indeed, Chris, you mentioned properly on Saturday, 21st of October, we will have special guests from at-large, particularly ALAC Chair and EURALO Chair and members from EURALO. And they will be coming and talking about the ways of engagement with At-Large. So everybody is more than welcome to join us for that special session on Saturday, 21st of October. It is listed in the agenda. So we're looking forward to that session and learning more. Thank you.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Thank you so much, Siranush. Okay, Heidi, we have one minute left. Please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes. Yes, thank you. And I just wanted to highlight a very special opportunity for NextGen and fellows. And that is to participate in ALAC's 20th anniversary celebration on Wednesday. The vast majority of that session is going to be looking forward. And the aim is to really get the ideas and the information from all of you who will be the future of ICANN on how the [inaudible] that At-Large should go into. So please take a look at that. It's the 20th anniversary of the ALAC, and that's on Wednesday. Thank you.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you, Heidi. Okay. And with that, I'd like to thank everybody for participating in today's session. Thank you for our speakers. Thank you for everybody who joined today. And if you have any further questions, please email us at engagement@ICANN.org. Thank you so much, everybody. And we look forward to seeing you at ICANN 78.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]