
ICANN78 | AGM – Get to Know the ICANN Community Meet IPC and UASG Mems
Sunday, October 22, 2023 – 1:15 to 2:30 HAM

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hello and welcome to the special session with ICANN 78 Fellows and Next Genners. This is another session to get to know ICANN community and today I will have the pleasure to introduce you to one of the parts of the contracted parties of ICANN which is within GNSO and this is the Intellectual Property Constituency. Another abbreviation for you to learn today is IPC, and the group who represents the Universal Acceptance Steering Group, a very interesting group who is doing a very important task and job.

My name is Siranush Vardanyan and I'm the remote moderator for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by ICANN standards of behavior. During this session, as always, questions are welcome and you are welcome to raise your hand in the Zoom room and you will be given the floor to speak up.

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And I really appreciate and encourage everyone to join the Zoom with your full name and surname. Otherwise you will be removed from the session if you don't sign in using your full name.

With that, it's my immense pleasure to welcome the representatives of the Intellectual Property Constituency. Today we'll have Vice-Chair of the Intellectual Property Constituency, Brian King, and Patrick. Thank you for joining us. We are expecting also the Chair to join us, Lori, remotely. So if she is with us, we might be able to give the floor also to her.

But without further ado, I would like to give the floor to you, Patrick, to introduce what the Intellectual Property Constituency is doing within ICANN, what are the important issues on your table to discuss, and also how the newcomers, the Fellows, the next Genners, can join the IPC and can give their main expertise, bring their expertise to your group. Thank you. The floor is yours.

PATRICK FLAHERTY:

Thank you. Hello, everybody, and welcome. My name is Patrick Flaherty and today I'm going to talk about the IPC, the Intellectual Property Constituency within ICANN. So on the IPC, our mission statement is

here, or some of the things that we cover as part of our mission, is that we represent the views and interests of intellectual property owners around the world. And we have a particular emphasis on intellectual property when it comes to trademarks, copyrights, and related intellectual property rights and how they affect and interact with the DNS. The IPC works to ensure that these views, including minority views, are reflected in the recommendations that we make to the GNSO Council, to the ICANN Board. We care about consumers and our constituency, focus on matters of building consumer trust and confidence in the digital world. We want to ensure that IP rights are protected, and that's an important way to do that.

When we talk about acronyms, IP in this space refers to Intellectual Property. It doesn't mean Internet Protocol, probably another acronym that you've heard during the meeting. And sometimes IPR is also used to represent either intellectual property rights or intellectual property right holders.

The IPC is made up of many members. That includes corporations, legal professionals, trademark, copyright and IP lawyers working in this space, corporate domain providers, students, academics, and emeritus. We have approximately 100 members, and the IPC is funded by member dues. So members of the IPC each pay in to be a member.

The financial report is also received from ICANN for travel to ICANN meetings like this one, and from our membership management system. ICANN also provides excellent support from the GNSO Secretariat.

So where do we sit within the GNSO? So we're part of the non-contracted parties under the commercial constituencies for intellectual property.

And to give you an overview of the leadership team for the IPC, we have Lori Schulman, who may be able to join us virtually today. We have Brian King here. To my left, our secretary is Jan Jansen. Our treasurer is Damon Ashcroft. And myself, I have a non-voting role as a participation coordinator. We also have counselors representing the IPC. So listed here we have John and Susan and our newest counselor-elect, Damon Ashcroft.

So the IPC has a number of priorities, and in particular one that we focus on a lot is protection of intellectual property rights and the rights protection mechanisms that are used across ICANN in order to do this. You may have already heard about some of these efforts during the ICANN meeting; the phase one mechanisms for IPM review. There's also planning for phase two for this other rights protection mechanism known as the UDRP or Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy. We also look to obtain reasonable access to domain name registration data, or what used to be called WHOIS information. Fixing WHOIS is important because we want to make sure that there is a balance within ICANN's policies and we do not consider a full set of rights to which end users are entitled. So having reasonable access to this type of information is important. And implementing the new RDRS for requesting access to domain name registration data. Domain name abuse prevention, and mitigation. This includes implementation of new amendments to the RA and the RAA and ongoing work or the evolution of accountability. Clear, efficient, and predictable compliance policies

across ICANN, and clear and predictable new gTLD policies, as well as ICANN's governance model itself.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Patrick, if I may request for the discussion as well, please try to avoid using abbreviations which are not clear for us, because considering the audience, we are all newcomers to learn about these new acronyms. Please try to avoid them.

PATRICK FLAHERTY: Okay. So our website is accessible at IPC.constituency.org, and I will leave it open to any questions you might have about the IPC. Y

I'm going to pass it over to Brian.

BRIAN KING: Thanks, Patrick. And hello, everyone. I thought it might also be helpful before we get into questions or might help you come up with some questions if we did just a brief discussion about what IP is and how it relates to the domain name system. So IP, meaning intellectual property, includes trademarks and copyrights and patents. And here we're primarily focused on trademarks and copyrights. And trademark law specifically is grounded in consumer protection law. And if you think about what a trademark is and why lawyers and governments decide to protect trademarks, it relates to protecting consumers that purchase goods. So trademarks have value too.

Trademarks are called source Identifiers in the law. And what that means is that they designate for a consumer where those goods or services are coming from. And when you apply that concept to the domain name system, domain names are acting as a source Identifier for the website content you might be accessing or the email you just received. And so we want to increase trust in the global domain name system by applying those principles of consumer protection, as domain names are source identifiers so that humans can trust that the content you're seeing in your email or your websites are coming from the domain name that they're supposed to be coming from and not a fraud, lookalike spam domain name. So our job here is to make sure that those principles are applied to the domain name system to make the Internet safer for everybody.

So I thought that might be helpful background as well on why we're here.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

Lori, you are online. If you would like to unmute yourself, feel free to.

LORI SCHULMAN: I want to thank Brian and the team for being there in my place. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person. I just want to say that I usually love to meet with the Fellows and other parts of ICANN. I'm definitely going to address the question that I saw in the chat about North American leaders.

But before I do that, I want to emphasize something that's fundamental about ICANN that's very different because ICANN is multi-stakeholder and because it is so globally focused. There are many people that think that ICANN itself is a regulatory body and it is not. ICANN is a private entity. It's governed by the contract between itself and third parties. And those contracts are the contracts we are talking about for registrars and registries and how domain names are allocated and used inside of the domain name system.

So the Intellectual Property Constituency is also part of is very mindful of an international treaty system and legal system that does regulate trademarks and copyrights that Brian referenced. And I want to thank Brian for explaining the difference. Trademarks are generally recognized as brands. Copyrights are generally recognized as content; things like films, software, programming, the actual text of the programming, books, artistic works. So those fundamental differences are important because they're recognized differently under the law as well.

And when we come together at ICANN as part of the multi-stakeholder process, we're looking to international law, but we're also looking to ICANN's contract system to help answer some important questions. This is why the topic of domain abuse is so important to us because of the debates going on in ICANN as to what level of oversight they may have on certain types of content that may or may not appear in relation to domain names and the domaining system.

Yes, we don't have a solely North American leadership team. We do have European representatives (actually two European

representatives) on our team as well. But that is absolutely correct. As hard as we've tried to recruit colleagues from Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, it's been very challenging. And the challenges are like any constituency has. There's language challenges, there's resource challenges.

But an even bigger challenge that we have as intellectual property practitioners and service providers is that intellectual property law, like a lot of things in the real world, has developed at different paces in different parts of the world. And you'll have the highest concentrations of practitioners with particular experience, especially when it comes to domain policy in Europe and North America. It's a fact of the profession that the entire profession is handling. I will tell you that in my day job, I am the Senior Director for Internet Policy for the International Trademark Association, and we have the same challenges where we do not have the same type of balanced global representation that you think we might simply because in a lot of jurisdictions, intellectual property law has simply not evolved to a point where there's so many practitioners and we are actually promoting the development of the practice of intellectual property law as well as being involved in ICANN.

So that explains some of it. Could we do better? Probably. But like every other constituency where you're run by volunteers, even though we charge dues, no one who works for the IPC is paid exclusively to do IPC work. We're all out. It's [time plus]. I think one of the myths that go around ICANN is that our constituency is all about paid participation. And I can tell you that the majority of our constituency does not get paid. It's done because we love the DNS and we understand the

importance of it to global commerce and the importance of it to intellectual property protection, safety, and consumer trust.

I'm happy to answer any other questions. And Brian and Patrick I want to thank for doing the presentation. I wrote it, and I think they did a good job, considering I had thought I was going to be the one presenting it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you very much, Lori, and thanks for joining. Actually, you already responded to one of the questions, which is why the executive team in the IPC are representatives from the USA and UK. So thank you for covering this.

And there is actually the question in the chat from Abdirashid Abdirahman, who is ICANN 78 fellow, joining us virtually. What are some of the most notable ICANN IPC cases?

LORI SCHULMAN:

Notable ICANN IPC cases? The IPC itself is very active in working groups across ICANN. We don't have cases per se. We as a group do not go to ICANN for mediation. There are some cases in the alternative dispute resolution sphere that have involved intellectual property. But the IPC itself is here as a negotiating body.

And as we were talking about on top of the presentation, we are focused on making sure that the Internet is a trusted space. What does that mean for us? Particularly for us, trust is centered in, and in my field is, trademarks. When you see a brand online, no matter what the brand is,

if it's Adidas, if it's Puma, if it's a platform like Facebook or Amazon or eBay or Zalando (you can name any those brands), when people go to those sites, there's an expectation of service, there's an expectation of quality. And in order for that expectation to be met, we have to make sure that the field is fair, that people do not misuse our names. And one of the biggest ways that people misuse our names is with cyber-squatting, where our names are incorporated into domain names that have nothing to do with us or our brands, but simply vehicles for fraud.

So cases like that can be resolved under the uniform dispute resolution process, which is managed by the World Intellectual Property Organization. WIPO is an observer to ICANN's government advisory committee. WIPO has a big hand in providing the UDRP services. They present courses, they present updates. There's a number of global UDRP providers. WIPO is not the only one. But WIPO is probably the most well-known.

And to date, since the inception of UDRP, which was always over 20 years ago, WIPO has adjudicated 50,000 cases. The majority of those cases have been in favor of trademark owners, and this is because the Uniform Dispute Resolution Process was built to help trademark owners. Only the most obvious grievous cases can be brought under the UDRP system. If they're cases that are more nuanced or have multiple questions of law, then they are tried in national courts. That's number one.

Number two, in terms of trust, the other most practiced way of infringing on names, brands like trademarks, and content like piracy, sharing unauthorized copies of films or music, is through fraud and

phishing. You might hear a lot this week about domain abuse and what might be technical, what might be content.

But we all agree that IP intellectual property is a threat vector for the massive amount of phishing that we see across the Internet space. The number one brand that's used in phishing, according to a report that was published in January 2022 by the European Commission, was the Facebook brand.

So we want to make sure that ICANN's policies are consistent with cleaning up the DNS to the extent that it's possible. We understand that not every single incident of fraud and abuse can be addressed by ICANN. That's not realistic. There are many, many players in this field in what is called the information stack. But ICANN can be a key player and promote this type of trust inside of the namespace.

LORI SCHULMAN:

Thank you. Lori.

Any questions here in the room?

Yes, please, go ahead. Just try one more time. Just speak.

LOURDES LEON:

Okay, thank you very much. Lourdes Leon here from Peru, first time Fellow. So I'm sorry if I ask for a step back. I see how the Internet and intellectual property relate in so many ways. But I'm kind of curious on copyright, because from the previous session, it was kind of clear for me that the scope of ICANN is not necessarily on content. So I'm curious

about what specific issues on copyright or on content are for ICANN's interest?

LORI SCHULMAN: Brian, do you want to take that? Or I can take that. I defer to anyone in the room, or I'll happily answer.

BRIAN KING: I can get started and I might call on Matt Williams in the audience, who's the resident copyright expert in the IPC, to fill in the blanks. But I think we all agree that ICANN is not the Internet content police, and that's not a role that we're advocating for ICANN to take on. But to be clear, ICANN's bylaws do allow for its policymaking to consider website content in the policies that it makes related to the domain name system. So the policies relate to the domain name system, but those policies can take website content, or content more generally, into account.

Matt, is there anything that you'd like to add? Feel free to jump up to the microphone or not. Or Lori or Patrick, if there's anything you want to add on.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That was a good answer, Brian.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Yes, Lori?

LORI SCHULMAN:

I do want to add something just from a mechanical perspective, because I think it's a very fair question where this idea of content abuse and technical abuse gets blurry. And that is with the commission of fraud and abuse. That is keeping the DNS safe. We know 100% that content-driven fraud, when you download you think you're downloading an authentic licensed movie, and then what you're really doing is downloading malware, or someone in the process of feeding you pirated information is pulling out your information and then going to use it or sell it for some other bad purpose, is part of safety, is part of the technical ecosystem in that regard.

And to Brian's point, there are definite references inside of ICANN's bylaws where it is perfectly acceptable to consider intellectual property considerations (sorry, I'm using a double term here) to make sure that IP principles, intellectual property principles, are taken into account.

And this is a point of contention between the Intellectual Property Constituency and the Business Constituency, particularly, when it comes to our negotiating positions inside of ICANN. We have a fundamentally different approach to how we interpret certain aspects of ICANN's bylaws how we interpret certain pending legislation, and how we interpret our role in the domain ecosystem writ large.

So it is great to say that the IPC is contributing. Is it all smooth sailing at ICANN? No, it's a difficult fight. And we do have allies. We have allies in the At-Large group. Occasionally we have allies in our own house with the non-contracted parties in terms of making sure that the Internet is a safe place. But how we get it safe, what tools we use, is where the conflicts come in.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Lori.

Any other question? Yes, please. Yes, as a follow up?

LOURDES LEON: Thank you very much for both answers. I also would like to ask: you have just described maybe how the relations are with the Business Constituency, I guess. But I would also like to ask you if sometimes there is any tension with the NCUC regarding that. I don't know, maybe they sometimes address things like access to knowledge or things like that.

And I also would like to ask: I've heard that WIPO is an observer inside IPC, but I don't know if ICANN is also an observer at WIPO. And if so, when you go to WIPO, how do you manage to establish an ICANN position? Thank you,

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Lori?

LORI SCHULMAN: Yeah, you could defer to me. No problem. I will tell you that historically, the commercial side of the house and the non-commercial side of the house have had tensions. It's no secret. There are issues where we fundamentally disagree. One of the big issues that we disagree on is access to personal registration data. Whereas the NCUC takes the position that it's important to remain anonymous on the Internet for purposes of freedom of expression and personal safety, our side of the

house, the commercial side, agrees, but there needs to be a real balance between all of the different harms we're trying to resolve on the Internet. There are absolute documentation of consumers being harmed by fake medicines, of ordering counterfeit goods online and then being burned or cut or somehow physically harmed by faulty goods that are unlicensed and fraudulent; the financial fraud that is hitting millions of people through phishing and scam and spam. And that how those different commercial, consumer, grassroots, protesting, activist kinds of means are worked together is where the natural tension is in terms of freedom of knowledge.

In terms of freedom of knowledge, we acknowledge that there is freedom of knowledge, but freedom of knowledge does not take place in some kind of vacuum. In fact, we have a global system that internationally, by treaty, protects copyrights, protects trademarks, with the understanding that these protections are needed to protect innovation, to advance innovation. Authors have rights under the UN Declaration of Human Rights, authors' rights and the rights to work are accepted.

And what we feel is happening now on our side of the house is we've got our side that says, yes, we recognize you, NCUC. We recognize where you're going. We would like recognition for where we're coming from as well.

Now, I will say this. We had a very productive pre-session meeting, a day0zero meeting, and we spent the entire day. And Brian King definitely can talk a little more about this if he'd like. We know there are challenges and bumps. We had a very public, unfortunately, battle over

how we were going to fill our board seat, known as Board Seat 14. But what that battle revealed is that there were a lot of opportunities to improve communication, and we do have common interests.

So we got together last Friday, all day from 09:00 A.M. To 05:00 P.M., to discuss these opportunities, and we came out with a work plan, and we're feeling very optimistic about a more coordinated effort moving forward.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Lori. Having the pleasure to see in this room the former chair of IPC, also a great supporter of the Fellowship Program by being one of the Fellowship Selection Committee members in previous rounds, Heather, I would like to give the floor to you.

HEATHER FORREST: Thank you so very much. Siranush and I are old friends. Can you tell? My name is Heather Forrest. We have a phrase here in ICANN that we use relatively often about putting a hat on, and you use it to signify that many of us have very many different roles and representations within ICANN. And it is very much the case, as Siranush has pointed out, that I once sat in the position that Lori is in now. I was IPC president.

But I am going to, if you'll indulge me, put my GNSO hat on. I was the chair of the GNSO as a representative of the IPC serving on the GNSO Council. And it's from that perspective that I would like to answer the question that was asked just before.

I'm very cognizant of the fact that you all may be newcomers here and may not understand some of the inner relationships between constituencies and so forth. And I think it's very, very important to emphasize that the GNSO is a fantastically diverse community. And it is, I think, very often assumed that within a particular stakeholder group or constituency that there should be commonality of views. And in fact, as Brian and Patrick can attest up on the stage, even in the IPC, we don't agree all the time.

So I think these sorts of underlying they were described as tensions ... But I'm not sure if that's how I would articulate them. I think it's more the case that we represent in the GNSO, just as in the ALAC, just as in some of the other the GAC, some of our other major groups within ICANN, that it's very, very hard to say there is a single position on X or Y, and that's certainly the case as regards the different constituent parts of the GNSO.

So please don't walk away with an impression from your discussions today that there is any sort of homogeneous community here in ICANN. And I would also say no one's more or less diverse than anyone else in that regard. So it's not a sign of weakness. I think this is how ICANN works. This is what we do. We hopefully come together in spaces like this to share our different views and to try and work them out. This is ICANN at its finest. [Ay], Siranush?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Heathe. And Lori actually corrected me that you were GNSO Chair (President and Chair for GNSO), so thank you, Lori.

And unfortunately, we don't have too much time to take more questions for the IPC, but Lori will stay online. So please, if you have questions, post it in the chat. And Lori graciously agreed to respond to them in the chat.

Yes, please? Final call to action. Yes. Lori?

LORI SCHULMAN:

I want to emphasize something in the room that I wrote in the chat to reinforce what Heather said. When I say tension, I don't mean we've got swords and steel and armor. What I'm saying in the sense of tension is it is a physical principle. To Heather's point, there's so much diversity and there's so many forces at play that they create a natural tension, which is not necessarily bad. And I just want to walk away from this session saying, without question, the IPC stands for One World, One Internet. There is simply no question about that. If that's the one message to walk away with today, please walk away with that one.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. Brian?

BRIAN KING:

I feel bad that we haven't answered all the questions that have been asked. So I can hang for a bit after this and I'll be here all week, and so will Patrick, and we'll be available. So happy to chat more.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: That's actually the important point, that people know you in person, so they can come and ask you questions. And thank you for being around.

And Lori, thank you for being able to join us and agreeing to be a part of this session. We always appreciate this interaction with the key communities within ICANN where also the new people, new friends, new blood, is needed and is welcomed.

With that, I would like to really thank IPC colleagues and friends and thank you also to come and join IPC members to this session as well. And Lori, my appreciation to your participation virtually. Thank you.

With that, I would like to shift to another presentation, another important aspect which we are dealing with, universal acceptance. You have heard a lot of things about this during the Universal Acceptance Day. And it's my great pleasure to introduce the members of Universal Acceptance Steering Group and would like to give the floor to ... Whoever want to start and introduce the members of the group would be great. Thank you.

ANIL JAIN: Thank you. Before I introduce myself and my team, let me welcome all the new blood to ICANN. And we all know how much Internet is important to the life of every citizen of this world. And you are going to be ambassador of ICANN from today onward. And it is very, very important that each one of you should commit to this great cause of internet. And what Lori has said, very aptly (One Internet, One World) is the message which is required to be taken by all of us when we go back from this conference.

Good afternoon everybody. My name is Anil Kumar Jain. I am chair of the UASG. I am involved in the ccNSO through ccNSO in the policy group of IDN ccPDP Working Group Four as a vice-chair. I am also Vice-Chair of the Internet Governance Liaison Committee which takes care of Internet Governance issues globally through ccNSO. I am also a member of EPDP IDN ccPDP Policy Development Group and I am also liaison between this GNSO group and ccTLD group.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I'm sorry. EPDP we already know is the Expedited Policy Development Process, and IDN is Internationalized Domain Name.

ANIL JAIN: Thank you. And I'm also a member of ISPCP, which represents the Internet Service providers community in ICANN.

The entire leadership team. Is with me. On my right side is Nitin Walia. He is the Vice-Chair of the USG. And Nitin is connected with ICANN since 2015, if I am correct. And he's on various committees like ISPCP, he's part of EPDP and he's working in a company which is working on all frames of IT.

The second person next to Nitin is Mr. Nabil. Nabil is a professor of It in Morocco and he is connected with several groups including EPDP and USG since long.

So today's presentation we will be talking to you introducing the Universal Acceptance as a concept, the Structure of Universal Acceptance Strategic Group which is specially formed to promote

universal group under ICANN, and then, as has been told very clearly that all of us knows, Universal Acceptance Day. So we will introduce Universal Acceptance Day and what we are planning this year.

So we'll come to the slide. Next slide please. Okay, this one. Okay, the session overviews is about the overview of Universal Acceptance; what universal acceptance means, how universal acceptance matter to the internet community, then how the USG as a group is structured and the various working groups working under the Universal Acceptance Strategy Group we have team which actually goes on the field to promote the USG, to help the USG to enter into the internet and that is with the local initiative in various countries. So they represent the USG in those countries and we have a program called the Universal Acceptance Ambassador Program where people who are expert in the USG go to the community, they spread the message, they help the people to adopt the USG and they monitor it. And then UA Day, as we have discussed. We will also discuss what are the different meetings which are arranged in ICANN 78 where all of you can attend. And then finally we'll leave the floor to all of you to participate and interact with us.

So basically, Universal Acceptance. The DNS has changed dramatically over the decade. The total number of TLDs which are delegated to date are around 1500, out of which 1200 are the generic top level domains, gTLDs, and around 300 are ccTLDs. Universal Acceptance is a corner store to a digitally inclusive internet by all domain names and email addresses. So basically the concept is that all type of domain names, whether there are three digit short names or longer than three digits, whether they are in English or they are in any other languages, should

be acceptable to all internet enabled applications, devices and systems.

Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that more than 60% of the world population do not converse in English. This is why Universal acceptance is very important. The reason of Universal acceptance is, as I said, that all domains and email addresses should work in all software applications, including browsers. The impact is very important and it is what we as a community feel: that next 1 billion internet users are expected to join the internet community through non-English speaking people. So universal acceptance promote consumer choice, improve the competitions and improve broader access to the end users. And USG was formed in 2015 and we are advocating and engaging with the relevant stakeholders.

Why it is important and why it matters? As I discussed, more than 60% of the world population do not converse in English, although they have mobile, although they have laptops, but they are not actually driving deep into the knowledge base of Internet. And that is why they are away from the benefits of the internet.

Now, once we implement UA, it supports a diverse and multilingual internet. Now once it is improving, then every citizen of this globe become part and parcel of the internet. It generates greater competition, it generates lot of new innovations of the applications which can come, and it will give a choice to the consumer to choose the Internet language wherever they want. And of course, it is a carrier advantage to software or application developers and also to the system

integrators. Finally, it is very important that it assists the governments and the policymakers to reach their people, to their voters directly.

Now let us see how it looks. If we see the top one, they are re the three cases where these systems are UA-ready. If you see the first one, where the search is soap.organic, normally the domain is a three-digit code. Now if it is more than three digits, it is a UA case. And if the system is accepting, then it says, yes, it is ready.

Similarly, if you see the second one is in Japanese, the search is in Japanese, and the system is accepting it. And with third one, you can see a particular case where an email is written in a language which is other than English. Now, if you see the three examples just below them, they are not UA-ready. So if your system is not accepting, then there is an error which is thrown by the system and you are not able to communicate beyond the search alone.

Now, if we see what universal acceptance is as a process, if we come to the bottom directly, the system, applications and hardware should be able to accept your request, whether it is a long domain or it is in local languages. It should be able to validate what you are trying to input in. Then your system should be able to process that request and should be able to store that request either in your computing system or somewhere else. And then when it is going to the recipient, then it should display exactly in the same manner which is intended by the sender. So these are the important things for universal acceptance.

Now, if we see how the whole USG as a team is structured, we work with various working groups and we work, as I said, with the field teams, which are the licensed teams and the UA ambassadors.

So now I hand over the presentation to my colleague, Dr. Nabil, to take over from this side. Nabil?

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you. Thank you, Anil. Thank you, Siranush, for inviting us to this wonderful session with the Fellows. We were all Fellows one day, and from that experience we found our path in ICANN, within ICANN community and all stakeholders. So this is a good opportunity to talk to each other, to share our experience with you, and to hear from the next Internet leaders.

So my name is Nabir Benamar. And I'm USG Vice-Chair and USG measurement Working Group Chair. So the USG has a structure. We have different working groups. We have the Communication Working Group that is now tasked with also the UAD. And it established the communication path between all USG working groups and also with ICANN Org.

We have the Email Address Internationalization, which is a working group dedicated to making the internationalization of the email system.

The Measurement Working Group that is finding the gap are making gap analysis of existing software applications and to see which one is not UA-ready and what should be done further and which is also now tasked with the UA academic curriculum. So this is one of the most important tasks we have: to develop a curriculum for academia to be able to patch existing courses, modules related to IT, related to internet, so that they

can become UA-ready for the next generation to know about the concepts before getting to the market.

The Technology Working Group is tasked to find the right solutions and to assess other application and software and gap analysis too.

The UA local initiatives and the UA Ambassadors; local initiatives that, as you can see from the name, can run some UA activities in local communities. And also we have ambassadors that we will talk about later on.

We have also liaisons for other communities and stakeholders, like for the GNSO. We have Christian Dawson. We have Satish Babu from ALAC, who is also the Technology Working Group Chair. Qing Cai from the ccNSO. And we have Abdalmonem Galili, our liaison from GAC.

Next slide please. So this is the structure of UASG with all the working group chairs and UASG team members, the admin team. So we have the chair and the three vice-chairs and we have chairs of the different working groups.

So for local initiatives, the aim is to engage local stakeholders with focus on UA deployment and conducting national or regional awareness and training efforts. So, currently, we have five local initiatives in the following countries: China and the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe. That includes also Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Serbia. We have also a local initiative in India, in Sri Lanka and in Thailand. So to ensure geographical diversity, local initiative

candidates from the Lac and from Europe regions are really encouraged to apply for the local initiative program.

UA Local Initiatives leaders. Now we have Maria that represent Russia and the other federation countries. We have also, from China, Wei Pei, and Sarika for a local initiative in India. We have Anawin for a local initiative in Thailand, and Harsha that represents a local initiative in Sri Lanka.

For the Ambassadorship Program, we have ambassadors that are appointed for one year and can be re-appointed as per the charter that you can also read on the UASG.tech website.

So the UA Ambassador Program recruits industry leaders who are able to are well known and well respected in the field that can also articulate industry leaders that focus on technical UA training and adoption. So they require technical background. So we need these people that have technical background to apply for our Ambassadorship Program so that they can do and conduct training in different regions; mainly in the region, but if there is a need for other training, especially during the UAD activities, we might need more experts in the field. And if there is one with more languages, expertise in different languages, that would be a bonus or a plus. In this case, they are committed to conducting training, workshops, and hackathons to support UA locally and regionally also. So these are distributed geographically and with gender diversity, something that we are respecting in the UASG.

Currently we have 18 UA ambassadors, including the five new ones from ten countries: Benin, for example, Africa, Bolivia, San Vincent and Grenadines, China, Egypt. In India, we have different ambassadors,

multiple ambassadors, because the country is big, so we have to cover different regions in the country. Nigeria too; we have two ambassadors; South Africa, Turkey and finally in Zambia.

So for more information about the UA ambassadorship, you can visit the UASG.tech website.

So with this I leave the floor to my colleague Nitin and we're happy to receive your questions and comments. Thank you.

NITIN WAILA:

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Nitin Waila for the record. I'm the Vice-Chair for the UASG. And good evening. Good afternoon, as per your time zone, people attending online.

Before we start with UA Day, I think you all are newcomers actually here in ICANN. And by now, with the information which has been shared by my two colleagues here and the vice-chair about UA Day and our structures and the working groups, I think you would be in a position to know what UASG is doing and how important the role of the UASG is in the structure of ICANN. And in fact, it's very important for the newcomers, actually, because you all come from various geographies and regions and as it's been mentioned, that language is something which is very important. And we all together have to bridge this digital divide over the Internet because, as we all know, 70% of the world's population cannot read write in English and still the majority of the applications on the internet are still in English. So the role of the UASG and IDN community was to ensure that this digital divide has been broken off and you all can communicate in the language of your choice.

For you as newcomers, a very important thing was the last slide which was being shared by my colleague Nabil about the UA Ambassador Program actually. And many of our ambassadors are from the newcomers. In fact between you, Abdalmonem ... Abdalmonem, if you can just stand. So Abdalmonem is our ambassador in Egypt. He was earlier the vice-chair for the UASG also. So you can see a newcomer coming in and then at these propositions and in fact he has always been very supportive to all the newcomers coming into ICANN. So anything around the UASG or ICANN, you can always reach out to him and we are anyway available out here.

So as far as UA Day is concerned, UA is a new concept which we started last year as the UA Day, Internet for all. So we had decided a day which is 28 of March 2023 (in fact 28 March every year) to celebrate as a global UA day.

So just to give you a recap of the last year, 2023, we decided to have a buzz around the globe and start having the global UA Day. Like people celebrate every festival, people celebrate New Year, we want internet fraternity to celebrate UA globally. So we have reached out to all the ICANN community and various forums, including our ambassadors, local initiatives and interested global partners to host these events. Almost 9400 total people attended these events last year in 56 UA Day events which happened across various regions.

The keystone of the UA Day event, which was the global day UA event which happened in India actually on 28 March, attended by the Board members of ICANN also ... And in fact UA Day events were held in almost like 22-odd languages in various regions.

As far as the year 2024 is concerned, now we have started working on it. So now we will be calling up the proposals from 1 November with the deadlines till 15 December. And then the proposal committee will review these proposals by the first of [inaudible] and shortlist the proposals by the month of January. And we will distribute the entire material which will be used to do these events globally.

And the contracted UA organizers who are interested to conduct these events in various regions would be distributed this thing, and our ambassadors would be assigned to support them in terms of providing the speakers and information which is needed. So in fact, UA events would formally start with effect from 1 March to 2024 till 30 May. And in between, on 28 of March 2024, we would be having our Global UA Day event. The venue and the location is yet to be decided. Last time it was India. Maybe this time we would be having it in some other region to cover the maximum part of this area.

So we all want you to contribute in terms of the Global UA Day in your respective region. Attend it and if you want you can even host it. So you can even submit your proposals which will be called upon soon.

As far as the UASG is concerned, this is how you can get involved. So these are the few of the incoming events which were going to happen in ICANN 78. Today we have a session with ALAC with USG and then on the 24th, which is Tuesday, we have our five-year planning. This is a very important thing. Normally in UASG, we were always having our annual financial plans. But from this year by the change of guard, we have decided to have a long-term vision in terms of the UASG. So we would be having our five-year plan discussion with the community and also

about the governance, about the issues, about the things which we do within the UASG and how it can be improved. And then on 25 October, Wednesday the 25th, we would be having another session, which is a detailed session about the UA planning for 2024.

So, just to get involved, you can visit our website, which is UASG.tech. Our email ID is info@UASG.tech. And what I request as a takeaway from here for you, all of you, and a call to action, is you must visit the UASG.tech website and subscribe yourself. This is one of the very important group in ICANN, which is completely a multi-stakeholder group in which anybody from anywhere can join and contribute as per its own capacity. So you can subscribe to our UA Discuss list which is an open discussion list for any kind of any UA activities or things which is happening.

And then as per your interest in choice, you can also subscribe to our various working groups and start contributing there. Maybe once you join and start contributing, maybe after two years, I may see one of you sitting here and talking to the next newcomers about UASG.

These are our Twitter handles and social media handles. And we also have support on our website.

That's it. Thank you so much. We are all here. Any questions, please feel free.

[ANIL JAIN]:

Thank you, Nitin. So before we open the floor for questions and answers, again a request extended by Nitin. I want to appeal to all of you that you become part of the people who are going to drive the next

billion Internet users to the Internet world. So please visit UASG.tech, subscribe to UA Discuss Group, and become a part and parcel of this important group. Thank you.

Now the floor is open. We can take questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And we have a very live discussion going on in the chat as well. And Lori Schulman commented actually that universal acceptance is a key topic for the Intellectual Property Constituency too, in terms of how dot-brands are treated as well idea and equivalents for brands to the left of the dot. And I also would like to thank [Seda], my colleague in ICANN, who posted a lot of links related to Universal Acceptance Steering Group activities.

And I see two hands here in the room. Houda Chihi, please. Houda will start. Yes. And we have the questions over there. We'll come to you. We only have nine minutes, so we'll try to take as many questions as possible.

HOUDA CHIHI: Hello everyone. Thank you so much for this great presentation. Really it is very inspiring. My question is, to be an ambassador, is it a requirement of specific expertise in a specific field? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you for your question. You are all invited and encouraged to apply for the ambassadorship. Definitely, we will look on your CV, your background, your expertise in the field to be able to conduct, as I

mentioned earlier in the presentation, a workshop about awareness about training workshop and training activities. As I said also if the applicant has more than one language they're comfortable with and are able to use it in a given workshop, that would be a bonus. But never mind, just apply and we will get the applications and we will decide.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Just to add, the UA ambassador program is one of the programs which is always open, so it never have any kind of a deadline or a window. So the application process is always available on the UASG.tech website and in fact we have the list of all the UA ambassadors which are already there in your region. So maybe before applying, if you want to have a chat or a discussion with the UA ambassador which is locally available in your region and see what additionally you can contribute to your region and your territory. Definitely you should apply and the application process will go through a process, but definitely we are looking for gender diversity more. So as you said, right now it's like 80/20 which we want to bring to 50/50. So definitely you all are most welcome to apply and we look forward to more newcomers coming in to become the UA ambassadors into your region. Thank you.

NAIMA AWAN:

Hello everyone. I'm Naima Awan. I'm a first time ICANN 78 Fellow from Pakistan. My question is that I'm really glad to see a lot of national languages are included in UA structure. I want to ask if in the near future we can see local regional languages included in UA. Thank you.

[ANIL JAIN]:

Naima, first of all, I would like to thank you for this question. Yes, you are right. The whole world has a large number of recognized languages. To my understanding around 150 IDNs in 150 languages are already delegated. As the awareness of UASG is going to various countries and various people, including those who are experts in languages, a lot of people are showing interest in taking ideas in those languages. ICANN is shortly going to declare a new gTLD round. And let me inform you that the new gTLD round as well as ccTLD are getting ready with the new languages applications. And I think the UASG is fully prepared and fully geared up to take any kind of languages. In fact, if you see, most of the languages' writing start from left to right, but for the Arabic words it starts from right to left. So the UASG is ready for any kind of language in any format. So we hope that whatever language is in your mind should find a place in IDN and start bringing those people in internet world who are using that language. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

Let me add just one thing please. You say that you are from Pakistan. I'd like just to tell you that the Arabic script was one of the first scripts that has been implemented in the ICANN root zone with the task force for the Arabic script IDNs. We have been able back in 2015 to come up with a solution to find what we call the whole label generation rules. As you know, different languages are using the Arabic script to write their own language. So for the root zone, we needed to find some common rules between all these languages that are based on the Arabic letters or scripts. So it was a good job done by different members of the

community from Pakistan, from Afghanistan, from the Arab world and other countries and it was one of the first panels to come up with the solution.

And then for the second level, these are different languages. So when you want to create a domain name in [ander] Pakistan, you will create it using your language in Urdu and not in Arabic. So we are not permitting mixing languages for example.

So yeah, I invite you to visit the ICANN website. You can see the work of the Task Force for Arabic Script IDNs and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you want further explanation. Thank you.

NAIMA AWAN: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

Eunice, the question will be in Spanish?

EUNICE COELLO: Yes

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please get ready.

EUNICE COELLO: Hi. My name Eunice. I'm from Mexico and we were fortunate enough to be able to participate in the technological group where we had a

universal acceptance event in 2023. The participants were very thrilled, but what we wanted or what they want because they are more technical is to be able to hold workshops that are in Spanish for engineering and I would like to know whether we can have those workshops in that language and in a different date from the UA day.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Thank you for your question. So I'll reply in English. As far as the language is concerned, as the universal acceptance says, we respect each and every language. So currently our material which related to the UASG is already available in various languages, including the language you are looking for. So for the upcoming global UA Day events which is going to happen, as I've shared with , the window would start with effect from 1 March and will go up to 30 May. So it's a window of three months. There would be one global day event which will happen to one designated place, but yes, in your region, there could be a local event, there could be a national event and there could be a regional event.

So depending upon the requirement, the people and the organizations in your territory, including you, can put your proposal to the UASG if you want to host the local UA event or the regional global event into your region. And we are open to you conducting this into your own language. We wish that you should do that actually and it should have happened last time and if it did not then at least this time you can do that and include the material which you need for the presentations or technical awareness or option. Even if you are looking forward for any kind of assistance in terms of email addresses or any other information, the

UASG is available, our staff is available and we would definitely love to host the entire event into your local language.

EUNICE COELLO: Thanks. Is there any way to work with the documents, the documents that are actually more technical, and to be able to translate those documents? Maybe we, the members of the academia, could support?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, yes, definitely. So as you can see from the website, from the UA Day website, you will find enough material presentation depending on the length of the activity that you want to do. And this material is translated to different languages. So Spanish is definitely one of them. So we can help further with this and we can suggest some experts that can conduct the training in Spanish or something else.

Did I answer your question?

EUNICE COELLO: Right. What happens is that what we worked on on UA Day was emails. So specifically about this, we didn't really find any document that would focus more on the engineering students so that they could do some practice within those virtual machines in Spanish.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we have here two points. We have the dedicated material to EAI, which is email address internationalization. This material exists in the website. You can find PowerPoint presentation dedicated only to the

email part and other presentation for the programming languages for example. So if you have students in computer science or with a computer science background, you can conduct both training workshops.

But the second thing is that we are still preparing, for academia, relevant course material or textbook or something like this to be used in the university outside the workshop; so in regular courses and models. So this is another job that we are doing within the Measurement Working Group.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. And just to add here—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: My apologies, we are already over time. So we have one more short question coming from Malick, but I request Seda to send the links and the mailing list which she posted in the chat to me and I will share with the Fellows.

So we don't have time to go over because we have the next session to come. Malick, 10 seconds.

MALICK ALASSANE: Hello. I'm Malick. I came as a Fellow and I have a very pragmatic question. I would like to integrate local languages for IDNs. What should I do? To which working group should I look to? I'm speaking about a specific language in Benin. We have our own scripts in Benin, the [ofhon] scripts.

And I have a second question on the IDNs, a security threat. Specifically when I think about phishing, phishing is on the rise today and it poses a real security threat online. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

So there are two questions actually. Thank you. So replying to your first question, you can join any of the working groups which is our technology working group or we have multiple working groups which are available into it, who can support you in terms of your language and if the domain name is available into your local script, definitely you can reserve that and start working on that.

As far as the second question is concerned, which you have raised about the phishing and other things and technology threat about the IDN, my dear friend, right now you have the least threat in terms of IDNs. Phishing and spoofing and all other activities have been happening from decades into your Latin domain names. But since this concept of an IDN domain name is pretty new, we are anyway working on making all the application software and devices UA-ready. So there are still a lot of applications and email clients which are not even UA-ready. So nobody would try majorly in terms of phishing or any other attacks if the application is not even your UA-ready. So the chances of spamming and the chances of phishing are pretty less in terms of other domain names in IDNs actually. So we recommend actually people to use IDNs if they really want to have clean whitelisted communication over the internet, actually. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And I would like to thank our presenters, Anil, Nabil, and Nitin. We are five minutes—

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Malick Alassane. He forgot to introduce himself as a UA Ambassador first. He is one of the best ambassadors we have. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, this is great. And by the way, the presenters will be here for a couple of minutes. If you may hang around and if you have any questions, please reach them out. But we need to give the time to our interpreters to have rest before the next session. Last 10 seconds to Anil.

ANIL JAIN: 5 seconds. Thank you. Thank you very much for patiently listening, actively participating and interacting with us. I just want to inform all of you that the UASG supports UA Ambassadors financially. We also support the local initiative financially every year. And for the UA Day celebrations at local level, national level, regional level or at the global level, we are with you with the material which is explained by my colleagues and with some financial support also, whatever is required.

Again, finally, my appeal to all of you is to join us to become part of this team and take UA as the masses to the whole world, to the whole internet community. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And our applause is to our presenters today. Thank you very much for the time and thank you very much for the interesting presentation and discussions and thank you audience for your active participations.

With that, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]