
ICANN78 | AGM – Get to Know the ICANN Community Meet NCSG Members
Sunday, October 22, 2023 – 10:30 to 12:00 HAM

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Hello everyone. I welcome you to the second day of ICANN 78. Today we will have the series of sessions, Get to Know ICANN Community. And I welcome you to the first session where we will introduce you the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, which is part of GNSO, which is Generic Name Supporting Organization. So this is the day for you to start using acronyms and learning the life of using acronyms in ICANN. So my name is Siranush Vardanyan and I am remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During this session, questions and comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in a proper form. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session. Interpretation for this session includes six UN languages. So as always, I will ask you to take the interpretation headsets from the beginning because during the session there might be questions coming in the languages other than English. So click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room as well as in the audience here. And once the session facilitator calls upon your name, please kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, please ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will

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JULF HELSINGIUS:

Thank you, Siranush. Good morning to everybody. Welcome to this session, and I'm very glad to be here speaking to you. If you wonder about my slightly strange accent, let me just give you context. I'm a Swedish-speaking Finn who's been living in the last 25 years in Amsterdam, married to an American. So I am culturally confused. I have a reasonably long history with the GNSO. I've been on the council in a couple of different roles over the years, but for now, for all my sins, I'm just starting my second year as chair for the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. So let me talk a little bit about what we do. And I'm going to do this in a hierarchical fashion. First, talk about on the top level of GNSO in general. And we had a session

yesterday where we were celebrating 25 years of the GNSO. And one of the things that was mentioned there, unfortunately I don't remember who it was who mentioned it, was that GNSO is really the crown jewels of ICANN, because that's where policy happens. There are lots of supporting organizations. There are lots of advisory organizations. But the only one that really focuses on global domain name policy and actually writes the policy is the GNSO. So that's really where things happen. Which also means that's also where a lot of the work has to be done. So GNSO councilors are extremely busy.

So as you, I'm sure, already know, the GNSO is the policy making body responsible for all the generic top-level domains. It has two different houses. The structure is very complicated, but this is something that we all have to learn. There are two houses. One, the Contracted Parties House, which is registrars and registries. They are people who have a contractual relationship with ICANN, and their relationship is ruled by that contract. They are people who hold domains and sell domains. Then you have the Noncontracted Parties House, which is kind of pretty much everybody else in the GNSO, that then splits into two halves again, the Commercial Stakeholder Group and the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. The name kind of says something. The commercial ones are people like ISPs, businesses, intellectual property interests, and so on. Noncommercial are everything else again. So going down the chain, it's always the everything else box. We are definitely everything else.

So yes, as I said, we have the Commercial Stakeholder Group who has their individual constituencies, and we have the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group that has two sub-constituencies,

the Noncommercial Users Constituency and the Not-For-Profit Operational Concerns. Thank you, thanks for the correction.

The Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, which is a top-level organization for this, has direct members. Some of them are individuals, some of them are organizations. And then we have the constituencies. So two constituencies are members of the NCSG, one representing civil society, having both individual members and organizations, and one representing organizations, non-profit organizations as users of domains. So their members are purely organizations.

The NCSG has six council representatives on the GNSO Council, so where all the decisions are made. The council representatives are all NCSG representatives. They don't represent the sub-constituencies. They represent the whole NCSG and are elected from the whole NCSG by the NCSG membership. We have an executive committee that has two members from each constituency and a chair elected again by the membership. And we have a policy committee, which is responsible for all the policy decisions and appointing people to working groups and so on. Again, two representatives from each constituency, all our council representatives, a policy committee chair, and me as NCSG chair sitting in there as well. And most importantly, we appoint representatives to many of the working groups. I would say all, but not quite all. We haven't been able to have people in every possible working group going on in the GNSO because there are so many right now. But we are in most, and definitely in all the important ones, we have our representatives who might be council members, might not. So that is a really good way to enter the whole policy process. If you have interest

in one of the working groups, what we are trying to do now is put somebody who's really experienced with the policy issues as kind of the head representative and somebody who really wants to pick up the speed and maybe take over the job as a shadow, learning on the job and also being able to fill in the moments of the other member can't attend the working group and so on. And pretty much anybody with an interest who is a member can be a representative in a working group.

So that's my formal presentation. At this point, happy to answer any specific questions about my part, before I hand over to my two colleagues, and we will do a Q&A at the end for all of us, but if you happen to have any specific ones, I'm happy to answer them now as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If there is no question, we will move to the part of NCSG, so Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, as Julf introduced to you. So one part is NCUC, which is Noncommercial Users Constituency, and my great pleasure to introduce you to Benjamin, who is part of the fellowship family and always keep us feel proud of him, making NCUC also happy. So Benjamin, the floor is yours. –

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Thank you, Siranush, for this opportunity. Good morning, everybody. So I don't have slides for you, but I'm going to do it in a different way. I need somebody to help me share this with the audience, please. So those are my [inaudible] I'm having a divorce party with PowerPoint. So my name is Benjamin Akinmoyeje, and I belong to the Noncommercial

User Constituency. What we do here is we represent the, as you've heard, that there are two parties on the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. So in our group, our concerns are things like advocacy for human rights, censorship, that there shouldn't be any censorship in the policy development process of ICANN, freedom of expression should be maintained. All of this diversity, these are the issues that are passionate to us. So if you are interested in any of these conversations, our constituency is the place to belong, is the place to get your hands and your feet involved. So that is what we do. I would have loved to show you where we sit in the whole ICANN multi-stakeholder ecosystem, but that stake is not here right now. So you just need to get involved. And what it means basically is that when you come to our constituency, we engage you, you participate, we discuss our mailing list, and on that mailing list, everybody is allowed to speak. Nobody is better than the other. That is where you really get your voice to gradually be understanding the issue, you get your voice out, and then we get involved in the policy process through this level of NCSG, you understand?

So that point is where you get involved as a community member, and you start seeing even the opportunities to participate. That's where it's at that level they look for volunteers. It's at that level you get nominated to NomCom. It's at that level you represent in NCSG. So being a member is very simple. On that pamphlet I've given you, there's our website there. All you need to do is, I mean, we all can go to www.ncuc.org, Noncommercial User Constituencies. At that place, you show your interest that you want to participate. And once you show that you want to participate, it's evaluated at the NCSG level that you belong, that you

can join us. You see, and the only thing that is required of you is to be an individual who resonates with the interest of human rights, freedom of expression, diversity, all of that. I want to be sure that you don't occupy or play a role in a business entity or a for-profit entity that will be more interested in commercial interest. It's not that we hate commercial interest. It's just that we are focused on noncommercial interest. So if we see that you pass all those little tests we put on in our checking criteria, then you join us.

So here is where you have the conversations that will really let you understand why you are here. Like, we debate everything. So, and it's very open and free to all. Sometimes individuals feel intimidated because they don't have the history or they don't have the context. But over time, just like I did as well, and as Siranush said, I was sitting here some years ago. Gradually, I got involved, and you won't believe it, to leadership, by the way. So you too can do it. So it's getting involved, and now we have plethora of ways you can get involved. If you write your experience as an ICANN fellow, and you're looking for a platform to share your blog, we have a website that is willing to take your blog posts to share on our website if it relates with what resonates with us. And that alone has given you a point of participation. So next time we have opportunity, we're looking for somebody to come and represent us at an ICANN meeting, we could give it to you. What other easier way can you get to engage? So that is NCUC for you, and we hope that we will see you in our community. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We have our next presenter, Caleb, coming soon, shortly, and he will talk about NPOC, which is another part of noncommercial stakeholder. It's Not For Profit Operational Concerns. But before we go to Caleb, and before he join us, if there is any questions about general NCSG, and I will probably kick off. What are the key points which are you working now, and where you can see the newcomers can come and be engaged? So what is the role of the new person who just came to his first ICANN meeting, and wants to understand why you, and what you do, and how they can be part of it? So give it a bit of clear introduction, the ways of engagement would be much preferable for this group. Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Okay, so one of the issues that we are very passionate about is the new GTLD program. The next round, we stopped calling it SubPro, but the new gTLD. ICANN is putting out the call very soon for applicants, people who are interested—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: What is GTLD? Don't speak with acronyms. This is the group who starts their learning process. Let's pretend we are newcomers, Benjamin. We were newcomers, right, one day. So please.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: I apologize for that. So the new generic top-level domain. You know the .com in your websites, right? That last part. So there've been introduction of new ones, .xyz, .hotel, so there's a process again to introduce newer ones. I mean, at the last one, we got .africa. So there's

another round, another time to call for applicants to apply for that level, that part again, so that we can have maybe .your name, you know?

So now, in the last one, some people from a particular section of the world didn't participate actively. We didn't see a lot of applications from that side. I mean, we only got .africa. So this time around, that this round is coming up again, in NCUC, we want to see more diverse community. You want to see people from those who were not well-represented at the last round succeed in this new round. And there's something we are passionate about, which is the applicant support, that those who are applying for this program should succeed, especially if they come from the diverse community or the less privileged community like the Global South. And we are doing everything possible to make sure they get the communication, they get the support they need. Even if it's financial, we're advocating for that. So every time you hear the new gTLD program and the applicant support, that is something we are passionate about. So if you come into this, as you are welcome now, look at, I mean, put on a new eye lens, eyes at this issue, and bring new suggestions. So that's something you can contribute to that we think it's important.

Another issue we have been looking at that is going around a lot that you hear about is DNS abuse. And what is concerning for us is that we do not want ICANN to be involved in content moderation. So we don't want this DNS abuse conversation to be somehow used to become a thing that is used to bring ICANN into moderating content, which is totally not the role of ICANN. So for us, DNS abuse, and it can be defined in different ways. So that's why we're interested in DNS abuse. So you

can help us redefine it, you can help us understand it. So that is an issue we're also concerned about.

Another issue we've been concerned with lately and is still brewing up is something called PICs or RVC, public interest commitment. So in this second round, that argument is going on seriously in our community. And I want to encourage you on Wednesday, if you're free, we're having an entire session, 90 minutes to discuss this issue, to see that registrars, would they be made to sign an agreement where they commit to some issues that if somebody does this, we're going to cut them off or remove them. And we're saying no, they shouldn't volunteer that, they shouldn't get involved in that. So this conversation is happening on Wednesday. We're promising lunch after because we are celebrating as well. So if you're free on Wednesday, join us and you'll see how it really works. Also in policy meeting, you can join as well. So these are the issues. I mentioned three to you. This is a good place to start.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, we have a question already. Shita, please go ahead. You can use the mics over there. We have standing mics.

SHITA LAKSMI: Hello. Thank you very much. I'm a newcomer, first time ICANN fellow and this is my first ICANN meeting. It was very nice to hear in the video because we have to take the courses here for NCUC and I think I'm very passionate about the NCUC as well. Now it is a very pragmatic questions. My question is, what is the policy impact of the NCUC? And the second one is, how long does it take to have that policy impact? The

second one, maybe I would like to ask the chair of the NCSG, yeah? Because we have this in the GNSO, you have the commercial, registries, registrar and NCSG, what is the power dynamic behind that? Who has the most power? Do the NCSG has also the equal power as the others? Because I think in NCSG may not have the direct interest compared to others, if you can share. Thank you very much.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So one of the most significant impact that I think NCUC has shown is, you know you can't see the WHOIS anymore, it's no longer as available as it used to be. For us, that was something we advocated seriously against. We didn't want the WHOIS to be publicly available as it has been. So that's one of the advocacy and impact that we have had. We fought assiduously to make sure that privacy breaches is eliminated. And if anything hasn't been done, I mean the new system that is SSAD, all of the new system that is being worked on, it's also all of our work to ensure that WHOIS doesn't come in in another format. It really does what we want to see. It was a product of historical accident. So moving forward, we want, so all of the conversation going on right now, those are some of the things. I won't say it's only NCUC, but it was something that we're passionate about that got finally done. And we do our policy there in NCSG. So thank you. Okay, how long? It's always—I mean WHOIS took a long time, but it eventually happened. And others too, so I mean policy development process and implementation, even when you develop the policy, it takes a long time for implementation to happen. And even when implementation happens, it also takes a while for you to start seeing the impact. And that's why we keep, everybody keeps doing, contributing their bit. If you wait until I see the impact, I

don't think you would do anything. But it's a continuum, you keep doing. So yeah, thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

First off, I would like to continue what Benjamin said about the timescale, and especially the WHOIS. On the WHOIS, it was actually the reason to start the first ever EPDP. And I will actually spell out what that is supposed to mean and what it actually means. We have the normal PDP, policy development process. But for the WHOIS, we started the first ever expedited policy development process. Except all of us who were in that process very quickly started calling it the eternal policy development process. It did drag on, and there was a continuation, and there was a continuation. So sometimes things take a really long time because, and that addresses the second part of your question about the power dynamics imbalance, that really the GNSO works just like, for example, IETF on rough consensus. If any of the parts really strongly says, no, we don't agree with this, it just doesn't become policy. So we have to find a compromise that everybody can live with, and that can take a long time, but that also gives each of the parts a lot of power. But also, we have to be good at justifying why we disagree. And we have to convince the other people that we have good reasons for it. Because if we just say, we don't like it, that will very soon be bypassed.

I also want to address a little bit there is—And this is good to be aware of, that of the four major parts have, in theory, equal power. But there is the practical issue that registrars and registries usually have very similar interests. So they tend to agree on many things, and then you already have 50% of the GNSO going one way. Whereas we and our

commercial counterparts don't so often agree. There are major issues where we strongly disagree, which means we don't always have the same collective power. But again, because of the consensus mentality, we usually get our word out there anyway. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So before we move forward, I also would like to give, we have already Caleb here. So to give the floor to Caleb to introduce what is Not-For-Profit Operational Concerns constituency doing, and how it relates to overall NCSG Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. And then we'll continue with questions. Caleb, the floor is yours.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Thank you very much. So this presentation is going to be handled by myself and Juan, our incoming chair, who is smiling over there. So give him a good fellowship welcome. Yeah, so my name is Caleb Ogundele, and I'm the membership chair with NPOC. And you might be asking what really is NPOC. At least as of today, it's the Not-For-Profit Operational Concerns. Few things might change as we probably move ahead. But that's not the main contention of this conversation right now.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The name here in the screen says not-for-profit operational concerns. But that's now changed. That's not the name now, right?

CALEB OGUNDELE:

Yeah, that was what I mentioned that for this presentation ... So it has changed, but for this presentation and for what we are doing today, until when that is official after this meeting, for now it's still... Yeah. So until after this meeting, we'll still just maintain that. So now what is NPOC? So NPOC, basically we are one constituency under the NCSG. You can be part of what we do in NCSG if you own like an NGO or you're coming from an NGO background and you have something that connects to what we do in a Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. We basically provide the voice for internet governance around folks who are around the NGO. And part of what we do is that we do our policy support through the NCSG. And that's why you probably see that we have our NCSG chair also seated here. So when you see NCSG in your mind, I just want you to see how you break it into like a two branch. While NCSG is just in the center, it probably has two hands. And so you see NCSG here, you see NPOC here, but we do things that are quite similar, but our focus is basically, if you're coming from the not-for-profit background, NGOs, and so we try to narrow some of our focus around that. And you might be asking, what is it that you probably need to join our membership? It's simple. If you're coming from that place, please make sure you see myself, Juan, and I also see Raoul in the room, our outgoing chair. Please give him a fellowship welcome.

So just to quickly give you a quick summary of some of our priorities. Some of our priorities is not narrow, but some of our priorities also revolves around DNS abuse, transparency of domain registration. Juan will also talk about some other policies that is part of the TPR. We also support things around privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property abuse, and quite a number of other issues.

So you might be asking, how can you participate to become a member? One, go on NPOC's website, which is just a very simple website name. It's NPOC.org. And you can probably sign up for your membership there or have a conversation with us immediately after this presentation. And I think that's a quick summary of what NPOC is. So I will yield the floor to Juan to just quickly add one or two little things and summarize my presentation. Thanks.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

My name is Juan Manuel Rojas, the incoming chair for NPOC. As Caleb said, our name is changing. It's Not-For-Profit Organizations Constituency now. And so to be there, you need to be part of these not-for-profit organizations. And we are related with, as Benjamin said before, because we are brothers. We are like brother constituencies, working on the noncommercial part of the GNSO. So I think that's important. We are a tent to solve your doubts or your questions if you have any. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you very much and congratulations, Juan, for to be as an incoming chair. And Raoul, we worked really well during your tenure, so my appreciation for all the work you did for NPOC. And I'm looking forward to seeing you staying in this community with your expertise. Yes, please.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Yeah, I would like to give a concrete example of something that NPOC's been involved in. I like concrete examples, and it's very hard to find

those in ICANN. I think the biggest issue that we've had—I've been here for some seven years now, and I think the single biggest issue we had for, especially NPOC, was the intended sale of .org. And that was something that Internet Society wanted to sell through the Public Interest Registry, who owns.org, and basically, as far as I know, ISOC gets most of its money from. They were going to sell it for a cool billion dollars, and there was a huge outcry all over ICANN. I think it had a historic record on, like, opposing comments. I think there were 3,000 public comments against that. And it was going to be completely ignored by ICANN, as far as they could, really, until the Attorney General of California stepped in and said that, "Look, you have to do this properly, and this is not the way to do it." So that's one of the fights we did have over the years. It is hard to find these kind of concrete examples, but that's definitely one of them.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Thanks for sharing. There is a question from Sara, who is our virtual fellow for ICANN78. So she would like you to explain, and anyone can take the floor to explain, what is DNS abuse? So talk about the DNS abuse and how you deal with this by terms that ordinary Internet end user can understand. Who would like to take the floor? I would like...

CALEB OGUNDELE: Okay, I'm going to use the elementary one, and they can criticize me. So, you know, the DNS, like, okay, no, the domain name system. So they are different. I mean, we all have Yahoo.com, all of that. So sometimes people get that process of resolving that name from numbers to names. People come in between that. How many of you have gone to your

website and it takes you totally to somewhere else? So that arrangement, people poison that system in such a way that you want to go to maybe ICANN.org, but it takes you to ICANN, maybe... Something is a little bit different about it, but you think it's the same thing, and you go somewhere else. And a lot of people do that, bad actors do that. And in the process of doing that, maybe increase their own, I don't know, revenue or even do cyber attack on you. So those funny, funny activities that happen there, and the system that make that happen to people who are not very detailed oriented, is they're abusing the... When they do that in those systems, and all activities surrounding that is what they call DNS abuse. There's a lot of them. So trying to mitigate that, to stop that from happening, there are some drastic steps that operators of these systems want to bring in place, and it can be used to... In the process of trying to do that, they can start moderating content, saying this website is abusing this contact, is abusing, is doing this, and that's what we're trying to avoid that, see what is really this abuse. And for me, I'm still trying to understand it clearly, because there's different ways people argue about it. So that's my elementary way of explaining it, but I might have not helped you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

So I just wanted to add to that classic example, because I was trying to look for a more elementary way of explaining it. So we all know the domain name ICANN, right? Now, we know that the domain name ICANN is I-C-A-N-N. Now, imagine that there is another letter that looks like a tiny N somewhere, but doesn't look like the N, right? And then somebody, a bad actor, kind of comes up with that domain name, and tries to use it to deceive you, as you mean ICANN has a paywall where

you can pay for something. A bad actor comes in and then tries to deceive you to maybe put your credit card there, and all of that, but doesn't want you to go to the real ICANN's website. Those kind of activities, you can break it down to something like it's—

CALEB OGUNDELE: Like ICANN, 1 instead of I.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, or you use something like the ICANN. You know ICANN is I, right? And maybe when you're typing it, you can just make it, if it's lowercase, it's L, right? Or you can make it 1, or something like that. So those are tiny, classic example that I'm trying to break down as much as possible in the more elementary way, where you can see an example of DNS abuse, while someone is behind the scene trying to manipulate you to get to a wrong domain, which is not where you are intended to go via your query that you're supposed to use. So I'm just trying to break it down as elementary as possible. So that's one of the things we concern ourself also within NPOC, and within the NCSG as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please.

JULF HELSINGIUS: And after you heard what DNS abuse is, I would just like to add what it isn't, because this is a common misunderstanding. DNS abuse is if somebody really uses a DNS system to sort of fraud you. The fact that somebody sets up a website with fraudulent content is of course bad,

but it's not DNS abuse as such, it's just abuse of a website. And that is something that ICANN doesn't really have any power over, and can't do anything about, and it's not in the scope of ICANN. So we have to remember that ICANN is really about identifiers, not content. So it's important to remember that distinction. Yes, there's lots of bad fraud out there on the net, but it's also not in ICANN's remit to do anything about it.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Just to add that you can find more information about this kind of attack is known as man in the middle. Is the one person or system put in the middle between two ends, right? That's why the name or the website changes. That's the name that you can use for Google it, and receive more information about that. There are another kind of attacks, but this is the more common on DNS system. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Bibek, please go ahead.

BIBEK SILWAL:

Thank you to all the speakers for the amazing introductions, but I had a confusion in here. So, At-Large Advisory Committee also represents all the end users, their interest, and NCSG also represents the individual users. So, I wanted to know in terms of functioning and operation, what is the exact difference between the ALAC and NCSG, and how can we be a part of this NCSG as a part of this representative of civil society? Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Yeah, thank you. Good question, and it's a question we hear a lot because it is easy to get confused there, and sometimes we do it ourselves. The first very fundamental difference is, of course, that ALAC is an advisory organization. They can give advice, but it's not binding in any way. It is very valuable, and the GNSO will listen to it, and the board will listen to it, but it is really the GNSO that makes the policy, and NCSG is the part of GNSO. So, we have a lot of members who are members of both, and there's nothing against that, and it's a good idea because they have very different purposes. I would also like to sort of, despite what we all claim, nobody can represent all internet users, we represented them through the civil society, ALAC mostly through the ISOC chapters, but considering how many billions of internet users with very different needs and opinions out there, nobody can represent all of them anyway. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

So, you were asking how you can participate. Those are our executives, [Ken and Millie. Millie represent the Asia Pacific, and Ken] represents the North America. We also have Africa rep, we have Latin America rep, so you can participate in NCUC for your different regions, and that makes it easier, so you could bring the unique perspective of your region to NCUC, and in that way, you're also bringing it to NCSG, so that is our participation model. So, thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Yeah, there is another simple, but deep difference between ALAC and in this case, NCSG, is, okay, ALAC can advise for every topic in ICANN, right? But NCSG is related mainly with generic top-level domains, and within the policy process itself. We can add, of course, anyone in the community can do, but we are part of the body that do the policy inside ICANN, so that's the main difference, I think. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. By the time I was here at the beginning, this was the first confusion I bumped to, so thank you for clear explanation. So, I have a question, and I'm not sure if this directly relates to what is merit within noncommercial stakeholder. Constituency, this is about the new round of gTLD, so when it is expected, and the question is, what are the criteria to be assigned a new gTLD? Like, what does an organization need to apply and need to do in order to apply and get new gTLD? If you can cover those questions. If this is within your merit of discussions. If not, then we can direct to the ones who are dealing with this.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Yes, I think I would like to deflect this to the subsequent procedures working group who have been really working on this very hard and produced rather complicated document that is hard to summarize in a few minutes. So, I really suggest you go and look at this last report from the subsequent procedures working group that tries to answer those questions reasonably well, and it's now sort of more, the open questions have to do with the applicant support and those procedures.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We have a question from the auditorium, Houda, first, and then we'll go to [inaudible], and we'll come back to you.

HOUDA CHIH: Hello, everyone. I am a newcomer to the fellowship program. The question is to work towards the working groups of NPOC if you want to join, what are the different working groups? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So, if we understand correctly, what are available working groups within noncommercial where the newcomers can join or where anyone can come and join? What are the groups, working groups that you have?

CALEB OGUNDELE: Well, I don't have all of it in my head, but the individuals involved in policy, actively participating in policy development process, they know that. However, one thing I know as a chair that I get every time is emails requesting for us to nominate members, to nominate individuals to join different groups, especially high-stake ones. As of yesterday, there was a call that we should send our good members to these groups. So, if you've been participating, and sometimes participating on our mailing list just means you are responding to volunteer calls or you are responding to interactions, then you can easily be suitable, like, oh, this individual has shown over maybe two weeks or three weeks that they are passionate about this conversation. So, we're going to suggest let them go represent us in that group. So, in terms of, I think the first thing to do is to join our group first, and then you could see the opportunities available. You can see the opportunity available outside and want to

join the group when you're not a member. So, the first thing to do is to be a member, and then you see the opportunities available, then we assign you to those opportunities.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

I would actually like to contradict you in a little bit. The first thing is not necessarily to be our member, because I just want to point out that we are very much believers in openness and transparency, so our mailing list archives are totally public. You can go, even if you're not a member, you can already go and look at our mailing lists and see what's going on. So, feel free to do that.

[MILLIE:]

Yeah, I just want to chime in on this. Hi, everyone, my name is [Millie.] I am the NCUC EC for APAC region. I will connect you to all my colleagues in the other regions, but feel free to reach out to us, whether or not you're a member yet. Just to add into what she asked, there are tons of working groups and there's a lot going on. The first thing as a fellow, and I'm saying this as someone who was in that chair two times before, figure out a house. First, find out what is the house you want to be a part of. NCSG is one big house. There are two rooms, NPOC, NCUC, as you've heard. Identify that by the end of this meeting. Join multiple houses if you want to. So, At-Large is another house. Experience that, be on the mailing list. Be prepared for your inbox to be flooded with things that you may not always understand and lots of volunteer calls and all of that. Coming to working groups, there are lots of different tracks. Like we heard applicant support, we heard subsequent procedures, a lot of these different tracks that are going on. You'll have to be a member of a

house or a family, I would say NCUC is one family, to be a part of these tracks. But before you get into a working group, to be able to understand anything, I would really recommend experiencing the policy transition program. I haven't done it yet, it's fairly new. It's been run from the org side, but a lot of people from the community actually give you a really good simulation of what it would feel like to be in it, to be in the policy development process. Plus, it gives you a lot of background information, which is a lot. There's a lot of reading, there's a lot of catching up on. Imagine this stuff has been going on for 20, 25 years, there are some tracks that have been running eternal or expedited, however you want to see it, for 10 plus years. So there's a lot of background information that you need to catch up on if you want to get into a working group. I would really recommend looking up that program, policy transition. I think the second one's already happening, and it's about 50 people in the cohort. I asked me, Benjamin has done the program himself. There are some fellows who may have already done it. That's a great step two from the fellowship. So along with joining any of the memberships or any of the houses, think of doing that program if your time and schedule allows. If not, being on the mailing list will also give you a lot of information. A lot of self-study will be involved in catching up. And then, of course, once you think you're primed and ready, when you're on the mailing list, you'll see a lot of opportunities for you to jump into a working group, any particular track that is really active. These things ebb and flow. Some things can be trendy at a particular point, and lots of people are working on that. So we'll be happy to welcome you in our little house, and hopefully we can all propel you into more amazing policy developers. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Thank you really for mentioning that program, because it's a very important program, and we were actually the pilot for it. So we were very happy with the program. So I'd really encourage you to look into it. I would also like to say that one thing about ICANN in general and GNSO is, yes, there are all these working group meetings, there are all these council meetings. They tend to seem a bit formal. The real action happens in the corridors and in the evenings. That's where people then really sort out the difficult issues. The same procedure applies to, if you're interested in something, come and talk to one of us. We'll be around in the corridors, we'll be around in the evenings. Talk to any of our members. They might not know, but they might know who knows, and they will introduce you to the right people. Feel free to come and talk to us. We don't bite off heads usually.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Before going to Ankhzaya, I would like to give the floor to my colleague, Andrea, to tell what relates to this.

ANREA GLANDON: Hi, everyone, my name is Andrea Glandon, and I'm actually the ICANN staff support for the Noncommercial Stakeholders Group. And I just wanted to, I'm really glad that Millie brought up the Policy Transition Program, which is actually now called, sorry, another acronym, the Policy Development Accelerator. The second part of it has started, but I'm gonna make sure I send the wiki page, which is just our internal webpage, that you can see all of the information, to Siranush, and she

can send it out. Because even though the program has already started, you can follow along, because they'll post the recordings, they'll post all of the information that they're going, that they're talking about. So you can still follow along, even though you're not directly involved. And you can go back to the first topic that they discussed, and go through all of the recordings and all of the information. So it's a really good place to start.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Yes, please go ahead. Apologies.

ANKHZAYA TSEDEN: I almost forgot my question, but anyway. Thank you for contributing for the generic top-level domain sector. As I can see, there is a noncommercial supporting group. They have a lot of constitution and community helping in all of this journey. Is that correct? In order, for instance, if I am a private business sector, I have an intention to be registry or registrar for the generic top-level domain. In this case, do I need your voice or support or your contribution for the program, registration to be selected, registrar or registry of the generic top-level domain? Is that correct or no?

JULF HELSINGIUS: We are involved in formulating policy, but the practicalities of actually getting a top-level domain is normal ICANN operating business. And you go typically through registrars and registries or become one yourself. But you don't need to go through us for that. We work on the long-term

policy of what the rules are, but applying them is for ICANN as an organization to do, not us as a community.

ANKHZAYA TSEDEN:

Okay. Noncommercial supporting group is just only for stand for public interest of domain name policy, yeah? Okay, thank you. Maybe let me explain a little bit things. Maybe some of our fellows don't know what is generic top-level domain, what is country top-level domain name? Yeah, country top-level domain is just country, .cn, .de. Generic is .hotel, example .hotel. Example .coca-cola, yeah, is it a generic top-level domain?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, very to the point. Yes, please, [Julf.]

JULF HELSINGIUS:

And I would like to add a specific clarification to that, that there is a fundamental difference between the country codes and the global top-level domains. In the country codes, the rules for each country code are made up by whoever runs that country code. And ICANN has very little to say about that. Whereas for the global top-level domains, generic ones, it is really ICANN who sets the rules. So there is that distinction. While the country domains are strongly represented here, the relationship is different between them and ICANN.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. If you raise your hand, by the way, in the Zoom, I wouldn't miss any one of you. So, Claudia, do I remember you correctly? Yeah, please, go ahead.

CLAUDIA LEOPARDI: Yeah, I'm Claudia, I'm a NexGener. And I was just interested in the next round of gTLDs that were mentioned and we were talking about. My questions would be, who would you like to see more participation from? And which are the incentives and the limitations to apply to induce underrepresented communities to apply? So we talked about the limitations a little bit before. So like the criteria manual is quite intense to go through. But what would be the incentives to allow this underrepresented communities to apply?

CALEB OGUNDELE: Why did you ask this question? But it's okay, it's okay, let's go for it. So we, you know, ICANN is one internet, one world. So if we really want that to happen, we really need to get multilingual top-level domain names. We want, also, we believe that the, I mean, the next population that will come on the internet are probably going to come from the people we have not seen thus far. So we don't know the baggage they are coming with, but we want to make it accessible as possible, as much as possible to them. So if the way things are right now doesn't favor that, I mean, just imagine the application fee. There are a lot of people who can't even try that a lot. Like, they wouldn't even think about it. It totally eliminates them, because the application fee, where are they gonna get it? Also, is the technical requirements and technical capacity to be able to maintain it. But then, remember the mission, one internet, one

world. So which world are we talking about? Which internet are we talking about? When we know the people it already serves. So what we're saying is, this next round should be as flexible, not flexible, as easy as possible for those in the unrepresented community. And incentives, we hope we will see, as we've seen it change other parts of the world, that when that happens, what we have seen historically will probably happen there, so that this will be one of the things that will galvanize the level of economic growth, empowerment, freedom of expression, and all of that. Those are the reason why we are doing this. If we don't believe in that, we won't be doing this. Thank you. Naima, please go ahead.

NAIMA AWAN:

Hello everyone, I'm Naima Awan, I'm from Pakistan. So yesterday at one of the ALAC's session, I asked a question that what is ICANN's stance on internet shutdowns, as it directly hurts and violates human rights. And the answer that I got from there was that ICANN definitely doesn't support this, but also is not doing much in this regard. And today I saw Mr. Benjamin's presentation, and on this pamphlet also it's mentioned that you advocate, NCUC advocates for human rights and freedom of expression. And I find these two views very contradictory, and I'm confused, so I want you to please clarify that in what capacity NCUC is advocating for human rights. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

I'll try to start answering. One is of course, what we advocate doesn't always become ICANN policy. Unfortunately there are various opinions, and of course especially in this case, the opinion of the governments in

GAC have a rather heavy influence. We are very strong believers in human rights, and we keep advocating for them. Privacy has been an extremely big issue, and we are very strongly against any sort of censorship. And we have several members who have been extremely prominent in the international community in speaking against sanctions, for example. So there's a long record there, but we haven't always been 100% successful in convincing all of ICANN to follow our ideas there.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

So this conversation is ongoing, but before it used to be like, don't even talk about it. But one of the things that ICANN has become is a rallying point, not as an [inaudible], but places where people who share the same opinion meet. And if you look at a place like Africa where ICANN is now investing in infrastructure, so it's another way to indirectly see that they are fighting internet shutdown, because they're investing in infrastructure. Maybe before it was easy to shut down because there's an easy point of shutdown, you know? But now as they invest in more infrastructure, maybe it can become a conversation that they get involved in. I mean, internet shutdown has been a prominent issue in Africa. But also you know that there's limited infrastructure, so it was easy to do. So this conversation is very prime in IGF, but then you see that a lot of the people advocating for that to interface with ICANN in one way or the other. But as we know, ICANN remit is very narrow, but it can always be a place of rallying and talking about this. And to mention, even in our issue report, or our membership meeting, somebody's gonna be talking about some form of sanctions and all of that. Although we are careful, but you can see that we're giving a little

bit of platform to have this conversation heard. And we are beginning to drum up beats about impact of sanctions on free internet. You see, but we still do not know the direction this conversation is going, because we know and we're clear about it that ICANN's remit is just very narrow and it's in that area of numbers. So we are doing the best we can. And you know also, right? [inaudible] you also know how much we're doing. So thank you. Shut down is too tricky. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Yeah, I would like to continue from that. That's of yes. What ICANN itself can do is very limited in that ICANN is about identifiers, not the actual network. It's more the network operators who have the power to cut cable, for example. What ICANN can do and they are doing is they are really looking at the main name server redundancy and trying to put redundant copies of the name servers as widely as possible to help make it hard to isolate the country.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

And here we have ICANN Org staff members. So Adam Peake, who can explain more what is the role of ICANN?

ADAM PEAKE:

Oh, I don't know. Can I? So I met you yesterday in the welcome ceremony. I'm Adam Peake. I work for Global Stakeholder Engagement. What I didn't mention yesterday, I think, is that I also have a responsibility for civil society, engagement with civil society. So I work with these lovely people and I also work with the At-Large. And I would also be very open and happy to work with any of you, should you wish

to understand a little bit more about what ICANN is doing in this space. Also, unlike a lot of staff who spoke yesterday, I didn't come through the fellowship program because I joined the NCUC when it was called something else in 1999. So I'm exceedingly old, but I've been around for a long time but was never a fellow. To your point, as Julf has mentioned, others have mentioned, the ICANN remit keeps us within our identifier system and what you will see in the bylaws. But we are interested in this issue. We're particularly interested in the topic of internet fragmentation, as you'll see it. And I organized a session at the IGF a week or so ago in Kyoto, where I brought together people representing what we see as a sort of spectrum of issues around fragmentation. So for ICANN, the issue is keeping the single global interoperable internet. We want packets to flow. We want the single internet where you know that the website you're going to is available to you. Others have concerns about fragmentation of governance regimes, and that is a very legitimate concern. And ICANN touches on some of that. And then there's a fragmentation of the user experience. And that's really what you're talking about, whether it's a shutdown or whether censorship in some ways so that people are being denied in some way access to information, whether it's a whole shutdown of a country, whether it's a shutdown of a series of websites and so on. That is somewhat out of our remit, but we absolutely recognize that there's a sort of continuum from our desire to keep the single global internet essential that we do not fragment that. But we recognize that there are other parts that are equally essential to the experience you all have. And that is where it comes in to answer your question about what is ICANN's opinion on internet shutdowns. We don't really have an opinion per se, but we recognize that this is all part of the same issue. And it's one of the things

that's interesting about the NCSG and the constituencies here is that you will meet people who are policy advocates. They tend to be the people that you'd see in other forums advocating for rights, for open internet and so on. So if you're of the mind to be a policy advocate, you have a point of view that you want to get across, then you'll find a lot of like-minded people within the NCSG. And that was why I participated at the time. I've been involved in internet policy for a very, very long time. So yeah, these are one of my original constituencies. So I hope that helps a little bit. What we're not trying to do is say, internet shutdowns aren't important. They're very important, of course. But they're a little bit out of the way of what we can affect, if that helps. And so thanks for the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: It's just similar also to the visa issues. We're always concerned about this issue, but we cannot interfere into the embassy's internal policies. So that's the way. And Raoul, you wanted to add something to this?

RAOUL PLOMMER: Thanks, Siranush. So yeah, again, a couple of examples. So a good example of where the NCSG has defended privacy is the fight over WHOIS. And well, I have to say, I've become a little more cynical in ICANN, but I don't think that would have actually happened without the help of GDPR. That was sort of the last thing that really got it out of the door. And that was even late, as it was, because of this eternal policy development process. And the other thing, censorship-- so content moderation is something that ICANN actually has in its charter, denying that possibility. But I've heard that there might be a way around it. I

think one of them might be that ICANN actually changes the contracts between the registrars and registries and forces them to moderate. That's something I really wouldn't want to see, so please have an eye out for that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Any other questions from the audience? Yes, Adebunmi.

ADEBUNMI AKINBO: Adebunmi Akinbo for the transcript. DNS Africa Media and Communications, ICANN 78 fellow. There was the mention on infrastructure, so my question is, what role is NCSG and ICANN taking as it concerns infrastructure in Africa, and what can members do to support? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So thank you, Akinbo. As far as I'm concerned, there is a stakeholder engagement group, which I'm pretty sure some of you are aware that ICANN has in Kenya, which they have an office domicile there on the one hand. On the second hand, I'm sure they have lots of IMRS replication servers that they have probably put as infrastructure around that copies of the root servers that they have around also in Africa. So that I am aware of. So I know that ICANN is doing quite a number of substantial work in Africa, supporting the internet infrastructure there as well. One other thing that I am also aware is that more recently, there was this launch of Coalition for Africa, which they also have like a DNS roadshow, supporting registrars and other registries to do quite a number of work in Africa. So I'm pretty sure that if you probably see one of the African

GSE team members around, I think we used to have a former fellow, June, who is now the GSE manager. And then we have Pierre Dandjinou, and we also have Yaovi and Yazid Akanho. They are already in this meeting. I saw them yesterday. You can have more conversation with them, engage with them, and they will be able to give you more information about what ICANN is doing infrastructure wise in Africa. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

And just to add, there will be also Africa Space during the week. So please, those who are interested to meet those people from Africa, feel free to join. I would also like to point out that ICANN is, of course, only one of the I-star organizations, as in all the different organizations who actually share the responsibility of keeping a global internet operating and working under reasonable rules. So IETF is more looking at the technical standards. So neither of those are really the organization for infrastructure. The people you want to really talk to if you're interested in infrastructure are, on one hand, the regional internet registries, who actually interact with network operators and infrastructure. And I, for example, I am co-chair of one of the working groups in one of the regional internet registries. But above all, you should also talk to Internet Society and their local chapters who are very much involved in that. And both Caleb and I are deeply involved in that organization. And then there are also operator forums and internet exchange forums who are really directly involved in the infrastructure. So there's many different players. And in that specific space, ICANN is not really the major player.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Please go ahead.

JOAO ROCHA GOMES: Thank you. Hello. Thank you for the discussion so far. My name is João. I'm a NextGener from Portugal. I'm particularly curious about the topic of auctions following this definition of generic top-level domains. So what role do you play, does ICANN play, also in the regulation of potential commercial transfers of these top-level domains? Well, I'm assuming that there are many funds that generate from this. Do we have a role in stating where these funds are allocated? Or is it purely for commercial use in the free market? Yeah. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Well, if I can try to make a first cut. It's kind of funny, because this was something brought up again last night when we were actually celebrating the anniversary of GNSO. And actually, the first process and recommendation that came out of what became GNSO was actually a transfer process. And that's something we constantly keep revisiting and refining. So there's definitely-- that is probably the oldest and most refined process. The rules are pretty clear there, but there's always corners that can be improved.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: To add, there is a work group right now with that name, Transfer Policy Review Team, if you want to join as observer, of course, to see what is discussing right now in transfer policy. Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Also, I know that-- I don't know which auction proceed was, but there was a time-- it's not as visible anymore, that conversation, but I don't know where the auction happened. But we got involved discussing what the auction proceeds should be used for. So if there's ever going to be some kind of auction in the future or something, I think there's always opportunity to participate in those conversations, what those auction proceeds should be used for. I knew because I participated in one. Yeah, thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then, I'm not sure, but correct me if I'm wrong. I'm sure that part of the auction proceeds also being used for those in Africa, being used to support the coalition for Africa. Conversation that is going on now where we have funds, they're being also used to support things around what happens also in Africa. So yeah.

BARKHA MANRAL: Hi, everyone. I'm Barkha Manral, one of the ICANN 78 fellow from India. So my question is, as you people say that content moderation or lookup is not in the remit of ICANN, then would you suggest any organization name which is looking over this particular thing? So would you suggest any organization name which is looking over on this particular thing? Or is it still an empty space?

JULF HELSINGIUS: The organizations mostly involved in content filtering or content selection, let's say, are really country governments. They are the primary drivers of that. And they are really the people to talk to about that, I would say.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: I don't know what to say about this. But something just came up in my mind. Ken, do you mind if I put you on the spot to talk about policy transfer? In terms of content moderation, why Ken comes up is the fact that we know that ICANN is not supposed to participate in content moderation. And the argument that has been happening here is a way to get ICANN to moderate content. For us, and that's when Raoul just told us about getting registrar to moderate content. And that's what I meant by public interest concerns or registrar voluntary commitment. Because at that point, they will commit to some things like if we see anything like this, we will either redact it or-- and we don't want that. And the reason is we want diverse-- I mean, the argument is freedom of expression for us. So organizations interested in content moderation is not so much in our midst. We don't know how to deal with that. But there might be other communities who are interested in that, and whichever shape or form they are. But right now, it's not—

BARKHA MANRAL: Still an empty space.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes.

[ADAM PEAKE:]

Very quickly, I would suggest talking to Bruna Santos, who's one of the NCSG members of the GNSO Council. She's Brazilian but works across civil society and would, I think, be able to answer your question. There's other organizations, the Association for Progressive Communications, who have networks across the world, and then big NGOs like Access Now and so on and so forth. But Bruna, in this space, would probably be your go-to person. But I think she's in a GNSO Council meeting, so she's representing the NCSG there. But that's one of the interesting things about the NCSG and why, before I joined staff, I was a member, is that the networking amongst policy advocates is very strong. People come here to work on ICANN-specific issues, but they're very involved globally on other topics, nationally, regionally. So it's quite an interesting-- it is a good group for the policy advocacy space. So there's my PR. He'll buy me a sandwich later. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. Please, go ahead.

THOBIAS MOURA:

Hi, everyone. My name is Thobias. I am a NextGen from Brazil. And you guys mentioned WHOIS data system at the beginning of the presentation. And I'm curious about it, how you engage with data protection laws, and national data protection laws. Is there a general approach applied by the NCSG?

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- JULF HELSINGIUS:** I think general approach would be a little bit of describing it to-- that would be a too sophisticated description, I would say. We have a fragmented approach where we try to-- where our members who actually have a relation with their data protection agencies in their countries do have a dialogue. But we don't have a coordinated dialogue on a global level, unfortunately. We have to do it more on a local level. The only exception is, of course, the European Union that has kind of a unified approach. And there it's easier to find a single contact to talk to. But otherwise, we are more relying on just ad hoc relationships.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you. Coming to the end, as each of the panelists, your call to action to fellows and nextGennrs to sum up this session, what will be?
- UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Correct me if I'm wrong, Andrea, we have NPOC membership session. But I don't know the specific-- Tuesday. Yeah, okay, great. Because I haven't looked at my calendar yet. So we have it on Tuesday. And please look at the ICANN schedule to get the exact time and the location of where we are going to be. One good thing about this is it's always fun to be in this meeting. You get to see some of the key actors. And I would say, please don't quote me, but this is a joke. See ICANN as a big jungle. And you see some of the big lions and tigers in the room who are coming to have this conversation on policy-related issues. And you even get to see other NPOC members, NCSG members, NCUC members that are going to be in the room. You can interact with them. And one last thing I'd like to say as a fellow, a former fellow, but once a fellow, always a fellow, is that grab someone by their hammer. When you're interested

in their constituency, don't let them go. And the best time to ask one of the most stupid questions in ICANN is when that tag, fellowship, is on there. If you ask me any dumb question, it is my fiduciary duty as a former fellow, to give you good answers, guide you, help you. This is the best time to ask absolutely any wrong question, even if the question is good. So ask that question now. Because when you have that fellowship tag off your list, your name tag, when you ask those questions, people might look at you in a different view again. So better ask now.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And if you don't know the answer, you know who knows. Yes, please, [inaudible].

JULF HELSINGIUS: I would actually like to pick up on that, and yes, what Caleb said is perfect, right? Come to our meeting, membership meeting, you see the actual debates going on. But then a small warning, don't be scared away. Because this is ICANN. And especially in our community, there are people with very strong opinions and strong views, and they might come across rather strongly with their views. It might disagree with some other views in the room. You might, if you're not used to it, be really scared away by, oh, it's a very hostile environment where people are really disagreeing with each other. Yes, but also then notice, as soon as the meeting is over, they will go for a drink together. Because that is how ICANN works. And we really appreciate speaking out your mind. We try to listen to each other's opinions. And we might not agree with them, but we try to understand them and find a compromise between them.

So don't be scared away if you see some strong opinions flying in the air.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

Thank you. I want to tell everyone here to participate, that there's nothing to stop you from participating. Joining a mailing list is the easiest thing you could do. You just need to do some clicking, and you're in there. I mean, it might take a while for you to be approved as a member, because that's the protocol in place. But I want to encourage you to participate. If I can be doing this, you can as well do it. And for the things you're passionate about, all you need is that passion to—you will learn along the line. Don't want to know everything before you engage. And I've given you the pamphlet, right? So you don't have any excuse. That's all the information you ever need to engage. So all we just want to see—and there's a huge need for you. They are looking for new hands, new insights, new voices. So all the requirements, all the elements are right at this moment. So if you are not participating, it's not from anybody. It's all on you. So and I really mean that genuinely. So please engage. Participate. Come to our membership meeting. And we're offering lunch on Wednesday. So what else can we give, guys? So please engage with us. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Can I just very quickly—but if you join our mailing list, please make my life slightly easier. And don't join with the email address XYZ123@hotmail. I will have to block it as a possible spammer, and it will take a while before it gets released.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. Juan, yes.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Yes. First, I want to thank to all of you to be here and hear us. And remember, you were selected, right, to be here. So use your voice. It's important for us that because you have a new perspective, new question that maybe we haven't already because we are involved. So don't be afraid to use it. So that's it. Thank you very much. And we are we will be around for every question that you have. Even out the session, between the corridors, inside the coffee breaks, you can use all those spaces to approach any of us or any of any person in the community. So thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We only have two minutes left. If you want to go with your last very short question, then please go ahead. Go ahead.

MARIANNA KANIELS: Good morning. My name is Marianna. I developed legislation to regulate the national level domain name system in Ukraine, and I'm trying to protect national domains. When implementing this legislation, there may be many questions about domains. It's possible to address current questions to ICANN. For example, protection of the national domain name in the occupied territories.

CALEB OGUNDELE: So that conversation is going to happen in our membership meeting. I think that's a good place to discuss it, because it's also a conversation that is very slippery right now. We believe everybody has a right to share their experience, but we do not also have any right—Because remember, we said this, one Internet, one world. So irrespective of aggrieved parties and things like that, we just want to try and understand the issue. So we have Oksana giving a presentation about this in our membership meeting, and that will give us a broader understanding of this conversation. So I want to encourage you to also invite people you want to listen to this conversation to follow you along with this conversation to come to that session. So that's where we are right now. It's still a very topical issue that we don't understand yet. Yeah. I hope that answers your question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And a very brief question from Abdirashid is, how does the NCSG make sure that the members are representative of the diversity of noncommercial stakeholders?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So in NCSG, we welcome everybody, right? Whether you are from the APAC region, you are from anywhere you have equal footing, there is no regional representation within NCSG that much. So it's about what can you do? What policy work can you support? And I look forward probably by next year. We used to have like a policy writing course, which we used to have from way before. Maybe this is a conversation that we might probably have to have with ICANN support staff that used to support us to bring this back. And this is where we'd like to see fellows like you

participating in that ICANN writing policy course, where you can actively participate within what we do in NCSG, which is the most important thing, policy.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

And I do want to point out that we up here on the stage, are probably a good representation of geographical and cultural sort of diversity in our organization. What you don't see here is you don't see any females among us. And that's just a temporary quirk. Both chairs before me were female. So, but for some reason this year, well ...

[VANDA SCARTEZINI:]

[inaudible] here the females because they are in the council right now.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

So they are doing the actual work. Thank you. We got it. With that, I would like to thank all of you. It's really my immense pleasure having you being part of this session and providing the clear explanation of one of the key and important constituencies within ICANN, within this multi-stakeholder model. So thank you very much for being with us. Thank you all for active participation. With that, the meeting is adjourned.

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