
ICANN79 | Prep Week – What to Expect During ICANN79 A Guide for Newcomers
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 4:30 to 5:30 SJU

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

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removed from this session if you do not sign in using your full name. With that, I will hand the floor over to Tripti Sinha, chair, ICANN board of directors. Tripti, the floor is yours.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you for being here. Thank you very much, Deborah. So I'd like to start by giving all the newcomers a very warm welcome and here to ICANN. We are just delighted to have you join our community and make the time today to go through the session. So my name, as Deborah said, is Tripti Sinha and I'm chair of the ICANN board. You're going to learn a lot about ICANN today during the session and during our meeting in Puerto Rico, but at a very high level, I'd just like to say that this is a global multi-stakeholder community and you are representing that multi-stakeholder community by just joining this meeting today. And our mission is essentially to ensure the stable and secure operation of the internet's unique identifier system.

Now, the reason why it's so important to have you here is that ICANN's continued strength relies on its community. So we have to ensure that we get a constant flow of new faces and new blood. So we are delighted that you're here today. Newcomers are a vital source, a resource and source for the ICANN community. As we look to increase ICANN's volunteer base, it's very important to continue engaging you, to participate in ICANN's activities and to ensure that we have the appropriate representation from the entire world and from all the different constituencies because ICANN is what it is. It maintains the internet, which is open to the entire community, the world, world community.

So we've developed a very vibrant agenda for ICANN 79 Puerto Rico, and you will learn a lot about that. The actual topics range from technical fundamentals of DNS to sessions working with the policy community to all kinds of different issues. And I urge you to attend as many sessions as you can and to really just soak in the content and the experience. So with that, again, a very warm welcome to each of you, to the ICANN community, and I will turn it back to Deborah.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you so much. I'm going to hand it back over to Naela Sarras, VP Stakeholder of Engagement for North America. Naela.

NAELA SARRAS:

Thank you very much, Deborah. And thank you Tripti for the introduction to the session. My name is Naela Sarras, as Deborah said, I am the Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the North America region. And I'm joining you today from Los Angeles, California.

So my team here on the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team, our main task is to work with you, the community, and support your participation in all the various ways that Tripti just spoke to. And we're really happy to see you here in this prep week and the upcoming ICANN 79 meeting. We're really glad to see you joining us, and we want to welcome you to this meeting. And I specifically want to welcome the meeting itself coming back to the North America region. As you know, the meeting is in Puerto Rico and in ICANN geographic regions, that's the North America region.

The meetings are simply held to further policy development and advisory work that goes on in the ICANN, by the ICANN community and through the ICANN ecosystem. The work is only successful when people like you, newcomers and existing participants, continue to come and engage regularly, contribute their knowledge and expertise in the policy development and advisory work, and really make this a much richer product for everybody to develop the internet.

This is why ICANN takes the meeting around the world to different regions to encourage participation from different communities, as well as different sectors, such as academia, business, technical community, government, and so on. So as Tripti just said, this is a really multi-stakeholder model in a very diverse community. As of yesterday, the registration numbers for ICANN 79 coming up were around 1,100 people registered to attend the meeting in person, and about 300 registered to attend remotely. Because as you know, ICANN supports a very robust remote participation model to help support other people participating in the meeting, even if it's not happening in person.

Together, all these attendees represent about 150 countries and territories. So as Tripti said, I really encourage you to participate in the prep week and visit and look at the schedule of what sessions are happening. The sessions are very diverse in terms of the topics that they cover. We have tech day sessions, there's a public forum where the ICANN board of directors really is just sitting there and welcoming community input and community comments and questions that come to them. That happens on Thursday morning, typically. There are sessions that also similar ones that happen with the executive team on

the ICANN, executive team where they're doing a question and answer with the community. Different regions do what's called a space session. So for us here in North America, we'll have a space session that's really more of a working session with the community to talk about priorities and planning for the next fiscal year and on. And other similar sessions also happen with other regions. So I do encourage you to check them out.

There'll be sessions on geopolitical, legislative and regulatory developments. That's a very large topic. And ICANN has committed to having a session on this almost every ICANN meeting. So I would check that out as well. And then because this is a community forum, there's a number of sessions where the community itself is doing its work, but then there's a lot of sessions where there's the community is meeting with the ICANN board and those are always very helpful because it gives you an idea of what each community's concerns are and what their priorities are. So please join the meeting, join the sessions, whether it's in person or remotely. All of us staff are here to answer questions. If you have any questions, use the email addresses for all of us are listed on our slides at staff and we're happy to answer any questions. And we look forward to seeing you in Puerto Rico for seeing you there in person. And with that, I'm going to hand it over to my colleague, Joe Catapano. Thank you very much.

JOE CATAPANO:

Thank you, Naela. Welcome everybody. My name is Joe Catapano. I'm the, as the slide says here, I'm the Stakeholder Engagement Director for the North America region, as well as the academic sector globally. I am

based in the Washington DC office but I have this lovely virtual background of San Juan promising that I will have warmer weather in my future because it's still rather cold here in DC. If we can just go to the next slide, I will talk a little bit about what is on tap for us here.

So I will talk a little bit about ICANN in general. I will try and give kind of a high level overview. My goal will be to not confuse you any more than you may be already. If at any moment over the next 5 to 10 minutes, I fail at that, please let us know in the chat, ask questions. There are no dumb questions, if you will. It's complex stuff, so we're here to help. Then I will hand it over to my colleague, Carlos. We'll talk a little bit more about policy development at ICANN. And then Fernanda will talk a little bit more about resources for newcomers, public in general. And we'll have a little Q&A and close it up. So if we can go to the next slide, please.

So as a newcomer at ICANN, you may kind of be thinking. You know, if you type a web address into your browser, how do you get where you're going. How does this whole thing work? And even some of us who have been around a while, sometimes maybe asking kind of that same question. So that's kind of where our team and the stakeholder engagement team, as well as the other experts here at the ICANN organization are here to kind of help you get a feel for, technically, how does it work? And then also, how does the policy work get done that supports those technical functions, that the kind of, the things that you'll see on the ground in San Juan when you're there, or if you're virtually, you'll see them in the room. If we can go to the next slide, please.

So try and put yourselves in the shoes of our kind of template, ICANN newcomer, if you will, whose name is Maria. So she was a newcomer five years ago. She works for a nonprofit as a community organizer. She focuses on privacy issues. And today, she heads an important committee on domain name policy. This is an example of kind of how the trajectory of an ICANN stakeholder might look, if you will.

So someone who doesn't know a whole heck of a lot about ICANN, the technical functions, or the policymaking process, starts by coming to a webinar maybe like this, then participates in their first ICANN meeting, either virtually or in person, and continues along a journey of kind of continuous learning, if you will. You know, Maria probably had the same questions that you might have today she might have had five years ago. I think what we want to emphasize is there is a path here, even though it seems very confusing and overwhelming at the beginning, that's okay. Everybody's been in that position, and there are a bevy of resources, both collateral online, and also in personnel and staff to kind of help you along.

So if we go kind of the main question, if we're going to start talking about kind of what ICANN does, right, take a look and say, so kind of think about how does your device find a web address when you type the words in the URL into your browser, and what is ICANN's role in this entire effort? Can we go to the next slide, please?

So the two things to kind of think about here are names and numbers. And when I get to a slide further down, you'll actually literally display that that is what the two N's in ICANN stand for. So behind every domain name, there's an IP address. We use names instead of numbers because

numbers are hard to remember and names more or less are not. So it's a bit like the domain names system functions a bit like a phone book. So there's the internet protocol addresses. The numbers and the names, right, need to, is the kind of other identifier and those need to resolve in order for you to kind of get where you're going on the internet. So ICANN's kind of main technical function is to resolve those names and numbers.

Now, in the beginning, there were only a few hundred users, not like it is now where there are billions. So there was one individual who held, the address book, quote unquote, for the entire system. His name was Jon Postel. He was a researcher at the University of Southern California and he kept track of all of these things, if you can believe it, in a handwritten database. So he had kind of a list of the devices and the IP addresses and anything that was connected and reachable on the internet. Now, obviously, as I mentioned today, there are billions of users. It's impossible for one individual or a collection of individuals to maintain all of that information and keep it organized. Thus, in 1998, ICANN was created to essentially manage this address book. If I'm just going to kind of, again, take it to a very high level. Okay, we can go to the next slide, please. So we can go one more, go to the next slide.

So ICANN stands for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. So, again, we coordinate those last two, the unique, what we call the unique identifiers of the internet. You'll hear that term kind of tossed around too at the meeting. And our community, right, that gathers at these meetings works on the policy to support those technical functions. So here's a look at kind of our main mission. Our

remit is to ensure that the internet remains stable, secure, and interoperable. So on this next slide here, it'll kind of break down the different pieces of what sometimes will be referred to as the ICANN ecosystem. So there is the community. Which is you all here in the audience here today, as well as those that you'll see in the meeting in the halls and actually doing the work. There is the board of directors. Led by Tripti, who you just heard from at the top of the webinar. And then there's the staff. Folks like myself, Naela, Carlos, Deborah, etc., who function kind of as a secretariat and execute on the policies developed by the community and ratified by the board. And we'll go to the next slide.

So what Carlos will go into in a few here is he'll go into detail, but the way policy is developed at ICANN, pardon me, is we function under something that is called the multi-stakeholder model. So basically at the most basic level, what this means is different representatives from different sectors, mainly private sector, business, civil society, academia, the technical community and governments and end users, come together on equal footing to both develop policy and advise on policy as it relates to ICANN's mission. And it goes bottom up. From the community filtering up to the board, as opposed to kind of a more traditional governance framework, which is more top-down, more, like if you're talking about kind of a national government, formulated by a legislature and then kind of dictated to the users or the public, if you will.

And we can go, I think I jumped ahead a little bit. You can cycle through the next two slides. It would give you a feel for kind of what I mentioned

here. So these are kind of the different players here that you'll see. So there's commercial entities, there's also non-commercial entities, NGOs. So in addition to members of the governmental advisory committee, in addition to governments, there's also international organizations that are represented as well. And then as I mentioned, internet end users. Very important part of the ICANN community, that they may not be affiliated with a particular company or government or other entity, but they still have a key role in the ICANN community. And I think that is a nice place to hand it off to my colleague, Carlos Reyes, to go into a little more detail about policymaking. Carlos, over to you.

CARLOS REYES:

Thanks, Joe. Hi, everyone. My name is Carlos Reyes. I'm also based in the Washington DC office. And I'll be walking you through today, the ICANN community. So if we can go to the next slide, please. Perfect. So the ICANN community, there are three supporting organizations. And you'll hear them referred to as SOs. And then later we'll talk about the ACs, the advisory committees.

The supporting organizations, if we're going to define them at a very simple level, the supporting organizations are the ICANN community groups that develop policies. And those policies are then referred to the ICANN board and then if the ICANN board approves those policies, in the case of the GNSO, they become binding on the contracted parties. In the case of the ccNSO, they are then implemented by ccTLD operators. And for the ASO, they're then implemented by the IANA naming function on the regional internet registries.

So you can see there a direct relationship between the stakeholders of ICANN that manage the policy development for the different identifiers and the policy mission of ICANN. And that relationship is that ICANN is where the policy is developed. So we'll talk a little bit about these supporting organizations in more detail. You heard me reference the address supporting organization. This is the supporting organization for numbers. So internet number resourcing policy originates within the ASO.

At ICANN, the remit is very specific. It is global in nature. So some of you may be familiar with regional internet registries, the RIRs. Those communities develop regional policies for their service regions. And at the global level, when the five regions agree on a policy, the ICANN community gets involved in a global policy and reviewing that, and then ultimately referring it to the board through the address council for approval.

So if you take away anything about the ASO from today, keep in mind that it is for global policy development. Global policies are actually pretty rare. The last time this process happened was 2011, 2012. And that's because most of the policy development happens at the regional level. So global policy development is rare, and it's a very specific remit of ICANN's policy mission.

Let's move on to the ccNSO, the Country Code Name Supporting Organization. This is the policy body that develops policies for the country codes. So as you may know, the domain namespace also consists of ccTLDs, country code top level domains. These are two letters, for example, .br for Brazil or .uk for the United Kingdom. So the

supporting organization that manages the global policy work for ccTLDs is called the ccNSO. It also has a council that manages its work, and the ccNSO is comprised of the operators. So the organizations that manage these two-character ccTLDs. And their policy development process is also pretty rare. They were currently in the fourth policy development process in its history. And that's partly because the ccTLDs largely operate independently outside of ICANN. So when they coordinate at the global level, much like the ASO, it's really for a specific purpose to ensure that they're all aligned on one particular issue. So that's the ccNSO.

The last one is the Generic Name Supporting Organization. And this is the group that you'll probably hear about the most at ICANN. A lot of the sessions you'll see in San Juan, in person or remotely, a lot of the policy issues revolve around questions or issues that the GNSO is exploring. And the GNSO is, as the name suggests, the supporting organization for generic top-level domains. So this is everything from .com to .org, to some of the new generic top-level domains that have been entering the domain namespace since 2012, and actually earlier. So the Generic Name Supporting Organization, as you can imagine, has a lot of perspectives and interests and views and opinions. And it's organized through a lot of different subgroups. There's stakeholder groups, there's constituencies, and those groups all participate in the policy development work of the GNSO. The stakeholder groups, there's the commercial stakeholder group and the non-commercial stakeholder group. And then, like I said, there's constituencies representing business, intellectual property, internet service providers, and the non-commercial users and not-for-profit organizations. We also

have the contracted parties, which consists of the registries and registrars. These groups are contracted to ICANN and the policies that the GNSO approves are binding on them through our contractual relationships with them. So the outcomes of the GNSO have a direct impact on how the gTLD namespace operates and through what policies are then implemented. And that's how you have access to them as a user and how your registrar then presents them to you. So there's a complex relationship there, but in the end, these three supporting organizations are there to help carry out ICANN's policy mission. So let's go to the next slide, please.

So I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the sessions to expect for these three supporting organizations in San Juan. The address council of the Address Supporting Organization will have work sessions dedicated to revising internet coordination policy two. This is one of the first policies of the ASO nearly 20 years ago to outline criteria for establishing regional internet registries. So that group is exploring how to revise that document. They're also conducting information sessions about just number resourcing and the relationship with the IANA, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. So if you're interested in the numbering space, I recommend you look for those sessions on the schedule.

As I mentioned, the regional internet registries also conduct their own meetings. So those typically happen in two cycles every year. So the first cycle of those meetings is coming up and from time to time, you'll see ICANN staff members there engaging with the regional internet registry communities as well.

So on the ccNSO front, one way to think about the ccNSO is that it provides a platform for country code top level domain operators to discuss issues of relevance to their work. So they're going to be focusing on some policy gaps that exist in their work today. They're also going to conduct capacity building for ccTLD registrants. And they're also going to exchange information on best practices and other information that their members can find relevant. They do have some ongoing work related to DNS abuse within the remit of ccTLDs. And they're also looking at things like internet governance and the ICANN budget through its strategic and operational planning committee. Finally, the ccNSO also organizes tech day at every ICANN public meeting. So if you're interested in more technical topics and how to bring that to your work, there are tutorials there that are led by members of the technical community. And that's, as I mentioned, a standing element of ICANN public meetings. And then much like the ASO, the ccNSO is also conducting an information session about its relationship with the IANA function and the Customer Standing Committee, which is one of the groups set up after the transition of stewardship of the IANA functions. So that is an overview of the ccNSO schedule.

On the GNSO schedule, as I mentioned, that's where the bulk of the policy work is happening currently. There are three, I think, policy working groups underway that will have sessions during San Juan. Not all policy development working groups convene at an ICANN meeting, but these three will. And the first one is the transfer policy. This is one of the oldest consensus policies at ICANN that's looking at how domain names can get transferred. So that's been under review by the GNSO

now for about a year and a half or so. And that PDP continues to make progress on its charter.

The GNSO is also looking at internationalized domain names. And obviously that's a major component of the next round of new gTLDs. So there's some new policy issues there to consider as part of the implementation of the next round. And then a PDP that actually finished some time ago, but some of those recommendations have been in pending status related again to subsequent procedures for new gTLDs. Those recommendations are under discussion in San Juan as well.

And then finally, we're going to see some ongoing implementation work related to the temporary specification for gTLD registration data. If some of you are interested in the intersection of domain name policy and privacy legislation, that's probably the sessions that I would recommend. The temp spec was put in place in 2018 in response to the European Union's general data protection regulation. So there've been a lot of policy conversations since then about how to adapt WHOIS to the new landscape. So that group has been managing the work for a few years and also guiding some of the implementation work by the ICANN organization.

All supporting organizations will also have joint sessions with the ICANN board. So you can take a look at the schedule for those interactions. So I'll pause here to see if there are any questions about the supporting organizations before we go to the advisory committees.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Carlos, there are a couple of questions in the Q&A pod. I can read them out. You can answer or you can type the answer.

CARLOS REYES: I'll read them and we can go along with them. So I think the first one here is from James. Thanks, Deborah. The first one here is from James, which organizations work with or collaborate with the IETF? All right, that's the first question. And then also from James, which ones deal with security and stability?

All right. So James, so ICANN has a lot of different touch points with the Internet Engineering Task Force. In fact, the IETF has a liaison to the ICANN board. And then some IETF members also participate in some more technical groups. I know the Root Server System Advisory Committee also has a liaison. And I believe some IETF members have been part of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee as well. So like I said, there's multiple touch points there between ICANN and its community groups and the IETF. And then, like I said, I'm sure there could be others, but those are some of the structural relationships that I'm aware of.

And then in terms of security and stability, I will get to that in a moment with our Security and Stability Advisory Committee. But I think it's important to note, James, that security and stability, even though we have an advisory committee specifically dedicated to that, it is part of ICANN's overall mission. So all of the supporting organizations and every ICANN community member and every advisory committee is

thinking about the security and stability of the Internet in their work. So thanks for the questions. And let's move on to the advisory committees.

All right. And then I also, I'm just catching up on the chat. I see the question from Marina about transfer policy review. Marina, I think if you're interested in the transfer policy, then I recommend attending that session, yes. But I think any policy session, if you're interested in getting more involved in policy development work at ICANN, any policy session could be a good introduction. And don't hesitate to reach out to the staff members there if you have questions about the proceedings or what they're discussing. Sometimes the policy meetings can be overwhelming when you're a newcomer, but they're open for a reason, and there's always someone available to help you understand.

So let's move on to the advisory committees. So there are four advisory committees. Each one provides advice to the ICANN board and the ICANN community from a different functional perspective. The first one is the At-Large Advisory Committee. And I'm just saying first because it's the first on the slide here. But the At-Large Advisory Committee expresses the interests of individual Internet end users. So that's you, me, all of us, anyone who uses the Internet, if there's an interest there to engage in the advice work of the ALAC, the way to do that is through the At-Large community, which is organized through regional At-Large organizations. And those At-Large organizations then elect an advisory committee of 15 members. So that's the At-Large Advisory Committee.

The GAC, the Governmental Advisory Committee is ICANN's door to governments. And that's how public policy issues and ICANN policy issues interact, is through the relationship with the Governmental

Advisory Committee and its members. The GAC and the RSSAC, which is the next one, the Root Server System Advisory Committee. These were actually the first two supporting advisory committees established in the ICANN bylaws. And the RSSAC is comprised of representatives from the root server operators. So the GAC and the RSSAC were the first two. And then over time, the ALAC was added, and then SSAC right after the September 11th terrorist attacks. So that's the evolution of the advisory committees. But as I mentioned, the advisory committees provide advice to ICANN board and the ICANN community.

And then before I forget, SSAC, I know I talked about that a minute ago, but this is the advisory committee that was set up to look at security and stability issues of the internet's naming and address system. So it's a broader or a more focused look at security and stability all within the ICANN mission. Next slide, please.

So looking at the schedule, the advisory committees also have their own tracks during an ICANN meeting. In the At-Large community, there's a focus on the new Network and Information Security Directive in the European Union, that's the NIS2 directive. There's also a session that's going to look at internet infrastructure and its relationship to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. So if you're interested in some of the UN topics and how they interact with the interests of end users, you may want to consider that section. The regional At-Large organizations always take time to coordinate during ICANN meetings, so that will happen. And then as Naela mentioned earlier, just like ICANN has regions and the ICANN meeting travels around to the different regions, each regional At-Large organization also hosts events

during a meeting when it's in their region. So the North American Regional At-Large Organization has a town hall and as well as a networking event. So if you're interested in joining the North American Regional At-Large Organization, make sure to look out for those sessions.

The Governmental Advisory Committee is spending a lot of time recently on capacity development for their members. This is to ensure that government representatives are informed about ICANN policy and ICANN issues. So this particular meeting, they're spending some time learning about internet number resources. So a lot of interactions with the Address Supporting Organization and the regional internet registry communities and staff. They're also spending some time looking at applicant support to make the new gTLD program, the next round of that more accessible. And then as you might expect, there's a lot of interest in the intersection between ICANN and data protection policies. Again, this goes back to some of the issues from the GDPR and the GNSO policy work that resulted as a consequence of that.

The GAC is also looking at mitigation strategies for DNS abuse, which is a topic across a lot of the groups, but the GAC has a session on that. The RSSAC has some work sessions. They're looking at issues of security incident reporting. They're also presenting a tutorial about the root server system. So if you'd like to learn more about the root server system and root server operations, I recommend looking for those sessions and tracking the work of the root server governance working group, which is a group that is evolving the governance of the root server system. The SSAC for every ICANN public meeting organizes a

security workshop, a DNSSEC and security workshop. DNSSEC is a domain name system security extensions. So if you'd like to learn more about how to deploy DNSSEC in your network, check out that session. And the SSAC in the last two ICANN meetings has started to open up its work sessions. So if you see an SSAC work session, do stop by. These are relatively new for the SSAC.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Before you move on, we have a question in the pod. We also have a comment that I can read out loud in the chat and a question in the chat.

CARLOS REYES: All right. Let me go to the pod first. Okay. Thanks for flagging that. Can you explain for us the relationships of ICANN with the ITU? All right. Thanks for the question. So the International Telecommunications Union is the United Nations body set up for the telecommunications work of the United Nations. So ICANN is not—we have a membership within one of the ITU tracks, but the ITU is its own separate organization. And I think over the years, we worked together on common initiatives and shared goals, but they have their own work and we have our own work as well. Naela, I don't know, or anyone else wants to comment on the ITU work? Go ahead, Joe.

JOE CATAPANO: So, right. So going off of what Carlos said. So the ITU is a intergovernmental organization. It's one government. ICANN is not a government. So it's one nation, one vote type thing. We are sector members of the ITU-D, which is the development sector of the International Telecommunications Union. And while we don't have like

a vote in proceedings, we do have a team within the ICANN organization, a government engagement, international governmental organization engagement as well, that interacts and engages regularly with diplomats, governments about ICANN and issues in front of the ITU that may affect ICANN's remit. So there's a lot of education and awareness raising about how it works. So we have folks in New York, as well as Geneva, doing a lot of that work there. And we also, I'm going to drop the link in the chat, the government and IGO engagement group at ICANN develops a lot of publications, again, to raise awareness, not just with governments, but also the broader public. So I'll drop that in there. They're quite interesting.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Thank you, Joe. Okay, there's a comment in the chat from Argentina. Thank you, Carlos. I thought you had suggested one meeting related to GDPR and that it was the one about transfer policy review and comment. Also, there's a question from Rashedul, who's a NextGen. How do the activities of RSSAC and SSAC differ in terms of operational activities? Is SSAC part of RSSAC? If possible, can you share some of the technical activities and contributions done by SSAC?

CARLOS REYES:

Thanks, Deborah. So the activities of RSSAC and SSAC. So RSSAC, the Root Server System Advisor Committee, looks only at advice related to the root server system and the integrity, the operation, the administration of the root server system. Whereas SSAC looks at the broader domain name system. And is SSAC part of RSSAC? No, they're

two distinct groups, actually. There is some overlap in terms of membership and through liaison relationships. The RSSAC has a liaison to SSAC and vice versa. And they do collaborate on work from time to time, but they are separate organizations. And they do have, like I said, their own separate missions and they have their own publication series. And then the third part of it is, can you possibly share some technical activities and contributions by SSAC? So I think what I'll do here is I'll share the link to their publications so that you can read some of the RSSAC publications and some of the SSAC publications. You'll notice that RSSAC publications are specifically aimed often at either advice to the ICANN board or advice to, for example, root server operators. Whereas SSAC publications can have broader audiences. But really it just depends on the scope of what questions the groups decide to address. Sometimes RSSAC will have documents that it wants a broader audience. For example, when it wrote RSSAC 37, which is looking at the governance of the root server system. Sometimes SSAC has publications that are maybe looking at a specific issue. Like I think at one point they looked at emoji and alternate namespaces. So it often tries to explore topics that may have a broader audience. But I'll share those links in the chat. And it actually is a good segue to this slide about—[inaudible] So if you'd like to prepare for any of these sessions, all of the groups have their agendas and documents available for you to review. So give me two seconds and I'll share those links in the chat as well. Next slide, please. All right, so prep week.

Obviously we're in the middle of prep week. If you'd like to learn more specifically about the policy work of the ICANN community, we have the policy and advice update tomorrow at 15:00 UTC. And then later

tomorrow, there's also a session that's looking at the supplemental recommendations from the generic name support organization, new gTLD subsequent procedures policy development process. So I'll pause there. Thank you all for listening. I know that was a lot of information. Take your time reviewing these slides. And as I mentioned, reach out to anyone on ICANN staff if you have any questions before the meeting or during the meeting. Thank you. And over to Fernanda now.

FERNANDA IUNES:

Thank you, Carlos. Hello everyone. My name is Fernanda Iunes and I'm capacity development manager here at ICANN. Also based in the Washington DC office, just like Carlos and Joe previously. So next slide, please.

So while being a newcomer at ICANN can sometimes feel a little bit overwhelming, we do have a lot of resources available to help you make the most of your opportunity to participate. And as I'm sure you can tell from this call, there are also many people who would be more than happy to help you find your way.

So a great resource for you to begin your ICANN journey is our free online learning platform called ICANN Learn. If you haven't done so already, you can sign up and start taking a few courses. There you'll find training on ICANN processes and policies, as well as technical topics and skill building courses. These will help you maximize your participation in the work of the ICANN community.

There are also other ways to connect and boost your knowledge of ICANN. You can first sign up for your regional newsletter, which will give

you ICANN information relevant to your particular part of the world. So that's super helpful so that you can find information to anything going on around you where you live. You can also follow our social media accounts, which will be listed on the next and final slide of the session.

You've probably already registered for ICANN 79, but if you bookmark that meetings page, it'll help you navigate the schedule more easily. Please note that participation links to the sessions are only provided 24 hours in advance for security reasons. Also note that you can access the presentations from any session within the schedule itself.

If you're new to using Zoom, there's information in the meetings page to help you set it up to participate even more efficiently. Just a quick tip, it takes quite a few clicks to get into a session. So just be sure to give yourself a few minutes to get settled when you want to attend a session.

You may also want to explore our newcomers webpage and from there, learn more about what we do, how we work and how your talents and expertise can help advance ICANN's mission. These beginner pages will also help you learn more about programs such as NextGen@ICANN, which is a program for university students, our fellowship program that's designed to help participants from all around the world participate fully at ICANN meetings, and the ICANN for beginners virtual program, which is a series of interactive webinars tailored specifically for newcomers.

Acronyms are a challenge in any new environment and ICANN in particular is full of them. So it can be helpful to bookmark the acronym and terms page so that you can quickly reference any unfamiliar terms.

It's also fine to encourage people to explain the acronyms they use. We really are all trying to get better at that. So please just butt in and ask what the acronyms mean if you don't know.

Other webpages you may want to note include our communities page, policy development support and technical functions page. Each of which can give you some great insight into the complexity of ICANN and also how the various teams and community groups come together to achieve the great internet policy development work that gets done here at ICANN. And with that, thank you for attention. Deborah, back over to you.

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Okay, thank you everybody. Are there any final questions for our speakers? I know there's a lot of information that came at you today, but just keep in mind that this whole deck is posted at the ICANN 79 website on the schedule. So you can look back at it. And I want to give a great big thank you to all of our speakers who were here today. These are very busy people. So we're very, very lucky that they were here today and they spent their afternoon with us. If anybody has any questions, any further questions, reach out to engagement@icann.org. And I'm happy to address those questions at that email address. And please visit us at the engagement booth, which will be located on the third floor at the conference center for those who will be participating in person in Puerto Rico. Thank you so much for being with us and enjoy your rest of your day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]