
ICANN79 | CF – Get to Know the ICANN Community: ALAC Members Networking Event
Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 3:00 to 4:00 SJU

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hello everyone and welcome to Get to Know ICANN Community. The first session among the series of the sessions Get to Know ICANN Community, which we will be having more tomorrow, planned for fellows and NextGeners. And this is the session with At-Large, focusing on At-Large. During this session, questions and comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form, and I have put in the chat what is the proper form. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak, in case you will be speaking a language other than English. Speak clearly at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. And please make sure to mute all other devices when you will be speaking. You may access all available features for this session in the Zoom toolbar.

With that, it's my great pleasure to introduce you At-Large community. Actually, many of you know that I was fellow, but after my fellowship, I found my home, and my home was At-Large. So this is, I am back to my roots. And that's why it's my pleasure and honor to be with At-Large community here and to introduce the chair of ALAC, which is At-Large Advisory Committee, and the members of RALOs, which is Regional At-Large Organizations. And I'm happy to see that all RALO chairs and members of RALOs are represented here, are here with us. So I would like also, at the end, starting with Greg, who is host of this meeting from North America Regional At-Large Organization, chairing this region,

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would like also to introduce other chairs and the members of different RALOs. So as the fellowship group is global, you start to learn people from your region, as we talked during our first session. As the NextGeners are all from North America, so they will be having the pleasure to see and be welcomed by the host, NARALO chair. But before going to RALOs, I would like to give the floor the chair of ALAC, who is Jonathan Zuck, and who will be introducing the rest of the team. Jonathan, the floor is yours.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thank you very much. My name is Jonathan Zuck, and I am the chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee, which is the body that represents the At-Large community into the ICANN community and in the ICANN processes, basically. So at the core of the At-Large community are these RALOs, these Regional At-Large Organizations, and they elect the majority of the ALAC, and then some are elected by a nominating committee. But the majority of them come as representatives from these regions, and then that group, in turn, made me the chair, for better or for worse. So that's the group that I represent.

So you're going to be meeting with a lot of different constituencies inside of ICANN, and it's a very interesting organization. You probably, in your briefings, have heard the term multi-stakeholder. And so the idea being that everyone that's got a stake in the policies that are being created by ICANN around the DNS is present and part of those discussions. And so that's often contrasted with what we call a multilateral organization, which is made up primarily of governments. So this is really the addition of the private sector, civil society, and what

we call the technical community to be all part of these conversations in hopes of bringing all of these different perspectives to the decisions and make better decisions as a result. So all those folks are represented here at ICANN. There's a business constituency that's made up of businesses. There's an intellectual property constituency that's made up of mostly trademark attorneys. There is a constituency for the people that sell domain names that are called registrars. There's a constituency for registries, the ones that sort of manage domain names. There's a constituency for ISPs, the people that sell Internet services. There's a constituency called the noncommercial user constituency, which is kind of a rights-based organization trying to advocate for the rights of people that register domain names. So you can see there's a lot of different voices.

And we are tasked with what I think is probably the most difficult task, which is to represent the interests of individual end users. You can sort of think of us as the constituency of other. Everyone else. And I sometimes say that we're actually the constituency that incorporates everyone because no matter how technical you are, most of the time you're just an end user. I mean, most of the time we're doing online banking. We're making airline registrations or dinner reservations. We're just doing email. We're just being users. So that's the perspective we bring, the hat that we wear, when we're engaged in the policy development processes inside of ICANN, is just everyday user activities. So we like to say that it's not actually a group of people, but it's like a role. It's a group of activities that are end user activities as opposed to technical activities or running a business or something like that.

So there are five RALOs, or regional At-Large organizations, that represent each of the five ICANN regions, which is North America, Europe, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and Africa. So those are the ICANN regions, and so each of those has a regional At-Large organization.

And so then each of these RALOs, and there you go, are the RALOs, each of these have what we call At-Large structures. So they have members of these RALOs, and they can come in two forms. One is another organization that's called an At-Large structure, or it can just be an individual. So for example, I'm an individual member of the North American regional At-Large organization. But for example, an ISOC chapter might be an organizational member or an ALS member of a RALO. So those are the people that make up the RALOs, their membership, and many of those organizations in turn have members as well. And very often they have their business, their remit, is broader than just ICANN. Like they preexisted, but because they have an interest in some or all of what we do, they become involved as members of RALOs. Hopefully that makes sense. So that's our structure.

So one of the things that makes us unique as a constituency within the ICANN community is this depth, this incredible deep structure. Or when we use the sports metaphor, we talk about a deep bench, so that we bring a much broader, more diverse perspective to the work that we do because we have all of these layers associated with us so that when we're trying to ask a question of what would end users want, we can actually in some instances ask a lot of people. Sometimes the work we do, we're just using logic. What would be the most convenient thing to do if I was in this situation? But there's other times when we're trying to

really understand how communities will react to something and we actually have those members to reach out to.

We also have, as I said, five members of the ALAC that are also from the regions, but that are brought onto the ALAC by a nominating committee. So they have the opportunity sometimes to bring ALAC members that aren't normal people in the community. They might be able to go out to a broader reach to bring fresh perspectives into the ALAC. And then finally, we're able to nominate one of the ICANN board members as well. So that's the organization, if you will, of the At-Large community.

So the ALAC is the group that sort of makes ultimate decisions about what the At-Large positions are within the ICANN debates. But there are two critical groups that do the majority of the work to help shape those positions. And it's sort of divided into two categories. One is policy, and when we say policy, we're talking about actual policies around the DNS. And so there's an organization that you'll also get to meet called the Generic Names Supporting Organization, or GNSO, and they sort of house these policy discussions. And so we have volunteers from the At-Large that participate in these policy discussions, and sometimes we write letters, sometimes we comment on decisions that are made, sometimes we write to the board, which is kind of a unique capability that we have that only the advisory committees have, the ability to give advice directly to the board in addition to participating directly in these decisions. So that's what we mean by policy.

But there's another type of decisions and positions which is kind of about how ICANN itself works, its interoperations, how the budget is

processed and what the priorities for the organizations are, the strategic objectives of ICANN, etc., sort of internal organizational constructions. And so that is another work group called the OFB working group, or the Operations, Finance, and Budget working group. So those are the two primary sort of advisors to the ALAC in determining its positions that it's taking inside of ICANN.

And then finally, we're in the process of developing a kind of more of a grassroots mobilization operation, right, an engagement engine when we want to get a message out to end users or we want to ask a big question of a lot of people. And so we're starting to build something called the Community Engagement Working Group, which will take on these projects of messages we want to deliver not toward ICANN but out toward the users, and how do we go about doing that, different ways we could do that, whether it's through emails or social media or classes or webinars. These are all different techniques we could use to do reach back out into the end user community. And the At-Large Community Engagement Working Group will be tasked with trying to coordinate those types of activity. So that's some of the big things that are going on inside of the At-Large Community.

So I don't know if you've got any quick questions or anything about what I've just said. If you don't, I'll pass it to Greg to talk a little bit about NARALO and the RALO perspective. I'm going to make you all speak eventually, so do it now or do it later. But for now, I will let you off the hook with the talking stick to Greg Shatan.

GREG SHATAN:

Thank you. It's a very small talking stick. In any case, and I only have one slide, so I guess I'm just going to press this at the end. My name is Greg Shatan. I am the chair of NARALO, North American Regional At-Large Organization. I'm also here as a representative of an At-Large structure. I'm the president and the ALAC or At-Large representative of ISOC New York, the Internet Society Chapter of the Greater New York Metropolitan Area, which is actually even older than ICANN, founded in 1997, I believe.

And so in my role as NARALO chair, we try to organize the ALS and individual members. We try to have various outreach and engagement activities. That really is our top job, is to try to get new members and to get our existing members more involved, more engaged. Ultimately, we want as many people as possible to be coming to ICANN meetings, participating in the CPWG and OFBWG, in GNSO policy development working groups, or whatever it may be, being a liaison to the GNSO. We are always looking for new people.

And the way you join At-Large is actually to join one of the regions. So you apply to the region either as an individual member or you can join an ALS and participate through the ALS as well. You can be a member of an ALS and be an individual member. You can't be a leader of an ALS and an individual member. So we are the organization that covers North America. As you probably already learned, North America is defined somewhat differently in ICANN than it is in the Atlas. It's just Canada, the United States, and the United States territories, one of which we're in right now, and technically involves, I think, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands. I've still been trying to get funding to go visit

all of the territories. I've gotten to Puerto Rico and Canada, so next it's Guam. I have high hopes.

And in any case, we try to have as many activities as possible. The way things work at ICANN is whichever region the meeting is taking place in, that region's RALO is kind of the host RALO, and we will put on a number of special activities. We have three at the ICANN 79, which are up on your screen.

Monday afternoon, we're having what we call our NARALO Town Hall, which is somewhat of a version of our normal monthly meeting of ALSes and individual members, but it's on steroids, and it will be more outward-facing. So the idea is that it's not just going to be talking about some boring internal policy. We'll talk about more significant ICANN policy and operational engagement issues and major issues of how the RALO works within ICANN. So that's our first activity that's at 3:00 PM tomorrow.

Tuesday, we have two activities. One is an interesting roundtable covering DNS and domain abuse in the digital economy. We have an interesting panel. The list is in your materials, of course, but we have a variety of different viewpoints on current issues in the DNS and in DNS abuse and domain abuse and cybercrime and the like, and ways in which ICANN can help and sometimes isn't helping and is helping in that regard.

Last but not least, we have a networking event, which some people might even call a party. At 5:30 on Tuesday, we'll be out on the terrace. Of course, you all are invited to mix and mingle with the NARALO members and extra special ICANN community members.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just to clarify, everybody is invited?

GREG SHATAN: Yes, that's true.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Because I made sure that North American fellows and NextGeners are invited. The rest, you gave the invitation, so don't blame us.

GREG SHATAN: Okay, well, you can watch. Maybe you can get a drink. Who knows? You can dance, but your feet can't move. So that's kind of the NARALO event. There's also a North American space, which is run by GSE, which is the Global Stakeholder Engagement Group. Of course, there's a lot of other interesting things, but I'm not in charge of them. These are my babies here, or our babies.

In addition to myself, Adrian Schmidt is from Canada, although originally from Brazil, is our secretariat. He's the other part of our day-to-day leadership. In addition, we have three members of ALAC, including Jonathan, our fearless leader, who's also the North American rep to the ALAC, along with Bill Jouris, who's behind me somewhere, and Eduardo Diaz, who's actually the NomCom nominee to the At-Large, but is a long-term member of our community. Previously, I was the NomCom rep to the ALAC. Before that, I was actually in a dark, dark place, the intellectual property constituency. But I realize there's more to life than trademark law and trademark owners, and even though

trademark law is in many ways a consumer protection law, it dovetails to some extent with what we do.

The world view of At-Large is literally large. We are the bottom of the bottom up. We are the totality of the people, those who are online and those who are yet to be online. We represent the underrepresented and sometimes the overrepresented, which is one of the reasons why Mexico isn't in North America. Otherwise, North America would have too many people in it for ICANN purposes, need to spread around the power a little bit. But in any case, I have been very happy to find my ultimate, I wouldn't say resting place, that sounds a little bit morbid, my ultimate living space in ICANN, in the At-Large community, and maybe you will too. In any case, I'm going to use my one and only click and turn the microphone.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Before we move to Shreedeeep, just thank you, Greg, for this. And I would like to let everyone know At-Large, so we all are end users, so we all have the place in At-Large. But with different expertise you are coming or interests you are coming, it's not a retirement place, it's not a place for resting, but it's a place to work, and everybody matters here. That's why I told you today in the morning that everybody matters and you can find your place everywhere here. So the point here is that you come through At-Large, and At-Large actually is the group where majority of At-Large structures are led by fellows and NextGen representatives. So this is one of the biggest communities here where fellows are finding their home, NextGeners are finding their home. That's why thank you once again for introducing North America. And I see North America

representatives who are behind. I would like you to stand up so North America participants can see all of you. Eduardo Diaz, please, can you stand up? I know everybody knows you. Yes. So this is our North America group. Thank you very much for hosting us. And Shreedeeep, the floor is yours.

SHREEDDEEP RAYAMAJHI: Thank you, Siranush and all the people who have got us here. So as they have completely simplified the whole term, At-Large, what do you think At-Large is? Just one word. Anybody? Please, please, please, come on. Everybody. Sorry? A large community of users?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, you said one word, so I said everybody.

SHREEDDEEP RAYAMAJHI: Yeah. So any more who wants to add? Please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: End users?

SHREEDDEEP RAYAMAJHI: Right. Few more. So it's basically we are a community here. They have laid it down, everything down. So why do we have younger people here? Why do we need people? Why is ICANN spending so much of money getting you here? Because you are the voice. Because you represent the new age, the new energy, the new challenges. You understand the challenges and problems better in technology. Right or wrong? Wrong?

Right. You understand technology. You know, you are the people who are using it. We are going out. You guys are there. So it's all about you. Whatever you learn, you know, that's what I tell my mentees. Whatever you learn, go back and share. The world is like this small today. It was bigger when we had no communication. When it was like, you know, it was big then. Now social media. How many of you have tweeted? How many? How many of you tweeted? Have you? Do you know there is a hashtag? ICANN 79 official hashtag? Have you done that? Why aren't you doing it? There are so many good leaders here. You have the best opportunity, you know, to be spotted. So use this. Use this opportunity. We didn't have this. You know, it took me around nine or ten years to get on this table. You know, that's why the mentors are there to support you. You know, you can go back and do a program. Because leaders are here. We are there to support you. We did a program. You know, Ameena, Ameena is here. So with Ameena, we did a program in Africa. I'm from Asia, she is from Africa. We did a program. That is the possibility of what At-Large is all about. And that's how we change. It's one world, one internet. But you make the change and you make the choices. So understand this. It's very simple. Right? So, you know, you understand the issues. Go back. Engage. Communicate with leaders. Very comfortable. You know, you have the fellowship tag. If there is anything, problem, you can just show your tag and ask anyone. And they will help you. But the point is, are you youth? You've got to be youth. You got to be energetic. You got to use your social media. You got to be the leaders. And let me tell you, there is a big opportunity in ICANN. You can learn personally, grow professionally. That's what I've done. You know, coming down here, it took me a lot of time. But when I got here, I learned there are leadership skills. There are so many opportunities.

Policy engagement. You know, top leaders are here. Connect. Learn. But show yourself. Be yourself. Understand. And, you know, be comfortable. Right? So are you gonna tweet? Yes, please. Are you gonna ask questions? Yes, please. Are you gonna step in and introduce yourself? Yes, please. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Shreedeeep. Thank you. I love Shreedeeep being a mentor of so many young and not young people coming through the fellowship program. But he gives the energy. He gives his excitement. So thank you, Shreedeeep. And I actually want to thank At-Large because every time, they nominate a mentor who is helping newcomers here who are the leaders of the community. So thank you At-Large team, At-Large staff, and At-Large ALAC members, all of them, who are really engaged with this and would love to see more fellows and NextGeners coming to their community. Any questions? Yes, please, Pravan. Go ahead.

PRAVAN TIWARI:

Greetings, everyone. Pranav. I'm an ICANN 79 fellow from India, for the record, speaking in my personal capacity. Shreedeeep, thank you. Thanks a lot for the energy. And just like you said, the future is moving and we're using the hashtag, but instead of Twitter, we have moved to Instagram now. And thanks for all the information about the work of ALAC.

I had two questions. Generally, are all the advisory committees, are they funded by ICANN or are there other sources as well? And second is in the morning we had a session by ccNSO on how they build consensus. So

how do you build consensus within ALAC where the users are so multifarious with divergent viewpoints? So is there a way or a process that you follow here?

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Yeah, I mean, it's a very good question and it's a big challenge. The first question, yes, it's all funded by ICANN. So we don't have external sources of funding, although the ALSes, as I said, are independent organizations that have just chosen to join a RALO, so they have their own funding sources. They aren't funded by ICANN.

As far as building consensus, it's a difficult exercise, to be sure, because there are often very divergent views. And so, I mean, one goal is to try to get as many voices as possible into a discussion. I can give you an example. It was about geographic names, basically, where, you know, in 2012, the number of top-level domains, that part to the right of the period, right, .com, .net, .org, top-level domain, went from 20 to 1,500. And one of the ones that was controversial was .amazon. Because there's implications there about who should have ownership of a geographic name like that that's associated with a country. And we sat at a table just like this and could not reach consensus about it because, you know, there's two aspects to that question. One is how aggressive should we be in trying to set those names aside and on whose behalf are we trying to protect them? Because some people thought, well, it's a sovereignty question. It's governments that we're protecting them for. Well, .amazon touches a number of governments. But then some other people said, well, I don't want my government dictating to me

that I can't, if I live in the Amazon, I should be able to do it. I don't want the government dictating it. So maybe it's communities.

So in that case, what we did was create a survey that asked these kinds of questions about what your priorities were. And because it was the type of issue that was more easily understood by non-, I call them lifers, right, by people that aren't doing ICANN all the time, we distributed a survey out to the RALOs and then from the RALOs out to the ALSes to get as much feedback as possible from as many people as possible what they thought our position on that should be. And so in that particular case, there was this notion that we should try to protect more of these names, but that it's communities on whose behalf we should protect them, was where our sort of polling went. And that helped us to make a decision. Because just this group here around this table was deadlocked on it.

So we do try to ask as many people as possible. But I will say that most of the time, consensus comes fairly easily because we're just talking about are we making the life of an end user easier or more difficult? Are we making the life of an end user safer or more dangerous? So those are the kinds of questions that we ask. I mean, Greg made mention of something called DNS abuse, which if you're not part of the ICANN community, that means nothing. You've heard terms like phishing and cybercrime and identity theft. When we talk about DNS abuse, it's the subset of those things that relate directly to the DNS. And so part of what we need to do when we try to ask a broader community about that is figure out how to talk about it. Because if we just ask people how do you feel about DNS abuse, they don't know what we're talking about.

Maybe there's a government agency that handles that. So we need to figure out the vocabulary to talk to a broader group of people as well.

So sometimes the exercise is one of logic, and that happens on the Consolidated Policy Working Group. It's just people just trying hard to think like end users and the situations we're putting them in. And then sometimes we try to push it further into the community, out to the regions, because there might be some difference of opinion between the regions on a particular issue. And if it's possible, we want to push it even further out to get more feedback. So we do all three of those things to try and build consensus. And in the end, those committees then make a recommendation to the ALAC that gets the final decision what our policy should be.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Before we move to other questions, I would like to give the floor to another mentor nominated by At-Large for NextGen program. Denise, if you can say a couple of words.

DENISE HOCHBAUM: Thanks. Well, how I can say, in opposite way than my colleague for fellows that is very energetic for deliver the speech for everybody, my work as a mentor is opposite way. I have to dive in each work that my mentees are developing. So it's much more quiet and much more silency and very intense because you have to formatate one spectrum that they started to deliver. And then you have to put in the shape.

For putting the shape, I use one tool that I know for my beginning background is methodology. And then time by time you can make the

shape, the work. So my future here is to take the content that they bring plus use my knowledge about the ICANN. So I try to merge these two contents, two informations to shape the project.

So for me, it has to be very interesting and very wonderful timing that I work with these guys. It's my second term. I have a lot of experiences and memories about guys from Europe, from South America, from United States last year. So each one, each region is totally different. When you see about what they are worrying, what they want, it's totally different. It is amazing because one world, one Internet, but the heads and the perspectives and what they are willing to do is different. Everybody is talking about Internet, but it's different the way they approach with the community. So it's fascinating.

And also, NextGen, we have guys, we have now a guy with 19 years old. He went to NASA to develop the kind of the robotic stuff. And they have a PhD, a candidate, a PhD from Calgary. Unfortunately, she is not here. She arrives tomorrow. And they have other PhD and lawyer and computer science. So you have a spectrum. And my [inaudible] also from computer science master.

So you have a different approach. You have the undergrad master, PhD, candidate, PhD. So the repertoire is different. So you have to understand a little bit more about this. And again, it's very interesting. And then the guys, they have the whole entire world. They have less than 30 years old. They have the whole entire perspective to grow, to be brilliant. Because they already is brilliant. Because before they arrive here and deliver this job, it's because they have a good, good

background behind them, a lot of courage. So I'm very happy to be part of this group and spend this time with them. It really makes my life full.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Denise. Thank you. And I wish we could have this opportunity at our early 30s. So take this opportunity. And I know we have several questions. But before that, I would like to give the floor to Hadia, who is now chairing AFRALO region, which is Africa.

HADIA ELMINIAMI: Thank you so much, Siranush. So in a minute, I would just like to briefly introduce AFRALO to you. So AFRALO is home to the individual Internet users from the African region. We provide news and information to end users from Africa. But we also provide opportunities for those who would like to engage and participate in ICANN work to engage directly in policy development processes and governance issues as well. So you can become a member of AFRALO as an At-Large structure or as an individual user. And through this membership, you can directly, if you're interested in policy development and governance issues, you can directly start participating in those.

Currently, we have 74 At-Large structures and 21 individual users and three observers. So you could actually, if you're involved in some other part in ICANN, you could actually also join as an observer. I thank you and encourage you to check our webpage and join.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Hadia. And we have a question from Emilia. Go ahead, please.

EMILIA ZALEWSKA-CZAJCZYŃSKA: Yeah, thank you. I am Emilia Zalewska-Czajczyńska. I am the ICANN 79 Fellow and I am speaking in my personal capacity. But it's just a question. I wanted to come back to what Jonathan mentioned that At-Large is considering the influence on the end users if the solution is good for them or bad. So I also wanted to ask if this assessment also includes some kind of the human rights impact assessment, so basically how the solution will affect end users as humans, as the right and freedom holders. So that's my question.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thank you. That's an excellent question. You are going to meet another group called the Non-Commercial User Constituency, and they are very focused on rights, and particularly the rights of registrants. In other words, the rights of people who have their own domain name. So we end up making rights part of our discussion as well, and so sometimes we are in agreement with them, but there are times when the interests of registrants differ from the interests of non-registrant end users. And so that's when some of the debates take place.

So one of the big debates that takes place right now is about access to information about registration data, so that if somebody's website is being used for bad purposes, how easy is it to get information about that website so that it can be taken down or some law enforcement

action can be taken. And so end users as a whole have an interest in seeing that bad behavior end quickly, whereas if the owner of that website has a different interest, and sometimes if there isn't agreement about whether that behavior is bad, that they're just a dissident or something like that, then there becomes a privacy issue that needs to be weighed against that public interest issue. And so it's always a balance. But in our role here at ICANN, when there is a friction between rights and interests of end users, we've decided to take on the end user perspective because there's another group that takes on the rights. So more often than not, we agree on things. But when we disagree, we take the position of the end users sometimes. And then it's a debate that hopefully leads to the best solution that's a compromise between the two places.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, let's start with you, and then we'll come from there.

RASHEDUL HASAN: Hello, I am Rashedul Hassn, and I'm a NextGen participant from the North American region. However, I also come from Bangladesh, and I had the opportunity to work with Bangladesh government for some time. And I'm speaking at my own capacity for the record.

So the thing is, as you mentioned, that for the final policy decision, you have to come back to the like groups or the board for the final decisions, like if we can get information about some registrant or some policy change or something regarding the DNS. So these are controversial issues.

So when you're taking this type of major decisions, do you actually involve all the stakeholders like stakeholders from the specific countries or regions, the regions government and the stakeholders of other parties to take this type of decisions?

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Yes, to be clear, and thank you for the question, that's almost a question about ICANN as a whole in which all stakeholders, at least we endeavor to have all stakeholders represented. So there's something called the Government Advisory Committee where governments are represented. There are, as I said, there's registrars, the people that sell domain names. And whenever we make a new rule about what they should do, their cost goes up. So they need to be at the table, too, because they're going to make the argument that this is going to raise our costs, but not actually help that much or something like that. So the entire community has to reach consensus, not just the At-Large.

So what I was describing is how we take a position. But then once we take a position, we're out in the world with everyone else advocating for our position as they advocate for theirs. And the hope is that what comes from that is the best possible position that then is submitted to the board and then becomes DNS policy. But we're just one voice among many inside the ICANN community.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. Filomeno? You had a question.

ZOE FILOMENO VASQUEZ: Hello, everyone. My name is Zoe Filomeno. I am an ICANN 79 fellow. For the record, I will be speaking on my behalf. I want to quote [Erika J. Sanchez-Basquez,] the .pr controversy. In her introduction, she states, in 2010, it was reported in Puerto Rican media that the University of Puerto Rico, also known as UPR, was suing Gauss Research Laboratory, Inc., GRL, Inc., for illegal appropriation of the country code top-level domain .pr.

This is more a question for the North American region, NARALO. Given that I am indigenous to this island, Puerto Rico, and my ancestors were Taino from the Arawak tribe, how does the At-Large community deal with the reality of the intersectionality of geopolitics and domain decisions when, if you guys are for the end user, the reality as a Puerto Rican citizen is that we say something that I am going to say in Spanish. Un Puerto Rico sin Puerto Ricanos, this Puerto Rico without Puerto Ricans, given that foreign investors have taken over our land and also the reality of taking over not only our digital space, but how do you guys account for the end user struggle here in the island? And also I want to add that it's not only for the people of Puerto Rico, but also for the indigenous people of Hawaii and Guam and subsequent territories of the United States. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thanks. That's a very interesting question. And with regard to .pr specifically, first I would say that while we're not prohibited from dealing with ccTLD issues, we probably tend to deal more with gTLD issues just because that's where we engage in helping to make Internet policy. We have representatives of .pr in the room, I think, so if they

wanted to speak to this issue, they could. And it's not one that we've specifically discussed. I think if there was an issue that end users wanted to bring up, we literally are a bottom-up organization. And so it would start with individual members or with an individual ALS and would try to make the case that this is something that At-Large as a whole should be involved in and also that it is an issue that has something to do with Internet domain name policy or governance issues and something that's within ICANN's remit.

ICANN has kind of boundaries around what it can and can't deal with. And, you know, At-Large and NARALO is really kind of constrained because in essence we don't have a separate legal existence. We exist to take actions for end users within the ICANN space.

That said, we have definitely worked with indigenous communities in the U.S. and in Canada. We have supported travel to indigenous organizations. We have had members from indigenous communities participating in NARALO. And while it's not really an ICANN space, we are concerned, I think, more than most about the digital divide, about the capacity to even be on the Internet in a meaningful way. And so we have dealt with issues for underserved communities and particularly indigenous communities. None of our indigenous members are here today, I believe. But we've had, you know, as I said, a number in the past. We have some currently. They're just not physically here.

So while I would say it's not a predominant issue, I mean, we find end users where they are, whether they are indigenous, whether they are refugees, whether they are in underserved communities, or whether they happen to just be rich white people. Who knows? They could be

anybody. But clearly, we're problem solvers. So there are some issues. And some communities have more problems or more elemental problems than others.

And so while it's not kind of in our center of our sites, we want to certainly raise concerns when it seems like ICANN policy is being made in a way that doesn't take indigenous or underserved or socioeconomically stressed communities into account. We don't want something that just works for the 1%. That's not everybody. As we discussed, that's only 1% of everybody.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

So I think it's worth mentioning that the example you used is a difficult one, because ICANN doesn't have direct jurisdiction over so-called country code domains. They have a legacy associated with them, and every country handles it differently. Some have become commercial. Some are run by universities. Some are run by companies. And so we don't have—the policies that ICANN creates doesn't have direct control over a ccTLD. We might just as end users and as a grassroots organization be able to help.

But a better example might be something like .SanJuan, right, where someone could propose that. And it could be a hedge fund from New York that wants to run .SanJuan. And that's the kind of conversation I was talking about with geographic names, where we're trying hard to make sure that local communities are the ones that are applying for and getting those domains. Country codes are their own challenge in many, many ways. But I certainly sympathize with it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And we will have ccNSO, Country Code Name Supporting Organization presentation tomorrow.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Go get them.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah. Abraham and Shanelle, and we'll wrap up the session.

ABRAHAM SELBY: All right. Okay. Thank you very much. My name is Abraham Selby. For the record, I'm speaking in my own capacity. I have two questions. One is for the At-Large as a whole. So I have gotten an understanding that At-Large is a community. I want to know in terms of leadership selection in At-Large, does the community get involved? Is there a voting? And if there is a voting, how is the voting done?

And two, I'm from Africa, so I love things about AFRALO. And I want to ask, based on the comment from AFRALO, we have about 74 ALSes in terms of the structure, then also some 32 country territories and members and individual members and observers. Looking at this kind of community that we, as an AFRALO constituency, consists of a membership in terms of the end users in the community. In terms of building, how do you call it, policies or maybe making the voice of the AFRALO members head, how is also done in terms of coming up into conclusion? Is there also some voting capacity members need to do or

these members are subjected to vote also? I want to understand in terms of the voting aspects of the two. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think related to general, Jonathan will take the question, but for the voting process—and then you will have the opportunity to talk with AFRALO members, but you may respond briefly.

JONATHAN ZUCK: So yes, there is voting at multiple levels. So the members of a RALO vote for the RALO leadership, which includes the representatives to the ALAC and the ALAC members in turn vote for the chair of the ALAC. But the RALOs all have different processes for voting. In some instances, all the individual members get to vote and sometimes all of them together get one vote. There are some things that vary from different RALOs, but they all have voting and everyone is involved in selecting the leadership of the RALOs.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: As for AFRALO, as Jonathan said, so if there is actually an opportunity to participate in a policy development process, we put out an email on the mailing list asking for volunteers to participate in this particular policy development process. And if we get more than one volunteer, then we go by voting. So members with voting rights get to vote who

gets on that PDP representing AFRALO and sometimes representing ALAC, not only AFRALO.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So sign up for regional At-Large mailing lists, first of all. And there is also a general At-Large mailing list. And get to know these people, definitely. Shanelle?

SHANELLE MCPHERSON: Yes. My name is Shanelle McPherson. I am an ICANN 79 fellow speaking in my own capacity. Well, the At-Large community has nominated some great mentors, Shreedeeep and Denise, great people. So one of the things that stood out to me while I was being, one of the questions I asked is how do I get started? So I got the response that I should contact my regional At-Large community.

So I said, okay, I went on the website and I found some information, sent an email, didn't get a response back. My question is, and I've been asking this question, but I haven't think I've gotten an answer for it. How is that, can someone provide a step-by-step process of how to actually apply for At-Large membership? Because we're trying to find our place and we need a step-by-step process on how to get this done, if possible. Thanks.

JONATHAN ZUCK: I think that's an area where we can improve. And it varies from RALO to RALO. There are some courses on ICANN Learn that cover sort of how At-Large is organized and how we engage in policy. And one of the

members of EURALO is heading up an effort to create onboarding materials once people have joined. But in terms of documenting the way to get engaged, it's probably something that we could do a better job with. And it varies from RALO to RALO.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: That's what I was going to introduce. First of all, let me introduce all the regional leaders who are here. LACRALO, Sergio, if you can stand up. So, please, if you want to say just one word.

SERGIO SALINAS-PORTO: Well, I see that those of you that are not wearing the headsets, you surely speak Spanish. So I'm very happy to see that. As you can see, we are working in several languages, our region. Latin America and the Caribbean specifically has three main languages, even though we have four or five even. It's a region that's a multicultural, multi-language kind of region. So we have Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English shows the capacity that we have as a region to have so much diversity in a single place.

As my colleagues mentioned, we all have the same logic. We are working on things that have to do with names and domain names and numbers, and we're thinking collectively as a region. We encourage those that are part of Latin America and the Caribbean to engage in the regional work that is being done. You'll have the opportunity to discuss with us a broader range of topics. So thank you for this opportunity.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Sébastien Bachollet. Please know this person.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Sébastien Bachollet, the chair of EURALO. Just to add one point, in EURALO, we have a specific organization for the individual users. Therefore, it's very easy to join. You join one ALS who is set up for that, and we have people in this room who are members, and it's very easy. And for the rest, we work as the other RALO, and we will be very happy to have you. And I would like very much to meet with a fellow from Europe because I have one slot for them for the readout, for one of them for the readout that we will have not next Tuesday, but the day is Tuesday after, and we would like to have your voice participating. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So every region is doing post-meeting readout sessions for the entire community. And those who are from EURALO, you can reach Sébastien Bachollet and express the interest to be one to introduce what is your takeaways from the meeting. And the last region, Asia-Pacific, which is my home of home, is Amrita. Please.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Hi, everyone, and welcome. I have been a fellow which Siranush was referring to. So, you know, you have great opportunity, and I represent—as in I and many here. You can raise your hands if you're other folks here from the Asia-Pacific. We would be happy to have you. Any questions, you can always reach out to us. We'll tell you how to, you know, engage. Even without being a member, you can engage with us.

We have a young team which we are nurturing. You can join the WhatsApp groups because that's something you like. Most of the people. And we can take the conversation from there as young and people who think they are young. Okay, so let's take it that way. So and other regions also, please feel free to speak to any of the APAC guys. We're very friendly. I think we believe in that. So reach out to us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So giving back the invitation you gave to us for NARALO event, we would like to invite our At-Large colleagues today from 5:30 to 6:30 to the networking hour with fellows and NextGeners. Please come and join us for a drink. And with that, I would like to thank At-Large here and At-Large members. And NARALO being host, Jonathan for being ready to meet with us. And with that, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

JONATHAN ZUCK: One thing that I meant to say and forgot to say is that our current board member on the ICANN board began as a fellow.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, and we will meet with him. Don't worry. And see you in 25 minutes now in the room where we were in the morning. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]