
ICANN79 | CF – UA Day 2024 Overview Work Session
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 9:00 to 10:00 SJU

SEDA AKBULUT:

Hello and welcome to UA Day 2024 overview work session. My name is Seda, and I am the 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 or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. I will read them aloud during the time set for the questions section.

If you'd like to ask your question or make your comment verbally, please raise your hand. When called upon you will be given permission to unmute your microphone. Interpretation for this session will include English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Please also speak at a reasonable pace. With that I will now hand the USG vice chair Nabil Benamar. Over to you Nabil.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you Seda. Thank you everyone for joining today's meeting, this session about UA Day. Do we have the slides? Okay so next slide please. I think not this slide no not these slides.

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SEDA AKBULUT: So, this is the wrong slide I'm sorry, can we just switch the slides maybe you can download from the from the website, yes. Let me see if it would be quicker

NABIL BENAMAR: Sorry we have just a technical issue here. So, the slides will be presented as soon as possible so this session will be focusing on the UA Day24 activities that we have. The local national events, the UA Day case on event that will be held in Belgrade, the timeline, the support for UA Day, how to promote UA Day 2024 events and seeking community input and discussion on the collaboration moving forward. Do we have the slides?

SEDA AKBULUT: It's now being put by the way are there any newcomers or fellows amongst us today, maybe in the zoom room or in the physical room. Can we see your hands? That's very good thank you for your joining and participation, we welcome you and we hope we can collaborate more in our working groups and in the further UA Day events.

NABIL BENAMAR: Okay. So, now we have the slides. So, as I mentioned, we will focus today on today's session on the UA Day activities in 2024. The different shortlisted events local or national, events regional events, the timeline, the support for UA Day activities and how to promote UA Day 24 events. So, UA or universal acceptance as you know, is to address in our USG universal acceptance steering group is to address UA and the universal acceptance steering group was organized as a community initiative supported by ICANN.

Our vision is that all domain names and email addresses work in all software applications and the impact would be to promote consumer choice improve competition and provide broader access to end users. We need also to mention here that we not only about domain names and email addresses, but we need to ensure that all these applications or existing applications handles correctly all different scripts, all domain names, written in different scripts and all email addresses written in different scripts and languages. Next slide please. So, for the UA Day 24 activities, we have supporting five types of events. So, UA awareness, technical training, academia curricula adoption and regional strategy. So, awareness is just about awareness for the beginners in the field and the topic of universal acceptance.

Technical training should come second after awareness to do some training related to email address internationalization, IDN, international domain names for domain names. Also, we have training regarding programming language especially java and python and then we have now created a new type of workshops related to academic curricula since in our measurements working group which is part of one of the working groups of USG has developed a comprehensive curricula for universities consisting of 12 micro models that would be integrated in existing curricula, so that faculty can take advantage from this to patch their existing curricula by integrating content related to universal acceptance internationalization in programming languages, in operating systems, in databases, data analysis and networks security idea and security et cetera.

So, we are aiming to have such kind of activities nowadays. The last one would be the adoption UA adoption so this year we have shortlisted the

15 UA adoption events. So, we need to see some successful stories, some adoption examples that we can share with our community and this is why we have encouraged mainly the adoption rated events. Finally, we have UA regional strategy for when we can regroup different local events in one big regional event. So, training academia and adoption aiming to build sustainable technical capacity. So, as a summary we have received 133 proposals from more than 65 countries and we have shortlisted 56 proposals from more than 50 countries. 51 national events and five regional events.

Next slide please. So, the main objective is to promote to a wider audience the need benefit and scope of UA for digital inclusion, create more awareness in the technical community about the possibility to create any domain name and to write any email address in any script, to showcase successful stories and solutions and the easy way how we can implement universal acceptance principles technically speaking. To encourage also, updates of procurement terms to include UA as a requirement from government and from other stakeholders, to motivate technical and government decision makers for UA adoption and to celebrate the achievements in UA and organize success stories especially when it comes to UA adoption.

So, here is a summary of the nature of shortlisted UA events for 24. As you can see for the awareness, we have 23 but this time we have 15 events related to adoption where we can see successful, stories implementation cases and how it has impacted the community in these countries where adoption has been successful. 12 UA technical training, UA academia this is first time, so we have four events and we have two UA regional strategy events.

Next slide, please. So, in USG, we have developed different contents that can fit any kind of events depending on the duration, depending on the nature of the event, whether it's awareness or adoption or training.

So, we have content that is now available on the website as we did last time or last year. One hour UA day awareness event, two-hour UA day awareness events. So, the slides might be different with more content, more or less depending on the duration of the events we can have also half day one day or two days also, depending on the need of the community or the organizers of the event. So, these are the 56 events that we have shortlisted in more than 50 countries that have been shortlisted out of 133 proposals and we can see the different events and in the previous slide we have made the summary of these events. next slide, please. So, now I will give the floor to our chair Anil to continue on this from the timeline. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

UA day as has been explained, is one of the biggest events or you can say one of the biggest one-time events of ICANN. So, we and ICANN USG and ICANN has taken this a very serious activity and because last time it was the first event, so we were not prepared fully also, so this time we started quite early. So, UA day call for the paper proposal was from 1st of November and we did the shortlisting from 15th of December to 25th of January and the global event which we called keystone UA day event, which is going to be celebrated on 28th of March at Belgrade Serbia, this year was declared on 31st of January.

As we shortlisted 56 events from 50 countries, so the process is that we have to sign a contract legal contract with all these proposals

organizers and once the contract is signed, we have to support them with material and resources, maybe manpower resources. So, UA day materials and events were announced on 6th of Feb contracting was completed on 1st of March and this time, unlike last year, the spread of UA day is a longer one from 1st of March to 30th of May.

This is to accommodate local events, national events, regional events, depending on the issues which are related to that particular country or maybe that religion also. So, this flexibility gives opportunity for all organizers to conduct the UA day event at ease and at the comfort level at their own level and once we complete by 30th of May, it is expected that every organizer should report back what topics discussed, what discussed in the workshop, how many people reported, how many people trained, along with the videos and photographs.

So, this is for the information of all organizers who have signed the contract with us. So, these are the planning and support details which are available on the UA day material published. This is written here and as I said that ICANN is planning and managing the UA day event which is supporting the USG for shortlisting proposal along with the USG leadership team. We finalized the dates and agendas, contacted the things and most important coordinated the speakers and trainers also from ICANN and UA ambassadors. Multiple teams are involved from ICANN, which are listed here. Almost eight, nine teams are involved in the whole process. I think something is flipping, yeah. So, this is the UA Day key event, keystone event.

I would like to invite in this case somebody, there from Belgrade Serbia to brief about the most important event. Last time it happened at New

Delhi and as ICANN is a multi-stakeholder concept, so New Delhi was able to involve government industries, academia, technical team and all related people in the whole process. So, let us listen from Serbia, what is announcement from their side, what is the appeal from their side and how all of us, you and me will get involved in this. Sir?

DEJAN ĐUKIC:

Good morning, everyone. I am Dejan Đukic, CEO of Serbian ccTLD. I'll give you a short introduction of our organization and registry. We are technical organization independent foundation not related to government administration or academia. We manage .rs and srb domains and we are infrastructure of special importance for the functioning the internet in Serbia.

Both our domains supported IDN characters, so users can register the domain names with IDN characters in .rs and srb as well. This in Cyrillic that's served, but it's hard to pronounce for in English, so all national minority characters are supported in both domains, so any users from Serbia who are part of Serbian entity or any national minority registered in Serbia can use their characters to register any of those two domains. Official language is in Serbia is Serbian and Cyrillic is main script according to our law.

People in Serbia can use also Latin script based on and according to the law in Serbia. .srb is our second national domain and we started with in 2011. Every year on 27 January, we have an event and we promoting IDN domains in that event. Also, besides promoting IDN domains on that event, we have some activities for our local community. So, we as a part of that event, support developing of Cyrillic fonts and that's a

project that's very well accepted in a local community. So, far, we have 3500 domains in .srb and many more in .rs, but that's the some kind of statistic reality in most other ccTLDs. We also deal doing a lot in promoting of using Cyrillic online.

We have a several projects to promote creating contact in Cyrillic in in Serbia and online also we are dealing with developing and promoting tech solutions. We are doing continuous education and next project that we are planning to finish and launch is Cyrillic, we call it it's working title Cyrillic portal but it's kind of website that has fonts that we developed some technical solutions for using Cyrillic in Serbia and also other things that we receive from community.

A couple of years ago, we had online hackathon as a part of promoting Cyrillic online and main part of the project was to develop application, WHOIS application, that support IDN domains. So, as a part of our activities and supporting Cyrillic and IDN on the internet, we are part of global universal accepted days and we are proud of that. It is second global universal acceptance day, and we are host for that event on 28th of march this year.

So, we are inviting all of you to participate offline or online and please register for event to let us know how many of you will attend. So, this is the recording registration link. Feel free to register or ask us, if you have any question. Thank you for your attention, hope to see you in Belgrade offline or online

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you very much for briefing us about the keystone UA day at Belgrade this year. I am going to be there in Belgrade and in this event. I hope that all of you have to make up your mind to join this big festival. I can say the festival for inclusiveness, festival for an equality in digital world and we are very happy that it is going to be a big event. Thank you very much. I think this we have already covered. Next. We have to we have some slides on ICANN. You have skipped some slides. We have done that? Yeah. Now, we have our vice chair of USG, Nitin Walia with us online. May I request Nitin to take this portion of the presentation. Over to you, Nitin.

NITIN WALIA: Thank you, chair. So, good morning, everyone, whoever is available online, on site at this moment and good evening, good afternoon and to everyone who is there online as per your time zone. I'm Nitin Walia, vice chair for USG for the record.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: We don't have slides?

NABIL BENAMAR: Right, we're just actually opening this up for discussion.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: All right. So, thank you Nitin. Now, as I said, that UA day, we are going to have 56 events across the world. The leading event will be at the Belgrade in Serbia, and we understand that why UA day? Because when

this concept was introduced last year, it was to make a big impact on UA awareness across the world and last time we were able to get more than 9400 participants in different events under UA day. This time we have shifted the gear from just awareness to UA adoption, training and also involvement very vigorously the technical community, to ensure that next one billion internet users who are going to come from UA, we make their path much comfortable and lively.

I request Nitin to be on the line also for the question answer session. Now, the session is question answer session is open now. So, we'll take the question from both people who are in room present and also online. May I request Seda to please help me for the online questions which are coming to us. So, we have first question from the room. Hadia, please go ahead.

HADIA EL MINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Anil and thank you Nitin and thank you to the whole universal acceptance group. So, I actually took the mic in order to talk about the event proposed by or that is going to that AFRALO proposed for universal acceptance and to invite everyone to join us on that day. So, AFRALO proposed a universal acceptance adoption strategy and the idea about this proposal is that to have organizations from Africa, work on an adoption strategy for universal acceptance an implementable strategy and we are happy to say that now we have with us .Africa. We have Africa TLD. We have many of the internet society chapters in Africa. In addition, to some a couple of content developing organizations, we will start next week developing this adoption strategy

and we intend to present it to the community, to the At-Large community and of course all of you on the 28th of March.

An invitation will be sent to everyone to join the session and the idea is to discuss the strategy that has been put together and then after the 28th, the group will get together again and we will update the strategy based on that and the idea is to have the organizations that worked on the adoption strategy to go on and implement it throughout the year and then in 2025 February, we stop again and look at what has been implemented, what still needs to be done and we update the strategy again and that would be our universal acceptance 2025 day for the following year. So, this is an experiment. We don't know yet how it will evolve. Will we be able to implement what we put together and said we are going to do? But it's a test and a trial and I hope it works. Again, we will be sending invitations for everyone to join us on the 28th of March. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

I must say in one word, wow Africa and let me inform all the audience that, Hadia is a known name in ICANN and she is not only involved in USG, but she is involved in policy making of IDN CCTLDs and EPTP of IDN gTLDs also and, Hadia, I can only say that this is a great start which Africa is doing and we are really happy with that, and please share what are the outcomes and the strategy which Africa is making, as I informed the community yesterday we all informed the community yesterday that we are in process of finalizing the five year strategic plan for USG. Will be more than happy to include your experiment and your outcome as part of the global five-year USG strategic plans. Thank you. And now,

I invite Nabil, because he's from that group to add what additional you want to add with Hadia.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Anil. So, I think we are now doing a great job in USG by spreading the word about universal acceptance principles, and we have seen that within ICANN, different groups have been adopting this and starting talking about this trending topic. So, because of the work, I think, of the USG during these last years, universal acceptance now is a well-known concept. And it's no more just a concept, but it's something that we are implementing and we are encouraging everywhere. And I think one of the big achievements that we have now done is developing the curriculum. Because we think and we strongly believe that any chance should come first from the university.

If we are not preparing the next engineers by giving them the right content related to universal acceptance, and that this is something that can be implemented easily in any language, in any script, we are just working in the high level and we are not preparing the next engineers to implement this. At the end of the day, it's the university who should take the lead. Yeah, please.

RUSSELL DEKA HARADA:

Thank you, Anil. And my name is Russell Deka Harada. I'm a ccTLD manager of .pg and also for your record ICANN79 fellow. And also, I'm from P&G University of Technology. So, unfortunately, this year, UA day, our Pacific, no country participated. But I think if we are not late, still we want to participate in this UA day by online and maybe we'll

submit some proposal before end of this year to next year session. But for our academics, what we have to do, like no one knows about this UA day in my country, in our region. So, please, give us some idea or topic in your experience in Asia or Africa or other region. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you. I think this is an important question or you can say information, which is to us that every country globally should get aware about the UA day. And I am happy that you are here today. At least you are able to get the information about this. And now your ask is that, every country should be informed well in advance about the UA day and they should be able to participate and apply for the UA day. So, may I request Nitin to brief the audience about how one can apply for UA day as organizing the events and how a person who is not organizing, they can participate in the UA day functions. Nitin?

NITIN WALIA:

Yeah, thank you. So, basically, USG has adopted a very transparent process. And if you all have seen the slide in which we have showcased you that the window period from when the call for proposals was started off and then the committee was being formed and all the proposals were being shortlisted and then how all the shortlisted proposals have been announced and finally contracted by ICANN team. So, I'm pleased to share with you actually that the ICANN team, which has been assigned and been working very closely with USG which includes Salman and Seda actually, they have worked tirelessly since November and we are sitting in March in shortlisting all these proposals and which have been received by them.

So, the call for proposal has been done from 1st of November. So, in case this time the people who have missed from some specific regions, the motto of USG was always that we have the maximum coverage around the world and try to cover the maximum countries who are participating into that. So, whatever the proposals we have received, we have tried to ensure that at least one proposal from each region or country should be approved.

And if you will see the geographical spread of all the proposals and all the events which will now already start happening from 1st of March till 30th of May, all the events which were going to happen, would be in different countries actually and in different languages. In fact, all the SOs and SEs this time, because last time we were having a lot of feedback during the ICANN from various community members and our associations, which includes ALAC and At-Large and RALOs and others, who suggested that the people or the community into their region want to participate into UA Day.

So, there's a special preference actually, which was being given to the proposals, which were being submitted by all these constituencies members. So, if you will see that the proposals which we received from AF were 43, all of which 19 were being selected. So, with them, it was just an example that, At-Large was 17. So, if you will see the overall picture, the preference to all the community members were already being given into that, who are coming in from these constituencies.

So, coming back to your question actually, that what you can do next time and this time. So, this time, the plane has already taken off. Now, the important thing is that you start participating as per your choice and

region, the list of all the proposals which have been finalized is being published on iusg.tech website for the UA Day.

So, the UA Day website is already live where you have all the events which are happening globally. You can attend those events because majority of the events are hybrid. So, you can attend those events virtually and ask your community members also into your region to attend any of the nearby event virtually. If you can attend physically, that would be great. Otherwise, you should attend, at least try to attend virtually and see what these people are doing into these events, what kind of a knowledge they are sharing into these events. Also on the iusg.tech website for the UA Day, all the technical literature is available that will be showcased, demonstrated into these UA Day events.

You can download those videos and presentations and have a glance of them, that what kind of information we are sharing with the community. Next time, when the call to proposals will open for the third season of UA Day, please feel free to apply into that and try to contribute for your regional community into that. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Nitin. Thank you. Yes, sir?

SAM LANFRANCO:

Excuse me. Sam Lanfranco for the record. I have two questions. One of the UA Days is in Uganda at Kabali University in the Southwest of Uganda. I will be there for that event. I have been working with them for about three years on distance education. And I know I will be there

at my expense, not ICANN's expense. And the two questions I have is, as I'm working with them, it's a one-day event. Is there anything in particular I should be thinking about before I get there to help them? And what do you hope that a university in that situation carries forward coming out with the event? Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: The right person to answer your question who is deeply involved in the UA curricula is Dr. Nabil. So, I request Nabeel to please guide what our expectation from the UA Day, what they are celebrating and his own commitment inside the UA Day.

NABIL BENAMAR: So, let me just ask you do you mean what can we organize with Uganda University?

SAM LANFRANCO: No, they are organizing.

NABIL BENAMAR: Yes.

SAM LANFRANCO: And I am advising and I'm going to be there. So, is there any particular pushing or pulling I should be doing between now and then as I watch what they're doing to pick up things that you may emphasize that they may not pick up? And the second is just a short statement of where you

hope universities like that will carry it forward, not just to another UA Day, but to how they've incorporated it into their outreach curriculum.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Yes, definitely. Thank you very much for your question. So, this is the first time that we have published the curricula, the all modules that are now publicly available on the ICANN website. So, the main thing that we can do with universities is to go through this content and to see, to discuss all together, how we can implement this in the existing curricula of the courses that you have in the University for Computer Science rated topics. This is very good. And based on the discussion, we can still improve the current contents that we have developed.

It's in the draft mode for the time being, requesting comments and feedback from the community, how we can improve this. For example, yesterday in our session, we had an interesting comment about the IDN security model that we have. And we need to still improve it, enhance it so that it can fit the state of the art when it comes to security. Thank you very much.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Thank you. We have some online questions.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

We have a question online. So, first we'll take this and then we'll come back again to the room. We have a question from a hand from Rajan Al-Joman. The floor is yours. Please ask your question.

RAJAN AL-JOMAN: Yeah, thank you very much. First of all, I would like to thank you for presenting such an important topic. One question, if we are going to organize a local UA day, what type of proposal that we have to submit? What are the agenda? Can we have like support from ICANN materials and resources to enrich the day? Thank you very much.

NABIL BENAMAR: Thank you, Razan, for your question. Yes, definitely you have our support and you can see in the previous slides, we have the timeline on how you can, when you can submit your proposal. And also in our website, you can see the proposal. What is the template of the proposal depending on the nature of the events that you want to help. And feel free to send us email so that we can continue collaborating on this. So, for the time being, we have a shortlisted for 24, but you can still do something for 25. Inshallah, thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you. We have some online questions. Yeah, sure. One question is from Michael Moomin. Good morning. I used to be a member of ICANN's Arabic GP, Latin GP and TF-AIDN. I have a question or suggestion regarding the UA academic curriculum. Looking at the titles of modules, the focus seems to be on technical aspects, which is generally fine. However, have you considered adding a module or component on social, linguistic, legal and political aspects to further qualify participants on understanding and relating the basic needs for UA? Thank you.

NABIL BENAMAR: Thank you. Thank you, Michael, for always showing and raising important questions and issues. Yeah, this is also a good thing that we can think about, how we can implement something non-technical in the current curricula. Yes, so for the time being, we have started with something that can be implemented directly. I mean, how in the future and the current engineers can know about internationalization principles, technically speaking. So, they need to implement this. Definitely, the social impact of such technology that we have, which aims to be more inclusive, aims to have an internet more inclusive. This is very important. And we need to think about a new course on this. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you. So, we have Satish Babu, Chair, Tech Working Group of USG. I would request him to supplement to the Nabil's answer.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Anil. This is Satish for the record. I think this is a very important question that has been raised. Now, during internal discussions in the Tech Working Group, we had raised the same question. And the answer that we got was that this is a very specialized course on UA. It's actually sits on a much broader set of courses, related courses, which include multilingual internet and so on. So, this is a kind of super specialization. And this assumes that the students have already gone through the background courses. So, but the question is very important and I appreciate the fact that it has come up. Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT: Thank you, Satish. I see a hand from Dennis. Please go ahead, Dennis.

DENNIS TAN: Thank you, Seda. Then it's done. One remark and one question. First, the remark, I agree with Nabil. We need to start early on education. So, it's important. And I'm glad to see the excitement and interest in picking up the curricula. And still, and you mentioned that, right? And I continue to encourage the UASG to make sure that the quality of the documentation that we are sending out and expecting why their adoption is of the highest quality. So, that when we educate and train our next generation engineers, they start off on the right ground.

So, that's the remark. The question is about, if you can explain a little bit more about the difference between the adoption events and the awareness events. Just making a quick count. I mean, you mentioned the adoption is the theme, the objective for the next UA Day. But I see more awareness events than adoptions. So, maybe you can explain a little bit about the difference of each and well, the difference of events kind of suggest a different direction. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: So, on your first remark, I request Nabil to answer. And then second question, I'll answer.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Dennis. Yeah. Since this is our second year for UA Day activities, we are still receiving more awareness proposals from different countries who started to be aware of the existence of this concept, which is universal acceptance. But we are expecting in the next years, in upcoming years, a decrease in the demand for the organization of UA Day activities. So, we are still in the process of event related to awareness because the world will be spread yet. But we are looking for something more than awareness, which is training and adoption. The main difference between the two is that awareness is just to explain the principles and the basics of universal acceptance and how we can implement it.

And we can show the easy side of how we can implement it correctly. The training is to go further. We need the technical community to be able to implement this regarding email address in internationalization, how we can set up a server, an email server, how we can do this, how we can send an email address using any scripts and it can be processed by the intermediary servers until the mailbox of the receiver. Then how we can implement this for programming languages like Python and Java. So, we have content related to this and also for IDNs. So, this is training and you need the technical audience to participate in the training events.

Adoption is the last one, which means that this has been already done. It has been implemented in some country and we are seeking feedback. They need to show us how they have been able to implement the issues or problems they have been encountered and how they have overcome these issues. So, this showcases the successful stories about

implementing universal acceptance. So, that's the main difference between the two. Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Thank you, Nabil. Okay. Okay, there is one more question if you want to add something before that. This is from Jasmine Cole. How do you measure the success of UA Days series besides number of participants and number of events? How would you justify the resources, funding, invested in all of these? Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you for the question. And this is a very important question because not only resources, we are putting in UA Day, but I think the whole concept is required testing. So, right now, UA adoption is at a very nascent stage. Less than 10% of the websites word over are UA ready. So, 90% are yet to be completed. Similarly for emails, which we defined as category L1 and category L2 put together, they are almost approximately 23.5% only emails which are UA ready. So, more than 90% of the websites and more than 27% and more than 77% of emails are required to be UA ready. The goal which we have kept with us is that 99% of the websites and 50% of emails at least L1 and L2 put together should be UA ready by financial year 29.

UA Day is not the loan efforts in making, taking us to that particular target, but UA Day is one of the most important events which is there. So, as the last question was there about adoption, yes, we are submitting the information, raising awareness about the UA Day, UA. And more important awareness is that, yes, there is a problem of the

universal acceptance, but there are solutions which are available, which can be demonstrated. So, UA Day will help us to demonstrate those solutions. UA Day will help us in taking, you know, facilitating physically as well as mentally how a non-UA compliant website or email can be converted into a UA compliant step-by-step.

Definitely the increase in UA readiness for websites and emails are the major, which we will definitely consider as the success story for the UA Day. Now this is not to be measured at the global level, but what I suggest is that individually at the national level, local level and regional level, all stakeholder must undertake this. One more thing I want to inform here is that ICANN issue a UA readiness report every year. All the previous reports are also available on usg.tech website. I appeal you, urge you to kindly go through that website, download those reports, and you can see the changes which are coming. And that is what I personally feel UA Day is going to contribute significantly in that direction. Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Thank you. There is another question. This is from Chokri Ben Ramdane. Looking to the UA shortlisted events, non-proposal from North Africa was selected. Does this a strategy of the UASG? Is this a strategy of UA SG, not selecting the proposals from North Africa? There is actually one from Egypt.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Not selecting, right?

SEDA AKBULUT: Yes.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: So, here, no, I'll come to you also. May I request Nitin to please answer this question that how the selection process has gone and what is the opinion of UASG in those proposals which are not considered today? We are not using the word not selected, but not considered because of certain reasons. Nitin?

NITIN WALIA: Thank you. So, first of all, I would like to say that, there's no strategy of UA SG to not to select anyone, actually. We, as a part of the UA SG, and even as a part of the committee who has been selecting these proposals, we have also always ensured that we do complete due diligence on all the proposals which are being submitted. Now, a lot depends upon the person who is submitting the proposal, individual or organization, what kind of information they share into their proposals and what kind of an impact that particular proposal will going to bring to the audience who would be attending to that particular event.

So, for the committee, whatever the information which is being shared by the individual matters a lot. What we have seen is that a lot of people submit the proposals, but those are half-baked proposals with very less information. Now, if those proposals which do not contain the full information which has been seeped into the template of the UA SG while submitting the proposal, then definitely, it would be hard for the

committee members to rate your proposal and give a weightage against the other proposal which has been submitted by somebody else. So, frankly speaking, there is no strategy of UASG to not to support anyone. It all depends upon the person who is submitting the proposal.

In fact, this time, we have also ensured that anybody who has submitted the proposal last time, say for an awareness, cannot submit the proposal again for the awareness, they have to submit the proposal towards adoption or training. So, we have ensured that, you know, the person who's, even if they are repeating, you know, the same person from that particular region, then he should upscale himself from awareness to training and then training to adoption, actually.

And that's the reason you will see that, this time you have proposals for adoption, you have proposals for training, otherwise last time, the majority of the proposals were only for the awareness aspect. So, already one letter has stepped forward. Awareness will never stop, but that will not be the primary forte. The primary forte would always be training and adoption, which will increase the adoption of UA SG in all spaces. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Nitin. Now we are running out of time. So, there are two questions which are there. One is from Abdalmonem and one is from the person from the back side. Abdul, short question.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Yeah.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: So, that we can answer.

SEDA AKBULUT: Not a question, rather than a comment.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: This is Abdalmonem for the record. One of the key successes of the work of universal acceptance training group or the work for universal acceptance that the community within I can start trying to have other committees related to universal acceptance on the scope. Like ccNSO will have universal acceptance committee. Like for GAC, we'll have GAC ID and UA and we are working for that in order to have something similar for ccNSO.

And I am thinking that there are a lot of communities I don't know here in ICANN meeting going to further for having something like this. That's one of the successes. Another key of success is that, look, I conducted four events for UA Day for 2023. Actually, look how many ambassadors added for the list of UA SG. We are started by three, then go seven. Now I think we are 18. That's one of the successes for that. And in recognition for all of these, this is a community, like I said. That's just what I would like to add. Thank you very much.

LOUIS HOULE: Thank you, Abdul.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: The gentleman from the back.

LOUIS HOULE: Yes. Louis Houle from .Quebec. ISOC Morocco accepted the invitation of ISOC Quebec to participate to the UA that will occur in the French community across the world on the 25th of April of this year. So, we still are talking with a couple of chapters from Africa, French Africa. And it's going to be kind of a melting pot of everything that you like. Some awareness, training and adoption, options for the players that will be around, taking into consideration the fact that they are in French, translating with Enesky platform, but taking also in consideration that they might have a third language in their own country that they will have to take care of. So, welcome.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you. I must congratulate you for having the UA day and all the success to you. Whatever support is required from ICANN, we'll be able to extend those support to you. Now, we are already on the top of the earth in case any question is there or?

SEDA AKBULUT: We have a few more questions, but we are.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: But we don't have the time. So, what we can assure you that all your questions will be answered and your answers will be available in your email box shortly. With this, I am able to see the chair of ccNSO Council,

Alejandro here. And I would like to thank Madam Yu, especially for creating the USC in ccNSO. And it is going to, I think, give a lot of momentum to UA spreadness, especially in the ccTLD managers. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you very much.

And lastly, I would like to appeal all of you that UA day celebration is the festivity, which I said, festivity for those people who are not involved in the internet community, to bring them in the internet community. Festivity to celebrate the multi-stakeholder concept of ICANN, which is making it success for the last 25 years. Festivity to bring all the people together, regardless of their language, reason. I request all of you, wherever you are, and please spare some time to participate in UA, and whoever can contribute to become a resource in the UA day celebration, so that you become the leader and ambassador of UA in future. Thank you very much for all who participated this, especially the participants from online and thank you very much for ICANN.org for supporting the UA Day session here in ICANN79. Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT:

Thank you everyone. Two points before we close actually. We have some exciting news. On the front decks we have some UA pins. If you are a supporter or organizing UA Day, please feel free and speak by and to grab some UA Day pins. And before we close, we also want to share that if you have further questions, please email to info at usg.tech that we will be able to respond to you shortly. Thank you for your participation.

NITIN WALIA: Have a wonderful remaining session of ICANN79 to all of you. Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT: This session is now adjourned. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]