
ICANN79 | CF – ccNSO: Universal Acceptance Committee Work Session
Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 1:15 to 2:30 SJU

KIM CARLSON:

Hi, and welcome to the ccNSO UAC. My name is Kim. Claudia and I are the remote participation managers for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During the session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form, as I will note in chat. If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use the physical microphone to speak. And you will leave your microphone muted and disconnected. Those seated not at a microphone may raise your hand and we'll bring you a handheld microphone to speak. For the benefits of other participants, please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. You may have access to all the features for this Zoom session in the toolbar. And with that, I'll hand the floor over to Abdalmonem Galila, the ccNSO UAC chair.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Thank you. Thank you, Kim. This is Abdalmonem Galila for the record. I don't know what to say. It is good morning, good afternoon, good evening, wherever you are. This is the first time to meet physical for a universal acceptance committee, is for ICANN 79. So I have to welcome first our colleagues from Universal Acceptance Steering Group

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leadership, Dr. Anil Kumar and Dr. Nabil Benamar. You could introduce yourself and say hi for the remote participants and for the group. The floor is yours, Anil.

ANIL JAIN:

Anil for the record. Thank you, Abdalmonem. Good morning. We represent the Universal Acceptance Strategy Group, which is a specially formed group for promotion of universal acceptance within ICANN and outside ICANN also. I am chairing the group and the basic objective of the group are twofold. One is to ensure that domains in all languages and with all length should be acceptable under every software and under every hardware. And the second is that all emails, which are in local languages, which we call email internationalized acceptance, should be acceptable in all websites, on all social medias and in fact in every form which represents IT. So with this short introduction, I hand over to my colleague, Nabil, to introduce.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you. Thank you, Anil. Thank you, Abdalmonem, for organizing this excellent session. So my name is Nabil Benamar for the record. I'm UASG vice chair and UASG measurement working group chair. And I'm really happy to be here with you to discuss how we can move forward this technology, so making Internet more inclusive and we can fix the remaining challenges and issues we still have. And especially that we have, starting from this month, we have the celebrating the UA Day and we have various events in all the globe celebrating this day. And we are looking forward to making it a successful event. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Thank you, Nabil. Thank you, Anil. Actually, me and my colleague Regina from .EU, speaking today on behalf of the University Acceptance Committee. And for now, I think I will go for the second topic for today, which is admin matters. The first one for the admin matters is statement of interest. Actually, according to ccNSO internal procedure, that it is mandatory if you are going to participate for a worker group for a committee, you have to fill in the statement of interest and send it to the secretary. And of course, the statement of interest is it will be available to be publicly at ICANN website. So at this moment, I will go to hand the mic over to my colleague Bart for the action items and schedule various presentation. Yeah, Bart, it's yours.

BART BOSWINKEL: Thank you. It was just to mention that we had, say, you from the UAC, Regina and Abdalmonem presented—Go ahead. Go ahead.

AI CHIN LU: Okay. My name is Ai Chin Lu. I want to update my SOI. Yeah, I have moved from TWNIC, but I still continue to work in the Asia Pacific community. Thank you.

BART BOSWINKEL: Thanks, Ai Chin. I'm sorry I didn't notice. Apologies. So going back to the next action item.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Just I want to say that whenever there is a change for a statement of interest, you should fill in the statement of interest again, or at least in yearly basis, you should fill in a new one. Thank you very much. Actually, for the item number three, we need now to welcome again for Anil and Nabil to have their introduction about Universal Acceptance Steering Group and what they are doing in order to foster the adoption of universal acceptance. Anil, the floor is yours.

ANIL JAIN: Thank you, Abdalmonem. UASG was formed in 2015, and since then we are working to ensure that the internet community across the world is a community which brings everybody together. And every person on this earth should be able to participate equally with equal rights and equal participation in information technology and especially in internet.

The Universal Acceptance Strategy Group is working with four working groups right now, which are regular community based. And these are technological working group, which works for analysis of the existing technologies, for development of the new technological contents, for informing the people who are actually developing the technologies, using the technologies, about the new changes, and also assessing the requirement of the technology for ensuring that universal acceptance gets accepted across all platforms, hardware and software.

Then we have a measurement working group, which as the name suggests itself, it measures the adoption of universal acceptance, their level of universal acceptance, and also find out their need for the universal acceptance. So this group is constantly working on looking at

all kinds of platforms, what is the level of universal acceptance and what are the gaps, and filling up those gaps.

I just want to inform you that this time the measurement group has taken a very special initiative of introduction of a universal acceptance as a subject in academia. So we are developing the course material to be introduced in the academia, and then we hope that the generation which is going to take up all of us in future is fully UA adopted, and they should be able to adopt the UA well.

The third working group is EAI working group, which look at the emails, and they check whether a particular email server or email as a provider are universal acceptance in their system or not. There are several ways to look at the EAI. One is definitely whether your system is able to accept or send an email in a language which is other than English, and also in the domains which are more than three-digit domains in the system.

Right now a very special effort has come out from the EAI working group, that is a self-assessment of the EAI, and anybody who is providing the EAI can undertake a self-assessment of their own email, whether their email is universal acceptance or not. Those self-assessment tools are now available for the public and they can use it. It also [throughout] that what are the gaps and how the gaps can be utilized.

The fourth working group is the communication working group under UASG, and communication working group itself is supposed to take out or you can say the bridge between universal acceptance strategy group and the community at large. We use several things like we generate annual reports of the status of universal acceptance. Then we also

popularize all work which is done through technological working group, measurement working group or EAI, through social media and through websites. We also collect information on universal acceptance work which is undertaken at other levels like IETF or at IGF level, and then we introduce and we inform all the relevant content providers, communities, how they can connect themselves.

So these are the four working groups which are on regular working. Then we have two special efforts which are undertaken. One is the local initiative. Now these local initiatives are promoting various governments or non-government organizations in a particular country or in a particular region to undertake various universal acceptance initiatives and works at their level, and they coordinate with each other also.

Then we have a concept called universal acceptance ambassadors. These are individuals who are well trained of universal acceptance, and these individuals, they go to the communities, they go to various organizations, they discuss, make those communities and organizations aware about universal acceptance. They help those organizations in adoption of universal acceptance and they continuously remain related with them.

All these coordination and all these working groups, then we have two working groups which are leadership working group which contains the leadership from all these working groups together and this is the coordination working group which meet on regular basis and assess the work which is undertaken by various working groups. And suggest in case anything suggestions are required. And finally, the top working

group is the admin working group which is a leadership working group which contain the chair of UASG and vice chairs of UASG and they decide about various policies, what decisions are undertaken by various working groups and they ensure that what is the future work area in that.

In this concept, I want to introduce that this time the admin working group and coordination working group has decided to work on a five-year strategic plan with the numbers in place, how much you have to achieve as far as the IDN acceptance is concerned or EAI acceptance is concerned year after year and what will be the result which we expect after five years.

Now, every working group which I discussed has been given the job of defining their five-year strategic plan and those five-year strategic plans are almost near completion. And we hope that after getting the community update and acceptance, we should be able to publish and hand over these five-year strategic plans to ICANN board for acceptance so that those can be implemented. Now, these five-year strategic plans are not just statements, but these are the working plans. It means that through which the five-year strategic plan can be implemented in various aspects of the IT-related and internet-related areas. And we hope that with these five-year strategic plan implementations, the basic objective of all of us regarding the universal acceptance will be achieved to a large extent on the fifth year. And we find and then we are working seriously on totally inclusive society for internet in the future.

These are the few introduction which I just want to inform the community, especially the ccNSO community about the UASG. Thank you. I am handing over back to Abdalmonem.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Yes, thank you, Anil. Before going to my colleague, I have a question for you, Anil. How could you imagine this world away from universal acceptance or without universal acceptance?

ANIL JAIN: In fact, this was very heartening because UASG was trying to ensure that the UA-related work are actually well engrossed in the various SOs and ACs under ICANN. And we have liaison at ccNSO, at GNSO, at GAC level for the last two, three years, I remember correctly. And they are coordinating between the various efforts which these organizations are making with respect to universal acceptance. I am really happy that ccNSO has taken up a step where they can focus, this working group can focus on the UA-related activity with respect to the various cc managers across the world.

I personally feel that why ccNSO, UA coordination, UAC is important, number one is that most of the CCs are operated, are being operated or influenced, are guided by the government. Now, when we define the five-year strategic plan, we find that government is one entity which is very important for promotion of universal acceptance. We will discuss in the various forums during this particular ICANN 79 also because we feel that the internet-related works in any country are largely motivated and guided by the government. This is number one.

Number two, because CC managers are related to government, they can influence the big technologies like Google, Apple, Microsoft to ensure that whatever they are delivering to their citizens, it should be inclusive in nature. So they can sit down with those big techs and they can guide them, they can influence them. And I am not using the word, of course, but they can force these big techs to adopt UA because the work which big techs are doing for the community, for the people and inclusiveness of this work is important.

And third important aspect is ccNSOs are now coming up very well as a registry, as a registrar and as a registrant. I think it is important that universal acceptance to the registry, to the registrars and to the registrant is going to play a very important role. So I on behalf of UASG would like to congratulate ccNSO. And at the same time, I would also like to offer my assistant and my support to ccNSO, the UASG, USC group, that we are always available from technological point of view, from policy point of view, from coordination point of view. And I request you to kindly join us, celebrate the UA day this time with full force so that this time we are not only working on the awareness, but we are also working on the technological adoption trainings of the community, which actually brings actual results on the universal acceptance. So all good work. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Thank you, Anil. Actually, for the UA day, I think UASG received a huge number of applications. I think it's around 100 applications. Yeah. And shortlisted to 50 applications only for UA day, but all this submission

was succeeded by due to some other factors were shortlisted to 50 applications only. Nabil, it's your turn.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Abdalmonem. So I think that Anil has given an overview about what we are doing in the UASG and all the working groups that we have, the milestones that we achieved right now. I think we have achieved another milestones, a big milestones in terms of the in our measurement working group. We have created a curricula for academia. We strongly believe that any change should come from the university. So if we are not implementing this as a course in all the modules that we have in the curricula, the academia curricula, so we are graduating students from the university that are not aware of the possibility to write any domain name in any script and to provide email addresses in any script and language. So if you don't have those students in this field, in the computer science field that are not aware of this, so we cannot dream of any change in the internet ecosystem.

And now it's no more a work of only ICANN or UASG. So recently International Telecommunication Union provided a resolution in revision Bucharest 2022 that focus on the role of administrations of member states in the management of internationalism domain names. So other big organizations like the ITU are talking about this topic. So they invite member state and sector members to consider how to further promote the adoption of universal acceptance in respect of IDNs and to collaborate and coordinate with relevant organizations and stakeholders in enabling the use of IDNs in the internet.

So for this, we have in the measurement working group, we have developed the academia curricula that introduced the basic internationalization, including Unicode, IDNs and email address internationalization and focusing also on how we can implement what we call micro learning models to integrate key concepts into the existing coursework. That include internationalization using Unicode, international domain names, email address internationalization and distribute new concepts across relevant courses.

So if you want to have the detailed module descriptions and content, it's available on the ICANN community website. You will see different modules that we have developed. So it's not only the syllabus of the course, but also the content. So anyone can take—and this is public. This is public and published. So any faculty can take the course, can take the material there and start giving and teaching the course using this updated material. I think this is a big milestone that we have achieved in the UASG. So now inclusiveness of the internet is no more a dream, it's a reality. The next step is to invite faculty from all over the world and we can organize some workshops where we can discuss this and they can take the material with them and they can start teaching using this new material. That includes internationalization and all the principles that we are advocating in the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yes, thank you, Nabil, for this huge effort done by UASG. Actually, also there is an effort done by ICANN related to ICANN Learn for the courses related to Universal Acceptance, which is also a good step towards to

have knowledge transfer and to have more awareness about what are the issues related to Universal Acceptance and why does it matter. Do we have any questions in the room or remote? Okay, if we don't have any questions, we could from now shift all the questions to the end of the session so we could go for the other topics for the agenda for today.

Now it is UAC, Universal Acceptance Committee slides. Actually, since September 2023, there was a community created by ccNSO called Universal Acceptance Committee. The main goal behind Universal Acceptance Committee is to create a platform for ccTLD community in order to interact and share information at the global level with other ICANN communities for the issues that are related to acceptance of domain names. So whatever these domain names are top level or at the second level for other domain names, whatever it is ASCII or IDN.

Of course, UAC is not going to formulate standards or policies related to Universal Acceptance. At the same time, the issues that are related to Universal Acceptance for CCs, it is individual issues, individual for ccTLD out of the scope of UAC. So we have a scope for Universal Acceptance Committee. One of these scope is liaison with Universal Acceptance Steaming Group. We already have [inaudible] as liaison with Universal Acceptance Steaming Group and share information from time to time related to what is going on at Universal Acceptance Steaming Group.

At the same time, we have information sharing like conduct awareness session related to Universal Acceptance at ICANN ccNSO meeting, tech day, and cooperate with other work groups under the ICANN umbrella like GAC IDN for UA and other IDN groups and other group. And also we

have conduct surveys related to the adoption of Universal Acceptance for ccTLDs. This one is related to information sharing.

Also we have another list of activities, additional activities that may be subjected to consultation from the community or at some time we need approval from the council. So why ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee? We need to fill in the gaps in information sharing and act as a single contact, complementary to the efforts done at the global and local levels. At the same time, we are not overlapping the work with other communities. We have our scope, we are going for this scope away from overlapping with other communities.

For UAC membership, it is open for ccTLD managers to join Universal Acceptance Committee irrespective of their membership of ccNSO or not. Actually we have our own workspace published at ICANN Wiki and also have our site from ccNSO website for Universal Acceptance Committee.

We have also defined a work plan for one year ahead. And also we need to, before going for this plan, we started to use Napkin Pitch to set ideas. And for these ideas we need to set the impact and effort analysis. Maybe one of these ideas have high impact and have low effort. So we need to go to set priorities. Maybe this one that has high impact and low effort will be at the top of the priorities. We need to go for that.

Actually, as I said before, we need to have source or one repository, one source, one repository to have all the information related to Universal Acceptance available for all ccTLD. So we created a subgroup related to have this document that is related to universal acceptance. Maybe this document is presentation. Maybe it's a report. Maybe it's YouTube

videos. Maybe it's a link. Maybe it's a tool like what's said by my colleague Anil to measure how readiness is in the server and to measure how if your website is ready or not. And of course, this submission of this article or report or something like that needed to be reviewed. This subgroup will act as editorial board in order to review these submissions and approve if it will be published or not at one repository called universal acceptance library.

So for the future plans for ccTLD universal acceptance committee, we have five future points we need to concentrate on. The first one is reaching out to all ccTLD managers within ccTLD in order to subscribe for Universal Acceptance Committee. Actually, we are drafting an invitation letter that under the final stages to be sent to all ccTLD managers within ccNSO and inviting them to join Universal Acceptance Committee indicating that the importance of the work of Universal Acceptance Committee in cooperation with other workgroup.

The second one to finalize the UAC work plan. It is already in progress, semi-finalized, but we will discuss that by the end of the session. And second one for the future plan to assist assisting organizing session on universal acceptance readiness and practices. For example, for the Tech Day during the ICANN meeting for ccTLD sections.

The fourth one, it is liaison with other relevant ICANN groups like Universal Acceptance Committee group, like GAC IDN workgroup, like board IDN Universal Acceptance Workgroup.

Finally, to create an email list for all ccTLDs and for all ccTLDs that are interested in Universal Acceptance and IDN. Of course, we are talking about domain names for IDNs. At the same time, it is related to email

address internationalization as domain name is the main part for email addresses.

Finally, there are some sessions related to Universal Acceptance Committee that will be by the end of this agenda for today. So now the floor, if you have any question, just raise your hand. Bart, the floor is yours.

BART BOSWINKEL:

Just to illustrate the bits about the library. Claudia, can you show it so you can see what the editorial board has been doing? So it's the information library specifically targeted at ccTLDs. So what they do, so whomever is interested, whoever thinks this is interesting documentation for ccTLDs regarding UA. It will be submitted to this editorial board. They look at it and they'll include it in this library. You can already see there is some material on the library and we want to expand it. So there is one stop shop for ccTLDs regarding information on UA because it's very dispersed across all kinds of fora, etc. So to really make it easy to access relevant information.

And as you can see, so presentation reports, so the very high-level categories, articles, commentaries, it's still empty. So they just started to complete this. So it's also a call for submissions to this library. Can you scroll down please, Kim or Claudia? Tools, definitions and policies. So the first set of documents was included just to show what is happening. And these were the ICANN Org documentation which were considered relevant. But I assume there is far more relevant material out there. But again, to allow CCs to a one stop shop. And the email list, although we're still working on it, is intended to update ccTLDs if

something new is posted. And in order to create a, I would say, a channel of communication between people within ccTLDs who are interested either through their job or just as pure interest in IDN or in UA. Because that's one of the things we found within the ccNSO. It's very difficult to reach the right audience. So these are all measures or tools to reach the right audience within ccTLDs. Thanks. Back to you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yes. Thank you, Bart. Do you have any questions on the fly to answer before going ahead for identifying the areas of mutual interest and next steps between the cooperation between UAC and Universal Acceptance Steering Group? Do we have any questions at the remote participation? Yeah, which is fine for me at the moment. So Bart, could you go ahead for identifying the areas for the item number D?

BART BOSWINKEL:

Identify areas of mutual interest. I think that's more up to you and the leadership of the two teams and the two groups themselves. As I said, the UASG will have a lot of material. If they want to share this and make this available to ccTLDs as another channel, that's a very obvious one. The other ones is probably not now, but in the future, UA Day. As you will see, and if you will stay on the discussion of the work plan, you'll get more sense of what the UAC is about. And they intend to play a more active role in the UA Day events to engage and involve ccTLDs around these. Yeah, to engage them more.

I think another area is really sharing and developing success stories. Again, this is one of the work items that they've identified, the UAC, as

you will see in a minute. And the success stories are always helpful to bring across the need and the relevancy and the importance of UA. And that it really matters, that it really makes a difference. So that's probably an area. And maybe we could revisit the questions after we've run through the work plan so that the steering group could have a look at the work items which were identified by the UAC themselves and chime in and say, yeah, that's relevant for us and this is where we can cooperate, etc. On the negative side, what the UAC really does not want to do is what you're doing. So avoid overlap as much as possible. Sometimes it's impossible, so it should become a kind of synergy between the two groups. Thanks.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yeah. Thank you, Bart, for this. Maybe one of the points that is in my mind recently is to survey to measure UA readiness among ccTLDs. I think I will be happy to go for that, to measure the UA readiness and send surveys to ccTLD managers in order to have clear ideas where we are going. We need to know what are the issues for ccTLDs that prevent them from being UA ready. Maybe one have an issue related to technicality. We'll forward them to UASG, something like that. So we are happy to assist for conducting surveys related to universal acceptance readiness in cooperation itself with UASG. Go ahead, please.

ANIL JAIN:

Thank you, Abdalmonem. I have from UASG a few suggestions for UAC. One is that ccNSO can influence the government that when government is procuring material from various vendors, we can request, advise those vendors that their system should be UA ready. If we are able to

spread the UA readiness in that way, that will be a great support from ccTLD managers.

Number two, there are various communities which work in any country depending on the linguistic requirement or maybe for the job which a community is doing which has influence on the government or any other. So basically what we are requesting is that if the ccTLD managers can identify the communities which will have influence more on the general population or bigger population, we can involve that community as part of the UA work. The ccTLD managers can get involved in the community work, can join in their efforts, can influence, train those communities to adopt UA related activities and ensure that all IT work which is being used by the communities are UA ready. So these are two small suggestions which come to my mind. I just wanted to suggest to UAC to take in case all members of UAC feel that this is adoptable. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yes, thank you, Anil, for this. Actually, we are doing this, but with no overlapping with the work for the University Acceptance Steering Group. Actually it is UA readiness for ccTLD manager application at the local entity or local country. It is up to ccTLD manager himself, not the issues for ccNSO. But we are doing our job in order to increase awareness about University Acceptance, why it is important, reach out to them in order to conduct the survey and other work without overlapping. At some time we will guide them to go to the University Acceptance Steering Group to submit a ticket that are related to technical issues that prevent them from being universally accepted or

university acceptance readiness. Yes, thank you. Do you need to add anything?

NABIL BENAMAR: It's okay, I think you covered everything. So the idea of sending a ticket to the UASG, this is really a good initiative and this will enhance the collaboration between us. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Sure, actually what you have EAI check at UASG, the tech ops site. So we could ask ccTLD manager, you could check your EAI readiness just to go for this link. This one in our goals without going in details to overlap with other communities related to universal acceptance. So now we need to go for the work plan. So the best one to handle this is my colleague Bart. Go ahead.

BART BOSWINKEL: I'm not your colleague, I'm just support staff. Can we go to the document please and go to page three first. So what I'll run through for those of you who are not familiar with what the UAC has done. Today what they need to do is set, you see the yellow mark and we'll increase the size in a minute, but you see the yellow marks area and the UAC member or everybody in the audience will have an opportunity to effectively order a preference of these topics. I'll go in a little bit more detail what you think the UAC should tackle first, because what you see marked here are major projects in their terms. They will have a lot of them. They will have a high impact, but also require a lot of effort, meaning far more planning than some other things.

So I'll run you through how the UAC got into, say, defined these specific projects. And Abdalmonem already alluded to, say, the napkin pitches, et cetera. Can you go to page four, please? There we are. And go to the table. Summary. So Abdalmonem referenced what is called a napkin exercise. Effectively what they've done is if you look at one of the major tasks that was in their charter was that the UAC should liaise with relevant groups to become point of contact for ICANN and others with respect to ICANN-related UA ccTLD activities. So that was in their charter. And this is quite broad and not very specific. And in order for the UAC itself to set the tone, they've started to do this exercise, identify why it's relevant for the ccTLDs, why it's relevant for the ccNSO. And most importantly is the execution, the proposed execution by the UAC. And you can see that small list at the bottom. So this is with respect to the liaison function of the UAC. Can you go to the next page, please? Page six. So there you are. Yeah.

They've also done this with respect to the second major task that was identified in the charter. That it is the UAC should assist and or take the lead in organizing UA readiness and UA practice sessions for the ccNSO effectively and how they want to do this. And if you scroll down, please go to the execution, you see they've identified a series of actions. One is around knowledge sharing. The other one is to assist in UA day events. That's what we already alluded to and talks about information gathering and survey. That's another one. And sharing the results, of course, that's one of the major tasks. And then develop tools for information sharing and gathering. So that's the UA library and the email list. And that was already included in their charter. Can we go back to page two?

So what happened after a, I would say, impact and effort analysis. Oh, that's the one on page six. Page six. Sorry, Claudia. I'm driving everybody nuts, but go to page six. There you are. So what happened, say, after this napkin exercise is so identifying activities. One of the major tasks effectively is to identify tasks which are, say, how much effort does it take and how much impact do they have? So that's the impact effort analysis. It's something to set priorities. And the way the result of that exercise ends up in quick wins, as you can see. And you should do them immediately. Start with them now. Don't take much effort, but may have a high impact.

The other one is major projects. And you can see five listed. And then some fill-ins and thankless tasks, meaning don't do this. And fortunately, the UAC did not identify any. Thankless task is almost, it's a waste of energy. It is low impact and a very high effort. So you never want to go down that path. So they didn't identify it. So and fill-ins, yeah, you can do it. It doesn't make real difference. It's nice to do. It's a bit of the checkbox idea.

So as you can see, they've identified a series of quick wins. And the working group or the committee is already working on them. And then the major projects. And now we can go back to the starting on page two. Yeah, I'm sure. There we are. So this was the introduction to the major projects.

The next step for the UAC is to, and the broader, say, people interested in universal acceptance, is to identify the project that they should take on first. Because major projects effectively means you can't do everything at the same time. It is high effort. And the effort is really

volunteer time. You can't do major things in parallel because the volunteer time is limited. So you need to set an order in these major projects in what you believe are the most relevant ones. And I know some people on the UAC have a very outspoken view on what should be done first and for good reasons. And so I open the floor effectively to—I hope you can read them. I'll quickly go over them.

So one is liaising with email and other service providers, including, for instance, local programming groups, W3C registries and registrars, in order to make them UA ready. You can imagine, I think the UASG has already done it. Some of you have been involved. This will take a lot of effort, etc. Impact may be very high, but you need to constantly do this. So that's the first one.

The other one is planning and organizing tabletop exercises. I saw in the notes, say in the chat, the UASG has already done something on a tabletop exercise. So that's interesting. If the UASG wants to organize, UAC wants to organize one, again, based on the experience of another ccTLD or ccNSO committee, the TLD ops, it takes quite some effort to organize and plan and develop a good tabletop exercise, which really helps ccTLDs. So this is where you can see already there's some overlap and avoid it. So that was the second one.

The third one is conducting a survey among ccTLDs regarding UA adoption, and Abdalmonem already alluded to it. I know ICANN Org has done some in the past. Maybe it's something to build, but the UAC is perfectly positioned to do something like this with ccTLDs. And then I think it's the fourth one. That is really looking at local counterparts, so that's ccTLD managers, assisting and cooperating with them to

organize local events. So if they need material, the UAC might be a channel of communication to develop. But again, this assumes a lot of effort from the UAC.

And then finally, developing ccTLD UA readiness journeys and case studies. And journeys might be, say, specifically for ccTLDs or some different ccTLDs. What do you need to do to become UA ready? So kind of journeys, which steps to take, etc., specifically for ccTLDs. Again, a high effort, potentially high impact work item or project.

So these were the five main projects identified using the other ones. And now it's more on where should the UAC start first. So the floor is open for questions, comments. And maybe at the end, you'll be asked to participate in a Mentimeter poll. We open the floor for the... Can you go back to the presentation? Yeah, go ahead.

JIANKANG YAO:

Thank you. Just a general comment. So because the UAC chair and the UAC chair already said we should use ccTLD manager. Because ccTLD manager has a good relation with the local government. So then we can ccTLD manager and the government, we can together do some local events to promote UA, EAI and IDN adoptions. So I think this is a very good suggestion and a very good idea. Because UASG, we can attract more big companies, more different community members to join. But the UAC, we can specialize the benefits of inviting more ccTLD managers to join. So actually, so now Bart has already introduced a lot of actions from UAC. So I think the most important question is who do it? How to encourage more ccTLD managers to join us? So maybe in this room, maybe we can give more suggestions. For you as a ccTLD

manager, you will volunteer to do it, or CNIC or some other. Many ccTLD like to do it. So we can, how to encourage more ccTLD to join together and do more contribution to this work. This is very important. If all ccTLD managers, we can together, this is very important to us. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Yes, thank you, Jiankang. Actually, it is collaborative work between UAC and different communities that have interest in universal acceptance. Thank you very much for your comment.

BART BOSWINKEL: Just one, maybe again, in addition to what John Kang said, that's why you see, go back to the agenda, you see this very weird item, letter to— of the UAC to ccTLD managers. It is really about inviting them to participate one way or the other, alerting them to the library, alerting them to the ccTLD or to the email list. But also, if they want to join this group and help developing these efforts, that's also inviting them to do this. And not just as the ccTLD managers, more say more importantly, people working within the registry with an interest in UA. Because ccTLD managers normally is an organization. So that's clearly—

JIANKANG YAO: So is it possible we set a UAC mailing list? So every ccTLD manager, we can at least one person, one email address.

BART BOSWINKEL:

Yes, that's the intention. But for people with an interest in UA, because we do have a ccNSO members list, for example. And it reaches somebody within the ccTLD manager, but probably the wrong person. So you really want to target people within the registries, within the registries, with an interest and who have it as part of their job. A comment from Shubham Saran. Identifying local counterparts/players will be a crucial aspect for awareness and eventually adoption point of view to make success stories. Thank you. And I think the UAC at least is very aware of this. So you can see it in chat. So going back, can we go to the... I didn't see it.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you, but I wanted to make a comment. Previously at AFTLD, we attempted to have an activity for African ccTLDs with UA, and we've worked with Abdalmonem on this. One question that I keep getting from the ccTLD managers, and this is important because I've seen the letter to the ccTLD managers, is to bring out the value of UA. They say, fine, in principle we are supporting this, but what value does this bring to my ccTLD at local level? I have not been able to answer that question very well. But again, what I want to add, because I've also done some bit of awareness activities with Professor Nabil there, is when it comes to the technical aspects and the real implication of UA in countries that, for instance, I come from Kenya, and it is assumed that English is our official language, and then we have Swahili, which is also our other official language. So sometimes it's not maybe similar to Abdalmonem, where probably there's Arabic that brings in a unique use case for UA. For me, because the government already declares English as an official language, the use case of bringing in the other languages really has to

be compelling, or we have to find a cool way of doing it. So it's a challenge to the committee, even as we think of bringing in the ccTLD managers, because I've been asked this question. What value are we exactly adding? It seems that it's not coming out very clearly. Thank you.

BART BOSWINKEL:

What is interesting, I think, say, from my support role, I really understand your point. Maybe – I don't know if we do have time to address that point a little bit, because we can go back to the napkin pitches. Can you go back to the document? And can you scroll down to page four, probably? There you are, yeah. I think this is where you can already see, and this is part of the exercise they've done. And this will be publicly available shortly, is one of the nice things of doing it this way, say, with this methodology that we use, is you start with thinking, say, what is the benefit from a ccTLD perspective? Say, the UAC is ccTLD managers. So you start thinking, why do we do UA, etc.? Why do we have this UAC liaisons with others? What's the value benefit for ccTLDs? And you can see something already listed.

Now, this is only about liaising with other committees and point of contact. Can you go to the next page, to the other one? That's more interesting. This is where you can see, scroll down as well, say, benefits and needs for ccTLDs. Scroll up a little bit. There you are. Again, strengthening local community and regulators, etc., but also it's really serving communities or people within your own community who do not use English or Swahili as their first or second language and who do not use the Latin script. So it's more about service to the community where

the real benefit is for a ccTLD. And that really aligns with, say, I think one of the major understandings of what ccTLDs are supposed to do is serve the local community. You can use it that way, say, and if you do something like this, think about that's what this committee has done. Look at it. Why do we do this? What's the benefit for the ccTLDs and what also benefit for the ccNSO? Because at least this is a ccNSO group. Yeah, go ahead.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Yes, thank you for that. Sorry, I think I hadn't gone into depth in the document. But in addition, maybe as a comment on something we could embrace, across the regions in the past we had these registry operations curriculum courses that were championed by ICANN and ISOC with some form of direct engineering support which have contributed largely in the technical competence of the ccTLDs. And maybe we could also, in addition to this, borrow that approach where, as the regional organizations, we have sessions or calls specifically on UA which embody this material but structured in the form of a course to also help build this movement. In addition to the letters to the ccTLDs, I think that would probably also work very well in supplementing this effort.

BART BOSWINKEL:

Thank you. And can you scroll down a little bit to the execution by the UAC, especially this one? I think that's right in the middle of this is one of the, say, areas that they've identified, say, knowledge sharing, assist UA day events or other events, but also, especially in the first part, knowledge sharing. You can see developed roadmaps, assistance. I

know, say, because ICANN staff, ICANN UA staff, say, Sarmad and Seda, are really involved in the work of this group, that material is available and in that sense, the UAC is just a channel. So if there is a need, say, it's probably, if you have something like this, you want to do, the UAC is perfectly positioned to reach out within ICANN and to other groups to assist you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yeah, actually, Barrack raised a flag about something, that it is official language, that it's English, and top-level domain name for ccTLD is English, two-letter. What could happen if I am trying to register a name under .KE that is have IDN? That's IDN1. Maybe it is not in English. Maybe it's French that have dialectic, one of the issue. Maybe I'm going to ccTLD application to register a domain name and add my French email address that have dialectic. That was the issues. So this is why Universal Acceptance is going to be adopted by all ccTLDs. That's why we are going for UAC to increase, to raise these flags in order to make awareness that you have to go for, to make UA readiness at your website. You are ASCII, yes, but you have limitations and challenges for this series of events. Thank you.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Barrack, for raising this important comment. So actually, if you go to the main website that I have shared the link about developing the curricula, you can see that we are not talking only about preparing the students, but what is the real benefit from adopting Universal Acceptance? What are the benefits in terms of business? And here we gave an amount of more than \$9.8 billion of opportunity to businesses.

So this is something really huge. So we are encouraging ccTLDs to adopt Universal Acceptance to make it as smooth as possible for everyone.

So, for example, for countries that are not using or that are only using the English or the Latin scripts in their language, so preparing the people there to adopt Universal Acceptance, you are preparing the future engineers that can collaborate with other countries from not necessarily from the same country where they are not facing this challenge of not able to use any non-Latin scripts. So this is a business opportunity for all. And we are in the measurement working group preparing a white paper about how the ccTLDs can develop their business by adopting Universal Acceptance. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Yes, thank you, Nabil. For the sake of time, we are limited to eight minutes, so we need to go ahead, Bart.

BART BOSWINKEL: Can we go back to the Mentimeter? So we had a discussion around it, and you have some sense of the topics which are interested. Can we scroll down, please, Claudia? We've discussed this. If you please log in to Mentimeter, and you'll be asked to share what you think is really relevant. So you can use the QR code, or you can log in to menti.com and then enter the code, and you will be in the presentation, and you'll be asked two questions, effectively. I'll give you a few seconds to log in. Yes. There you are.

I hope everybody who wants to participate in this polling has now logged in. Can you go to the question, please, Claudia? So the next one.

So you see the five topics, the major projects, are now included, and you are requested to select one in order of preference. So the first one is liaising with email and other providers, planning, and the second one is planning and organizing tabletop exercises. The third one is conducting a survey among ccTLDs, and the fourth one is assisting and cooperating with local counterparts to organize local events. And now you can see how it works. You just submit your preference, and whatever is considered the most preferred option will be the one. So we open up the floor for a minute. I see just five responses. Maybe any other responses? So non-UAC members are welcome to participate as well. A few more seconds. And online as well, so people like Regina and others. Wait, 30 more seconds, and then we'll close the poll.

I think I don't see any changes. So this is an interesting outcome. 13. And probably if you go to the percentages, the three of them are similar. So this is really up to the UAC to decide between the top three where they really want to focus first, and there are some arguments to start with the survey. Interesting, interesting. Maybe one more. I think for the sake of time we'll stop this. This gives a good indication to the UAC. And can we go to the next page?

And with this, I didn't go through, and this is really for the UAC itself. We'll collect the results of this format, and we'll insert it in the final document. And I took you quickly through the UAC work plan. So first one is focus on the low-hanging fruit, which will happen anyway. And then the major projects will be listed. And then in a way the roadmap for the work of the UAC is ready. So we don't have to do planning anymore. We can go into execution mode, which is the fun part. So with this in mind, do you support the ccNSO UAC work plan as was

developed? And some of you are not very familiar with it, but still. Please, go ahead.

Can we go back to the previous one? Now this is a very supportive vote. “I have doubts.” Leave it open. The person who has doubts, can he or she speak up? If I have doubts, is it because I don't know? Or you can even type it in a comment. Use your microphone, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

I think for the IDN, we have already promotion several years. But now I think a lot of the ccTLD, I think they're not very good for the promotion part. So I just think the wider user demand is not so much. So the important things, I think the email service provider, that is play a very good part for this one. And I saw the UAC working plan, I think all focus on the training, information sharing, and workshop capacity building that part. But the important things, how to liaison with the email service provider, I think the current maybe is very important to promote IDN. Because we have no email service provider, and email this part, we cannot use very friendly.

So currently, even though I know that ICANN have already announced, now the IDN is very smoothly can use the IDN. But even the Google and the other, Microsoft, even the Gmail, they cannot use the Chinese. I mean the IDN, you can send email to the IDN user, but even the Gmail itself cannot use the IDN, use the email application. So that is my opinion. Maybe it's not a very good opinion, but this is I think the several years promotion. I think it's just my experience.

BART BOSWINKEL: And I think that's a really realistic point of view, and I think which will take on, and you can see people jumping. Go ahead.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Okay, Anil, go ahead.

ANIL JAIN: Thank you, Bart. ccTLD managers themselves are, I personally feel, are very influential individuals and groups who can influence the community to adopt universal acceptance and also to make this system very inclusive. There are two aspects of UASG which I discussed initially also. One is adoption of IDN, which you have referred very effectively that, yes, IDN is the main fundamental which everybody, including ICANN, is supporting for adoption. And all technological supports are available for adoption and implementation of IDN.

Now as far as emails are concerned, let me again inform you that UASG has a specialized working group, EAI, which is working in ensuring that all email servers or email providers, they adopt UA. And let me inform you that unless the EAI is implemented effectively, the UA implementation is incomplete.

The second part which you talk about, whether the big techs like Google, Microsoft, are really working in this area. Now let me inform you that initially the uptake was low, but now UA is part of the strategic plan which Google and Microsoft, both are now adopting. And they have already declared that they are going to support so many local languages in their product. So I still feel very strong that the role of UAC

under ccNSO will be very effective and it will be very supportive for all the efforts of UASG. Thank you.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Okay, Regina.

REGINA FUCHSOVA: Hello everybody and thank you. First of all, I wanted to greet you remotely. And also from my part as the vice chair of the UAC group, I wanted to just mainly repeat the invitation for ccTLD registries to join. We want to keep the group as useful and practical as possible. And the ccTLD managers are, according to our viewpoint, the best way. Thank you for all the inputs. We see this connection to the local communities, also to technical implementations, which could be eventually very useful for the implementation, but also reach out activities, because ccTLD registries are of course active anyway within the local communities, educational activities, have good access to universities to promote the curricula and the idea of universal acceptance as it is. So a big thank to ICANN staff, Bart, Kim, Joke and others who were very helpful in setting up a group and gave very useful feedback where not to go and where to stay efficient. And also to Abdalmonem, the chair, for leading this session and other sessions as well. So thank you very much. And please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any question. And we hope to see more participants in our group. Thank you very much.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Thank you, Regina. Actually, we are out of time by four minutes. We need to conclude. Thank you very much for Universal Acceptance Steering Group, Anil and Nabil. And I think Nitin is already at Zoom chat. Thank you very much. And keep up the good work and we are in cooperation all the time as Universal Acceptance Adoption is collaborative work, not one work done by one community. Whatever government, whatever ccTLD manager, whatever business, all is cooperative work. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]