
ICANN79 | CF – Get to Know the ICANN Community NCSG Netw Event
Saturday, March 3, 2024 – 1:15 to 2:30 SJU

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Welcome back. I hope you enjoy some rest and get ready for the next session where we will be talking about non-commercial group in ICANN. You will learn new acronyms and I hope you will enjoy them. Many of you expressed their interest to know more about the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, so this is your opportunity to know about this community and there will be more sessions run by this community during the ICANN79 and I'm sure the presenters will talk about this. This will be a guide for you to find out which session you want to go.

So, please enjoy the session and it's my pleasure to introduce my great colleagues and friends from Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, the chair of Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, Julf Helsingius, if I'm pronouncing your surname correctly, apologies if not, NCUC, which is Non-Commercial Users Constituency, Benjamin is here representing, and I have Caleb and Juan from NPOC, which is Not-for-Profit Organizations Constituency. So, I will be learning again with you.

All the time it's changing, so bear with us, but without further ado I would like to give the floor to start to Julf. And we planned in this way that NCSG, NPOC, NCUC will present each of their community, what they are doing, what is the main purpose, how to get engaged, and then at the end we will give the time for Q&A. Okay? Sounds good?

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Everybody is with us in this session? Raise your hands, are you with us?
Good, good. Okay. Julf, the floor is yours.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Thank you. I didn't realize I was coming to a rock concert instead of a presentation. Yes, welcome everybody. My name is Julf Helsingius. For those who wonder, I'm actually, yes, I am from Helsinki. I am a Swedish-speaking Finn, but I've been living in Amsterdam in Holland for the last 30 years almost. So, I am the chair of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, which is part of the GNSO, and my job here is to give you a little bit of context for my colleagues to then present their specific work. How do I change slides, by the way? Ah, excellent, thank you.

Okay, so as I said, we are part of the GNSO, the Generic Name Supporting Organization, who is the policy-making body responsible for the generic top-level domains, .com, .net, .org, and so on. And this is very important in this context that GNSO is actually the organization who defines the policy for those domains. This is not an advisory organization. This is actually a policy-making organization. And that's something that's always a bit confusing about ICANN, the difference between advisory organizations and actual policy-making organizations.

So, the GNSO Council consists of two houses, the Contracted Parties House, who are registrars and registries, people who actually sell you domains, and the Non-Contracted Parties House. So, the Non-Contracted Parties House, which we are part of, has, again, two subgroups. There's the Commercial Stakeholder Group, which is pretty much everybody who are commercial, the Business Constituency, the

Intellectual Property Constituency, and ISPs. And then we have the non-commercial ones, which you see here on the stage.

So, NCSG is the umbrella for the non-commercials in GNSO. We are representing the civil society, so as you can imagine, things like human rights, privacy, and so on are very important to us, and my colleagues will talk more about that. And we have a slightly interesting structure in that you can be a direct member of the NCSG, but usually you are a member of one of the suborganizations.

The constituencies, which are the Non-Commercial Users Constituency, both individuals and organizations, and the not-for-profit organizations constituency, which is only organizations who are users of domains. But on the GNSO policy level, there's no distinction between these three groups. We have one set of council members who represent the whole NCSG. We have six council representatives on the GNSO Council. We have an executive committee, and we have a policy committee, and of course we have lots of people in different working groups in the GNSO. And with that, I would like to hand over to my colleagues to present the sub-constituencies in more detail.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Julf. And Caleb? Juan? Juan, please. Can we have the slides? Yes, thank you very much. No. NPOC will come next. Yeah. Can we get NPOC slide on the screen? The next one. Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Well, good morning. Okay. Good morning. Good afternoon. I would like to speak in Spanish, because this is the first time that I can do it, so I can use it. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm going to present the Non-for-Profit Organizations Constituency. This is the place where the non-governmental organizations are, which are also part, as Jule said, of civil society. We are academic or social organizations that are working in favor of what has to do with the organizations in what affects them with the DNS. Well, then, you will surely find on the website, on the ICANN page, that we have another name, because the name really changed recently.

Before it was the Non-For-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency, and until recently it was the Non-For-Profit Organizations Constituency. The differentiation was made because, precisely, the first thing that happened was that everyone was asking, what is the difference between -- What are the Operational Concerns? So, let's say it was easier to say, no, let's organize ourselves, that is, we represent organizations and any civil society organization can join us.

So, what we do is that we give them a voice in what has to do with the DNS within the GNSO. And since we are part of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, here, as Jule said. Well, here is the organization where we are involved, as Jule said a moment ago, we are part of the GNSO and we belong to the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, which was the same thing he said. There it is. There, for example, as I told you, there it says-- Well, before it said, in the chart it said, on the page, it says some parts still, Operational-- What? The previous name, I got confused. So, that's where we are. That's where we are debating and participating within the GNSO. Our mission has to do, effectively, with

the participation in the development of policies from the point of view of the organizations.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Juan, please, can you slow down a bit for our interpreters? Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: I'm sorry. I'm excited, I'm sorry. It's Spanish, I'm sorry, yes. So, who can join NPOC? All non-governmental, non-profit organizations can be joined, and that they are not an organization for profit, basically. They have to have their own domain and they have to be interested in knowing how the domain system works, the DNS, and how the policies that are developed in ICANN can affect their organization or our organizations, because normally we are organizations. We have the differentiation that we can be small, medium, or large organizations within NPOC. So, let's say it's also important to remember that.

The topics in which we work, mainly in NPOC, are related to something that you will have, surely you have seen it in the agenda or in the recommendations of today, is, for example, the topic of DNS abuse. Transparent domain records, privacy, cybersecurity, and the use of intellectual property. These are some of the topics that we have. Here we explain a little, in general, each one, but I will not focus on that in terms of time. So, what have we done? We have created a committee of policies and we have done several things. Now we are more than 100 organizations in NPOC that are part of this team, of this group. So, if you want your organization to belong, the application is done through NCSGIC, as Joel was saying a while ago.

So, you can join NPOC by participating in the application, you can join any of the existing committees, or we also invite you to participate in our meeting, which is on Tuesday morning, where we will also have a session, at least in this case, with a member of the SSAC and someone from our non-commercial community who will talk to us about the Applicant Support Program. So, it is important that you can take advantage of and participate and learn a little more about what we do in this case. The information can be found in-- These are the addresses where you can contact us. And I think with this, I will finish at this time to also give the floor to Benjamin. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can we get before giving the floor to Benjamin, to come live to continue with NPOC?

CALEB OGUNDELE: Yeah, so to add to what the chair said because I know he spoke in Spanish and you would be expecting to hear a lot more in English. If you are interested and you are not a non-profit organization here, Please know that I'm the membership chair of NPOC. I will be hanging around to help you join NPOC. In case you need more information, I'll probably just hang around the corner there and probably be at the fellowship booth in case you need to engage with someone to understand exactly and to know more about what we are doing.

One of the reasons why the chair spoke in Spanish is to do an additional outreach to most of our brothers and sisters here within the Latin American region. It needs to connect more with you. And so, if you need

more information, please do not forget to reach out to us. There won't be any language barrier. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Caleb. We can move now to Non-Commercial Users Constituency, to NCUC. Benjamin is a longstanding friend of mine. Please take the floor. And please upload the next slide for us.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: While we wait for the slides, I'd like to introduce my ECs, Amine and Ines. Can you just indicate? So, Ines represents the African region and Amine represents Europe. And then, finally, Pedro, who is a fellow as well. So, you see, we're all inclusive. So, you can even join us today.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Benjamin, if you can explain what is EC.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: I will do that right away.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So, EC is part of the leadership team. That's the executive committee. So, we have the chair and the five regions have executive committee members that represent each region. So, we have three of our

executive committees sitting right in our midst. And at some point, they'll be willing to respond to some of our questions. So, we are non-commercial user constituencies. And we are the voice of the civil society organizations, individuals, activists, researchers, and everyone that desires to advocate for non-commercial interest on the Internet.

If what you're doing speaks to non-business approaches, we are really welcoming to you. And we just hope you can join us. So, today, I'm going to be telling you more about our group. So, that's why we are called NCUC. So, NCUC, as I've just mentioned to you, we advocate for domain name related policies that protect and support non-commercial communication on the Internet. So, if you can easily relate with that, then you belong to us. So, just come and let's have a conversation. We are the home place for civil societies, individuals who are concerned about human rights, data protection, privacy. If these things resonate with you, then you should come to us. If you are concerned with censoring, surveillance, we advocate for this.

Even for indigenous communities, if you want diversity in this space, we easily provide the platform for you to do that. So, it's to ensure that the voice of non-commercial users is heard loudly and in an empowered manner in ICANN space in this multi-stakeholder engagement. So, this is how we are distributed. We have somebody representing us in North America. Ken is not here because that's the way we try to attend meetings. At least for now, we have three of our executive committees present at this meeting. So, we have somebody representing North America. We have somebody representing Europe. We have somebody representing Africa. And then we have somebody also representing Asia Pacific and Latin America as well.

So, that's all of our ECs. I thought I had numbers. I think I didn't send that version. So, we're about 941 members strong. As at the last check, we have 941 members. But in our community, you can also be an association or an organization. But the challenge we have is that we need to verify that you really don't have non-commercial interest. We do that diligently. If we find any trace of commercial interest with you, it's no, no for us. So, we want to be sure that you are really passionate about things that pretty much does not speak to commercial entities. And you are doing this for either a community, more like altruistic value that we really desire. So, for that reason, most times we have volunteers in our midst. People will do it by themselves. And then NCUC happens to be the platform to empower the engagement. We're not very, very financially strong, but we're passionately strong. We believe in what we're pushing. We believe in the agenda. And some of the things that we do is we mobilize civil society. We form partnerships with civil society across board to bring them to ICANN to make sure they advocate for these things that naturally would not be heard here.

So, we send members to the ICANN meetings three times in a year. We ensure that some of our members are able to come and participate. We also elect a representative to the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group that you all represent and lead. We appoint representatives to NomCom. nominating committee. So, there's one thing I want to say here. I know there's a lot of conversation around different constituencies that look like ours. But if you really want to work and you want to be represented, you want to quickly get into this action space, I think non-commercial is the best place to be. We will give you

opportunity to participate as you show your competence in the work we do.

You don't necessarily have to choose which of which because at the end of the day we're all working for the same all-inclusive universal Internet. But I can tell you that you don't have to play too much politics with us. Just do the work and you'll find yourself at the center of the action. We're looking for a lot of hands. If you're good with communication, if you can read a lot of documents, if you can pay attention to details, then you're welcome. And if you're so much interested in the good of humanity, you're welcome. So, we develop and advocate policy positions. We collaborate and interact with other stakeholders in the multi-stakeholder space. And we organize conferences and events exploring global Internet governance issues. So, as you've seen in multiple slides, that green spot is our spot. That's where we belong to. And for us, it's that we must hear civil society voice in this multi-stakeholder model. And we must sustain it and keep it alive.

So, what are the topics that are of interest to us? I know you are tired of acronyms. I'm also not for acronyms, but sometimes it saves space on the slides. So, the RDS is our hot trending issue at the moment. The new gTLD, the SOAP Pro, is also our baby. We've been clamoring for it. DNS abuse, the clear definition of DNS abuse is something very close to our heart. We want it to be clearly spelled out, and we don't want it to drag ICANN into content moderation. Statement of interest, and all of the things you can see there. Privacy, geopolitical, regulatory issues affecting ICANN. They're all close to our heart. So, finally. I hope I'm not speaking too fast today, but I'm trying. So, that's our Twitter handle.

You can easily meet us there. And we're looking for people to tweet on issues that are non-commercial at this ICANN. If you see us anywhere, see something, say something. Tweet it to us @NCUC. And then that's our website. It has all the information you need to join us. All you need to do is to click apply to be a member and just fill in your email address, your name. We'll get back at you. If they don't get back to you in like two weeks, write me an email. Say, Benjamin, you said it's so easy. Why am I not a member yet? I will do something about it. Try to remind the people who are in charge of your phone call to make sure they check you and see if you're fit to be a member.

So, that is that about NCUC. I hope and pray that you have many questions for me. And by the way, we are going to have an issue forum on Tuesday. It's also a good space for you to come and just watch how we engage. Our membership meeting was yesterday. I knew you had an obligatory session and you couldn't come. But for our Tuesday meeting, I hope you'll be able to make it. Then you'll see NCUC in action. We are going to be having discussion with a lot of speakers. I invite you to be at that session. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please, go on.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Yes, just to add that the best thing that we have in NCSG is that you don't have to choose. You can be a member of all of three. You can be a member of NCSG, NCUC and NPOC at the same time. So, that's it. That's a note.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Now it's time for questions. If you would like to ask questions, and I know you might need some clarifications, we'll be interested. So, the mic is over there. For our virtual participants, you can submit in the chat or raise your hand and we will give the floor to you. Filomena, please start and then Russel.

RUSSELL DEKA: Thank you. My name is Russel.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Russel, if you can stay close to the mic.

RUSSELL DEKA: It's all right. My name is Russel Deka. I'm an ICANN79 fellow. Also, I'm a ccTLD manager, administrator of dot BG. Also, I'm a director of PNG University of Technology. So, it's very unique. So, I'm the right person to communicate with you because we are a university, government university, non-profit, but ccTLD administrator. So, do you have any record, like a university on this ccTLD rule and to participate in this, how do I say, NCUC, or even NCSD, this committee? Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So, we have a lot of professors, but it's tricky because you're a ccTLD. So, as the professor, as somebody working in the university, I think you can join us as an individual. But as the university running a ccTLD, I don't think, but I'm going to, drop it as Julf's step. But I think as an

individual, you can join us as a non-profit, but as a ccTLD operator, I don't think we're well suited for that. But I'll have Julf respond to that.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

The simple answer is that it's complicated. It depends. I mean, you can, even if you run a ccTLD, if you're truly a non-profit, you could probably sort of be a member. We have a special restriction that if you are a non-profit, that's membership-based and the members are commercial, like a trade organization, for example, then you can't. But a university should be okay if it's really non-profit.

RUSSELL DEKA:

Yeah, we are non-profit. We are not making a profit. But, of course, if we make a profit, this one must reinvest within university activities like internship or even entrepreneurship program. So, we are not making any profit.

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

So, the best way I would see this is, I will tell you the best way to manage it, is try to separate all the entities, right, and make it less complicated for you. Because if we are the NCSG ECN, we have to review your membership application. One of the few things that we will look at is the fact that you are coming from the university, a good tick. You can be a member of this. Now, you're coming from a ccTLD. If you merge

contents of that application up and you begin to bring in ccTLD-related stuff, you are a big suspect.

And so, we will definitely deny that application. So, I would say separate the issues. If you are interested, we don't want you to go away and be part of another constituency doing something else. However, when you come and you become part of us, you need to separate the hats you are wearing. That is if you end up becoming a member of NCSG, NPOC, and NCUC. Using the status of university not-for-profit, you will have to have the orientation that we have as non-commercial. However, every conversation on ccNSO is going to make you look like an alien to us and we'll start suspecting your intentions and motive. And I think there is another place in the charter that says that members can also be expelled.

RUSSELL DEKA:

All right, thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Filomena, please.

ZOE FILOMENO:

Hello, I'm Zoe Filomena, ICANN79 fellow. I will be speaking on my own behalf. When it comes down to ICANN and its structure, since you guys do policy, how do you guys deal with the reality of how human rights, activism or other regions of humanitarian aspects deal well with ICANN that tends to be a little bit sometimes more technical, so, how do you guys merge that with your outreach. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: That's really a good question because it's really the core of what we do. We try to solve, that's our job, to make sure that when GNSO formed its policy, they do put into account this like human rights issues. We are strongly advocating for a human rights survey on each policy decision and so on, and that's why we are there. Some people in the organization think we are a real hassle, because we say, no, you can't do that, because it's against all these conventions. So, that is why we exist, as a core message.

CALEB OGUNDELE: I want to flag something you said. You mentioned humanitarian issues, right? Just so you know, we do human rights issues revolving only around the DNS issues. NCSG does not go outside the ICANN's remit, and so we are restricted. We do not do issues around content regulation and the rest of them like that, and we are sticking to what the ICANN remit is. However, there is human rights-related issues in conversations that we have in NCSG.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Zoe, for us, in as much as we stay within the things that concern DNS and all of that, I heard in the last meeting we had, there are things that have implications that have to do with-- We don't even have words to represent them yet, that reflect on human rights, diversity, and all of that. As long as you have an issue that seems like it's shortchanging human beings, I mean, diversity and you could always bring it, but it involves a lot of work. You just have to convince our community that

this issue kind of makes some people outcast or shortchanges a community. And if we can have that understanding as a community, I think we are eager to push it forward, and that's why it becomes a human rights issue for us. Is that clear? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. James, please, go ahead.

JAMES KUNLE: All right. Thank you very much. My name is Olorundare James Kunle. I'm an ICANN79 fellow. And my question has to do with membership, so to say. So, what I want to find out is-- Because when you were making presentation the other time, I had the issue of, okay, individual can join, organizations can join, and so on and so forth. So, I want to find out what type of organization. Take, for example, let me just give a pragmatic example. Can Internet Society, a chapter, so to say, join NCUC? That's a question I want you to answer.

Then another question would be, let's say a professional body, like let's say a technical professional body, can they join any of this either NPOC or NCUC? Can they join either of the two? If they can, how? And what are those things that you guys look out for when you are reviewing the application? Because that will help me to know what exactly to put together if probably one is to put up an application. Thank you. And the last ones, yeah, sorry. On the issue of human rights, I had human rights, human rights, human rights, but it looks more like, okay, maybe NPOC doesn't deal with human rights, then NCUC deals with human

rights. Am I correct? Or all the groups deal with human rights? Please clarify. Thank you very much.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

Okay, can I? So, quick one. Just open caveat, the relationship between the last person who asked the question and myself is interesting because I was the former ISOC chapter president and is currently the ISOC chapter president. So, let me answer your full question of the same chapter where I come from. So, to answer your question, yes, Internet Society can be a member of the three. Yes. And as individual, you can also be a member of NCUC, NCSG, but you cannot, as an individual, be a member of NPOC, right? NPOC, Internet Society, Nigerian chapter, where you come from is already in NPOC.

So, if you're also looking at your application, if I understand what you're trying to do is that you can apply as an individual now to NCUC and to NCSG. However, one of the factors that they are going to use in reviewing application is the organizational affiliation where you come from. So, one of the things that NCSG don't want to see is that you're coming from a commercial entity, a government entity, or entities that has something to do with those on the other side of the aisle that we will have conflicts with at the end of the day.

So, we don't want more like NCSG always use this word that they don't want spies. Spies in NCSG, right? But I think that word is too far-fetched and is up to an extreme. So, that's my view. However, I also see that we have some elders of NPOC on the queue, and this gets me very scared as much as I have to admit I see Professor Sam LanFranco on the queue.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: But before that, can we go to Julf and then Benjamin to cover this question? Yes, please, Julf.

JULF HELSINGIUS: I would just like to make a general comment about what other organizations you can belong to at the same time as belonging to our organizations. The only restriction we have is that you can't belong to two different organizations outside ourselves in the GNSO. So, you can't be part of, let's say, intellectual property constituency and us, but you can be part of ALAC or whatever. That's no conflict as long as it's not GNSO sub-constituencies.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: I'd like to address the issue around human rights. As you know, human rights has to do with humans. So, things that affect humans, individuals, easily resonates with us. So, that's why you hear a lot of us, NCSG mentioning human rights and all of that. And depending on how you stretch it, when you talk about privacy, I mean, sometimes it's difficult for organizations to have data protection as an organization. It's about individuals, or privacy is about individuals.

That's where you get the strength of that conversation. So, that's why when we talk about human rights, it really resonates with NCUC. So, for us, whatever it is that you say affects human beings, human engagement, as it has to do with the domain name systems and internet, you can find some kind of home with us to advocate for those

positions. Especially if you want to get into the policy space, get it to be acknowledged in the policy development process.

The conversation starts with us, moves to NCSG, and then if it gets enough momentum and support, you probably find it eventually in GNSO conversations or whenever we're evaluating the policy development of things they are considering, you can find allies in us to either support or reject such views. So, that's why we keep screaming human rights. But we also are looking, I know it can be tricky, but we're looking for ways we can make it tangible in whichever way we see it. Yeah, so that's why it's around us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, thank you. Let's take a question from Krislin, and then from online, and we'll come back to you, Sam.

KRISLIN GOULBOURNE-HARRY: Hello, my name is Krislin Goldberg-Harry. I'm from St. Vincent on the Grenadines. I'm an ICANN79 fellow, and right now I'm speaking on my own behalf. My question is related to DNS abuse. I understand the importance of the topic. I know that you are charged with trying to prevent DNS abuse and maybe control and manage the situation, but as it relates to a DNS that has been abused, and I want to speak specifically about the ccTLDs, is there any way for that DNS to bounce back? Is there any type of mechanism that you have in place that allows those DNS that were previously abused to come back and maybe be reused?

CALEB OGUNDELE:

That is a very strong technical question. So, first of all, let's even identify what DNS abuse means, because I know that we have lots of fellows in the room. It's the improper use of domains for the wrong reasons, and there are a lot of abuses around the domain name system. Take, for example, if I want to go to ICANN.org, and then I kind of change that I to one, just to go to, as in I kind of put it out there, something like that. I'm just giving you an example, or there is a malicious intent to use that ICANN's website for something else, then I begin to start acting in an abusive way towards that domain.

Now, your question is, if those domains will bounce back, I do not have that data, but I know that I can give you pointers to organizations that can help you with that specific data. The DNS Abuse Institute, they have lots of data on if certain domains have been abused and they have been reused again. I think they have lots of data on that, and I would refer you to go to that website. I'm happy to also work with you to go through to see that data. Because this is the first time I'm being thrown that question, and it's interesting that I also have to go research it. By the way, I used to be a former fellow, and I used to be in this room, and I don't know everything. I will never know everything. Every day when I come to ICANN meeting, I still learn new acronyms. Even though I'm seated here today, I am still learning about new stuff. Yeah.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE:

I want to see if I got your questions correctly. Are you saying, is it possible for us to go back to what we have in the contract? Is that what you asked? Okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Shanelle, can you come for clarification?

SHANELLE MCPHERSON: Yeah, just to provide clarity, and Krislin, you can probably correct me. I think what she's asking is, from a user perspective, if a domain name is being abused, for example, ICANN recognizes it's being abused and they block it, can a user receive back that domain name? Yeah, can it bounce back? That's what she's asking, basically.

CALEB OGUNDELE: So, I think I probably did answer some of those questions. I do not have. But one thing I know that is that when certain domains are no longer in use, it becomes open for someone else to register. However, if domains like that that has been abused have been flagged, I think there is something ICANN does about it. I am not sure. I do not have the specifics. I do not have the answers. But I am happy to work with you to research it. But I think my colleague has some few answers, yeah.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Yeah, I am thinking while you were talking that there is a mechanism called UDRP, I think. Could be all these mechanisms that some new owner of domain can do a litigation process to recover or to do that this has been not well used. It has a legal process. I am not a lawyer, so I'm sorry because I don't know the minor thing. But I think that could be a kind of mechanism that you are talking about. There are a lot of other

mechanisms, but I think that could be part of the answer that you are looking for.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Pedro, you want clarification on this? It's a new question? Okay. Sam, can we go to you and then I will ask the question which posted remotely because the guy is here.

SAM LANFRANCO: Sam Lanfranco in CSG. I want to make a brief comment mainly to the new fellows and the new people that are here with respect to the human rights issue.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can you come closer to the mic?

SAM LANFRANCO: With respect to the human rights issue, and that's that within ICANN, the stability and security of the top level of the domain name system is its focus. That's where it makes policy. We come together here with all kinds of issues that go beyond that, and human rights is one of them. A certain amount fits inside ICANN. The rest of it is outside ICANN. And many of us come here and meet like birds of a feather on the side. We work outside, but we don't try to force the issues through that don't fit inside the ICANN policy process inside ICANN. We met elsewhere. We meet continuously. We work on these things. They're very serious.

I use the analogy that if your car has low oil pressure, you don't take it to a hospital because they deal with blood pressure. They don't deal with oil pressure. So, there's a whole bundle of issues out there. It's a great place to come together, discover people who have common interests, work on common issues. Some of them actually fit into the policymaking process of ICANN. Many of them are outside ICANN's policymaking process, so we meet on the side to discuss those issues, and we work nonstop on those issues.

So, treat this as an occasion to be birds of a feather coming together, an informal special interest group to meet on the side, some whole formal meetings on the side, and continue to work on those things, and don't lament the fact that you can't cram them through the ICANN policy process, like it's on ccTLD. That's over there. It's not ICANN. There's a liaison because there are mutual issues, but it's over there. So, there's that. You have to begin to understand that global structure of where decisions get made and don't get made, and then this will be very rewarding. Also, I would recommend if you can, independent of the formal mentoring processes in ICANN, if you find anybody in ICANN with whom you find you can work, regardless of who they are, maintain a friendship with them, and develop an informal mentor-mentee ship. Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

May I mention also that Professor Sam Lanfranco was my mentor in NPOC, and so I think he deserves a round of applause.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. There was a question, and then I'll come back to you, Benjamin. So, a question from Abraham Selby. He's asking, can a student from the academic community join NCUC as a member? And since they are saying affiliation, will it be possible for the student to use his or her school as affiliation?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes. I think yes. Because you said you are a student, so as a student with this school, you are totally welcome to join us. Yes, a student is. I'm a student as well, and that's my affiliation. Even today, we filled it in a form. So, I think you can join us as a student affiliated to your university. You are so welcome to NCUC. Thank you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Yes. Just to clarify, if you join as a student, just make clear that you're joining as a student of a university. You're not representing the university. That's just an important distinction.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Yeah. So, in addition, that person can be a member of NPOC. Why? Because you are not an authority in your school. You don't hold any authority to represent your school. And so, if you want to use your school to use it to join NPOC as an organization, that application won't fly because we have to verify with your school if you are in a leadership position and you are authorized by your school to join.

JULF HELSINGIUS: But so, if NCUC and NSCG would actually accept you, no problem. It's just that NPOC has a special requirement that you have to represent an organization.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So, also in the area of human rights, we have a standing working party. This is a smaller unit different from working group that has been working on human rights. We have a cross-community working party on human rights and we need members. We're looking for members. So, I'm using this opportunity to market to you to join this group. If you are concerned with anything that has to do with human rights, it's with us. And if you are good with communication as well. So, please find it useful for yourself. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And you wanted to speak about community, this working group?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes. Okay. So, yeah, so this cross-community working party, you can be in any constituency in ICANN. You can even be in the business constituency. But you can join this cross-community working party. And what we do, what this cross-community working party is doing is to look at every policy development work that is going on or policy recommendation to see its impact on human rights. Even advice given by ALAC or GAC and quickly do to check it.

What's the human right impact? Or recommendation approved by ICANN board to see what's the human right impact on it. So, we have a

small framework that we use. I was really looking for members who are lawyers, who are comfortable, who can consume a huge chunk of document quickly and look at it and come up with answers. So, we're calling out to you in case you are wondering what can I do. Here's something already on the ground for you to just jump on. So, I hope I will see some of you showing interest. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Any questions? You have the opportunity to ask questions now. Yes, please, Krislin. Go to the mic.

KRISLIN GOULBOURNE-HARRY: Hello again, Krislin. I'm Krislin Goulbourne-Harry, for the record, from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and I'm an ICANN79 fellow. My question, well, I'm asking on behalf of myself. My question is related to, okay, so the different organizations, they're all making policies, but then there are a number of policies that I have noticed that overlap, for example, privacy, security, and also human rights. So, I am wondering if there is any mechanism in place or any strategies that you have to ensure that the different organizations cooperate with each other, for example, NPOC, the business community, and the other communities that exist to ensure that there is no duplication or inefficiencies in how the policies are created that go across the board. Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Okay, so let me quickly provide some answers there. First of all, we need to recognize that NCSG is the mothership that carries NPOC and

NCUC. Just see us like this. Now, because they are the mothership, we need to align also in everything that we are doing. We are standalone constituencies. We have specific focus through our membership, the way we see things and perspective. However, at the end of the day, even when we are writing our own policies, we align with the noncommercial mindset. And so, our mindset allows us to have a central PC, which they call a policy committee.

We, as NPOC, take our own public comments, in case you don't know what public comments are, like ICANN is a multi-stakeholder process. There are times that issues will come up and they will ask each constituencies, let's have your feedback, let's have your thoughts. That's an opportunity for public comment, where we go write public comments, and so that's how we contribute to the policy. Now, because we are able to do that, we share whatever we write in NPOC, they share whatever they do in NCUC with the central NCSG policy committee. And then we see where we have overlaps, we see where we have mutual interest, and we see where we are able to expand more on specifics to our own constituencies that concerns us.

Our own focus in NPAC might be, we might be targeting a lot of not-for-profit. There was a time when there was a specific issue on the .org GTLD. That was like 2018, several years back, and guess who were the champions? NPOC. But we had to align whatever we were doing with NCSG. So, that we get backing from them, we get backing from them. So, we see that overlap, but we all have this alignment mindset at the end of the day.

JULF HELSINGIUS: I also wanted to sort of add that something that's sort of important to understand is that it's not that we have lots of different groups doing all kinds of random things here and there, because they happen to be interested in it. We are really guided by the GNSO policy development process, and it's whatever is in that process at a decision point that we have to focus on. So, that's a very, very good focusing point. What is going on right now in the policy process? Does it need intervention from us or not? And that drives our whole activity.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Yeah, this is Juan, for the record. Just to add, yes, we are part of the GNSO, but there are working groups that involve all community of ICANN. So, there are many, some groups that are going beyond us, but we are also, we are always focusing on what non-commercial interests are there in that discussion, because we are talking about the transfer policy, or we are applications for program, or that kind of thing. It's discussing all around the ICANN, and even in the GNSO itself, we have registrar, registries, IPC, ISP, and we are just one part of that. So, we are always trying to find how can that policy affect us as non-commercial users, a non-commercial group, stakeholder group. That's it. Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: So, why we advocate that you join us is that we have people we have chosen. So, let's say you want to be part of GNSO right now. You are an NCUC member. This conversation has started on our mailing list. Now, one way or the other, we have appointed you as our representative in NCSG to go for, because we do policy at NCSG, non-commercial user,

Commercial Stakeholder group. That's the level we participate in policy development process.

So, in order to know what your community feels, you are on our mailing list as NCUC member, and then you go to Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group as a representative to the GNSO to go and argue in all this policy development process to say, for example, we are talking about registration data right now, and you are there clamoring for non-commercial interest, but we don't have different policies. We just make sure we rally around at that level.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: In the gTLD level?

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes. In gTLD level. I know, but I'm talking about at NCSG level to talk in GNSO Council, that's how you represent us. So, that's why we're saying come to us, then somehow you belong to this whole process. That's the way you get into the pipeline of this conversation. But we don't have different policies that we are creating individually, no. We work at that level. But it's just our representations at this space.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So, based on this, there is a question, how do policy interventions by NCUC and NPOC get to the Board through GNSO or directly to the Board?

JULF HELSINGIUS: The answer is yes. As in, of course, the official process is through a GNSO process, and ICANN, as you might have gathered, is very, very process oriented. There's a place for everything, and how it should be handled. But at the same time, we do have a lot of interaction with the Board. We are part of appointing a Board member, and we also discuss with other Board members, have formal meetings with them, we have informal meetings with them, and we do get to listen to a fair bit. And I'm just looking forward to a way too early breakfast meeting with some Board members tomorrow morning, that's the next thing for me to do.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Can I say something?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: We also elect, if you're an NCUC, I mean, you have a better chance of being in a NomCom, you know. We elect people to NomCom, those are the opportunities you get if you're an active NCUC member, you see. And yeah, that's what I just wanted to mention.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Any last question? Yes, Sam, and then James.

SAM LANFRANCO:

Sam Lanfranco again for NCSG. For the new people here, I want to give you an example, and that's that we are currently developing the applicant guidebook for the next round of gTLDs, which will start in around 2025, the application process. The drafts of that material have been worked on for several years. They're online now, NCUC, NCSG, NPOC, each can make comments on it. You can advise them on making comments if you're members of those organizations. You can go to the documents and make comments yourself as an individual.

You've got all those opportunities. One of the very difficult issues that we're dealing with, I'm on those committees, is how to make it easier for marginalized and disadvantaged constituencies, different people have different terms for what to call that, to actually get in and apply for a gTLD. It's a very complicated process, both expensive and technical and so forth. There are technical people who will support it, but we have to get the wording right in the application process to (a) make it easier or possible for these marginalized groups, and by marginalized I'll mean a whole special interest group across South Asia or across Africa, make it possible for them to apply, handle the financial issues which are complicated but can be addressed, and handle the technical issues which are complicated but can be addressed.

And so, you can begin participating in that this evening. You can go online, find those documents, and begin to read them, and decide that they're missing something or you like something, and you can start that process right now. So, it's that more disorganized process in which you operate at various levels. It's not like being the member of Parliament trying to get legislation through Parliament. It's a very diverse structure.

OLORUNDARE JAMES KUNLE: So, thank you very much. Once again, this is Kunle, ICANN79 fellow. So, just to clarify, it's going to be very short. On the issue of cross-community working parties, I heard you say something like anybody from any community can actually join. So, I really want to understand the dynamics of that group, because I heard from the presentation that was given earlier that you can only be in NCU, NCN, a lot of acronyms anyway. The Noncommercial Stakeholder group, okay? If you are there, you cannot join any other community. But now we are talking about cross-community working party. Please explain the dynamics. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: You can start and then Julf.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yes, it's a cross-community working party. It's a special unit created to address this issue. You know, working groups also welcome-- it doesn't mean you have to be a member of NCUC to be in this cross-community working party. It's an avenue to address human rights within ICANN. So, to try and identify the impact of human rights, the impact of policies, recommendations on human rights. So, in order to make it cross board, they've set up this mechanism to do that. But I think, as I said, everybody's learning. So, I'll give it to Julf to address it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: James, we cannot hear you until you come close to the mic. Thank you. Yeah, but I can hear him.

OLORUNDARE JAMES KUNLE: So, what I want to clarify is before you can join, probably maybe you need to identify that, okay, I am representing the interest of this community. Okay.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: It doesn't matter which constituency you are represented, but Julf, please clarify.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Well, yeah, I think Benjamin already answered pretty well that general question. I just wanted to clarify one other thing, which is that you can join us and also being part of some other constituency as long as it's not a GNSO constituency. So, it's totally okay to belong both to ALAC and us, for example, at the same time. There's no problem with that. The only restriction is that you can't belong to two GNSO constituencies at the same time.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Yeah, and just to wrap up, ICANN is a multi-stakeholder community. Every decision that is being taken to the Board that goes up to the Board is community-driven, which means it's a bottom-up approach. And so, to wrap that up, if you want to get involved in any specific constituency, either on the side of the supporting organizations or the advisory side,

that's the SOACs. You can choose whichever one, and there are lots of them all around. You can join the GAC, you can decide to join the RSAC, the RSEC. I'm pretty sure that you've had all these acronyms, but we'll talk later about them. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We will talk about RSEC and SAC later this evening, but I would like to give the floor each and every one of our presenters with the one-minute wrap-up and your call to action to all fellows and next-genres. Julf, let's start with you.

JULF HELSINGIUS: I'm not even going to take one minute. I'm going to just say that if you have any more questions or anything, we will be around the whole week, and just come and talk to us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: That's very encouraging, by the way. Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Yeah, and I will steal some of his minutes. So, just to wrap up for me, I used to be a fellow. Sometimes I used to call her Mama Mia of the fellowship, and I used to be on that other side. Why am I saying this? I'm saying this to encourage you that you can also be on this other side. Believe in yourself.

Specifically, those from several parts of the world that you feel that you don't have representation, when you see almost everyone on this place,

you see representation reflected there, and I want you to see that as something to encourage you. Now, more importantly is that you see lots of acronyms and lots of stuff that will confuse you. I think I confused you a little while ago, and I apologize for that. Now, in your first ICANN meeting, you won't get everything. You will never know everything, and that is my personal experience as a one-time fellow. I don't know everything, even up to now, I'm still learning. And I would say that it doesn't hurt if you ask all the stupid questions now. No one will take you as being stupid.

If you ask the stupid questions now, and you show them the tag that you're a fellow, everyone will be happy to help you because they know it's your first time, and so you're trying to learn all the questions. Don't be afraid to ask any questions. It doesn't mean that the questions are stupid. I'm just using that as an analogy that be encouraged.

Do not stop at asking all the questions you want to ask now, and we are here to help you. You've seen the website address. You've seen the email. I will hang around at the fellowship booth doing outreach and engagement with some of you, and so if you need help, I'm happy to talk to you. See me on the corridor. Even if I'm talking to someone, just drag me out and say I have a question for you, and I will answer. Thank you.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: I'm just going to give the stage to my ECs to advocate for you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So, EC is the executive committee.

INES HFAIEDH: Executive committee. Okay, so I'm Ines Hfaiedh. I'm from Tunisia, Africa representative in NCUC executive committee. I used to be a fellow. I used to be a fellow coach as well a couple of times, so I'm really happy to see you all here. I just wanted to give you some points of contact because we've heard about DNS abuse and about human rights, so I really recommend that you approach Ephraim, who is a fellow with you. Ephraim is your point of contact in human rights impact assessment. Yesterday also in NCUC, we had a great session about DNS abuse. A great, great resource person would be Farzaneh Badiei. You will find her. She's everywhere, so we can put you in contact, and us as ECs, you can ask us whatever you want. That's it.

AMINE HACHA: Hello, everyone. I'm Amine Hacha. I'm representing Europe in the executive committee of NCUC. Also, I was a fellow, and it's very important to live this experience, and it's taken you to the right, correct to choose where you can find yourself in ICANN in general. Don't be shy to ask, as Gallup say, all we start like you. We don't know a lot, and until now, we don't know a lot after many years.

So, really, every time we discover something new, and if I give a little of advice, that don't go everywhere. Try to choose a subject you feel yourself comfortable in. Sometime in the beginning, you find the subject comfort you, and if you don't find you are a lot developed in this side, try to move to another. There are a lot of opportunity in ICANN.

You can move, discover, and enjoy at the same time. It's very enjoyable, this experience. I would like to ask, I think a lot of attendees here are also alumni fellow, so we are all one family as alumni fellow, and you will be alumni fellow. I invite the new fellow from Europe to contact me or anyone in the executive. We need you with us. We need to more develop our work in NCUC. Thank you for listening to me. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent, Amine. Thank you. Pedro?

PEDRO DE PERDIGAO LANA: Hi, everyone. Nice to meet you. So, I'm a fellow, ICANN79 fellow, as you know, and I would just like to make a quick call of action that before I was even an ICANN76, I already wrote a public comment with NCSG. I was already trying to help things. So, there are opportunities. We just need people that want to do it. You don't need to know how to do it. You don't need to have some expertise before it. Just approach us. There are people who are going to help you. It's easy to engage through NCSG. Of course, you have to dedicate yourself, but it's a great space, a great path to get into ICANN work, and we would love to have you with us. So, thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Pedro. So, if you want to work and you don't know where to put your passion, NCSG is waiting for you. Juan?

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Okay, thank you very much. This is Juan for the record. I don't want to leave behind, so I want to introduce you to our PC member, I'm sorry, policy chair. It's Emmanuel over there. Please take the phone.

EMMANUEL VITUS: Hi, thank you very much. Yeah, so my name is Emmanuel. I was also a fellow. I think I started my ICANN with a fellowship somewhere in Joburg in 2017, and so far, the journey has been great. In the past, it was difficult because I'm a French speaker. It was difficult, but along the way, I think today I started speaking some few words in English. So, it's very good to, I mean, get engaged, get involved. As they said, NPOC is not-for-profit organizational concerns, but we can also do that one-on-one mentorship. I think Sam said it earlier, it's the best avenue to learn, because if you want to learn all the acronyms, as you can see this week, the number of acronyms that you are still learning is difficult.

So, just find your passion and focus, because that was some of the mistakes we did at the beginning when we joined ICANN meetings, where you want to go to all the sessions, and at the end of the day, you don't even know what exactly to choose from. So, just find one thing, get focused on it, and do it better. So, if you are interested in the policy work with NPOC, just approach me, let's have that one-on-one conversation. I speak French now, English, and a bit of Portuguese, so let's get engaged and get that one-on-one conversation. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Vitus, and thank you for being and joining this session. I would like to thank my presenters and colleagues for coming here. I

always love seeing fellows giving back to the program, so coming back and talking to newcomers, because they know how the newcomers feel, but I also very much appreciate that our extended community members are coming and sharing their experience, because we need your expertise in all what we discuss and the way we go. Thank you very much, and with that, I would like all of us to applaud to our presenters, and the meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much. Can we stop the recording?

JULF HELSINGIUS:

Can I just say something? That I would like to give a shout out to Andrea, our ICANN support staff here, who is amazing, help us a lot, so—

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]