
ICANN79 | CF – Get to Know the ICANN Community: GNSO and ccNSO Members Networking Event
Sunday, March 3, 2024 – 3:00 to 4:00 SJU

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And welcome back to the series of sessions "Get to Know the ICANN Community". During this session, we will learn about what is GNSO, Generic Names Supporting Organization, and what is ccNSO, Country Code Names Supporting Organization. And I have two wonderful presenters today. And we will start, let me introduce Gregory DiBiase, who is chair for GNSO. And then the second half of the session we will talk with Biyi, who is vice-chair for ccNSO. But let's start with GNSO.

Gregory the floor is yours.

GREG DIBIASE: Great. Thank you so much. Can everyone hear me okay? My name is Greg DiBiase. I am the chair of the GNSO Council. So maybe I'll start at the beginning, already jumping into these acronyms. The GNSO is the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

So what is a generic name? That is a top-level domain like .com, .club. Those are the generic names. And I think maybe the main way to think about what separates the GNSO, it involves generic names that are sold by registrars and that are managed by registries. So the GNSO Council is the council that supports policy that is developed to improve the function of generic names.

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So on the Council are registrars which sell the domain names, registries which manage top-level domain names like .com. And that is one side of the house. There's a Contracted Party House. And we say the term "contracted party" because they have contracts with ICANN. So if you want to become a registrar, you have to sign an agreement with ICANN, the Registrar Accreditation Agreement, which gives you the authority to be able to sell domain names directly to customers.

And in this contract, there's kind of an interesting clause that says you agree to everything in this agreement and any policy that is subsequently developed in the GNSO and ICANN. And so that's what this council does. They're creating policy. And once that policy becomes effective, it is put into these contracts with the registries and registrars. And by that way, it becomes effective for everyone dealing with generic top-level domains.

So I was describing who is in the GNSO Council. It's the registries and registrars who have the contracts with ICANN. And then the Non-Contracted Party House, which is the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, the Internet Service Providers Constituency, as well as the Non-Commercial Constituency, which I think you might have just met.

And how the Council works is each of these groups sends representatives to this Council. You can almost think of it like a congress, right? A state would send a senator, a Congressperson to represent their community.

So this Council is convened, and we address issues that arise in the community. So the example I like to give that I think is straightforward

is, there's a Renewal Policy, right? At some point, someone raised the issue, "Hey, my domain name expired, but no one ever told me about it. I needed a warning." And so this was raised as an issue. The Council came together and said, "All right, I think we need a policy to address this issue."

And so they would request what's called a scoping report, outline the issue, and start a PDP, which is the process for developing policy. And when this is started, the call goes out to the community to look for volunteers to serve on this policy. The policy is developed. It ultimately goes back to the GNSO Council, which, again, is made up of those representatives.

And the representatives will vote and say, "All right, we reviewed this work. Everyone followed the rules. They did a great job. They addressed this issue that people weren't getting reminders that the domain was going to expire. We're going to vote to make a policy."

From there, it goes to the ICANN Board. And if the ICANN Board agrees with the GNSO Council's determination and thinks it's in the best interest of ICANN, they adopt it and make it a policy. And it goes to ICANN Org to be implemented.

So that's kind of the life cycle. And I guess the main function of this Council is that new issues are constantly arising. The policies that are in effect can always be improved, so different members of the community that are concerned directly with generic names, come together to create these policies.

So right now, for example, what's on the Council's plate, we're talking about things involved in the next round of gTLDs. So in 2012/ 2013, they opened up the round and new top-level domains like .club and .guru were admitted. We're opening up that application process again.

And so the GNSO is creating a policy saying, "Alright, that first round went pretty well, but there's still room for improvement. Let's identify any issues that happened in the first round. Let's address them in a new policy, send that policy to the Board for adoption. And that will allow us to open up this new round so people can apply for new top-level domains. So that is taking most of our work. But then we're also thinking about things like WHOIS accuracy. We're thinking about DNS abuse. Is there a policy solution that could make the Internet safer, for example?

So I think that's hopefully not at too high a level, kind of what the Council does day to day. And I guess as chair, I try to make all these parts work together. So I have two vice-chairs as well. We administer the meetings and try to keep these policy efforts on track and try to keep our ears open to the community to understand what new issues the GNSO should be addressing.

And we're always hoping that this community can expand. And I guess the place to start would be looking at these various constituencies and thinking about which constituency might make sense for you. Within the noncommercial, there's academics, things like that. Business Constituency even has—small businesses can join. And from there, joining into your constituency, as you work more with your

constituency, you may get elected to serve on this Council and have this role within ICANN.

So maybe I'll stop there for questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Greg. We have time for a couple of questions for Greg. It's a unique opportunity to see GNSO chair sitting with us. And you can ask questions directly, so don't miss this opportunity. Otherwise, you always see this person very busy. So, who will start with the questions?

So you learn about non-commercial and commercial stakeholders. They all have different capacity and the activity within GNSO. And there is that General Counsel where they have representatives from each group. Please, if you have questions related to any one of them, that's your place.

Russell, go ahead. It's up. It should work. Can we have mic working? Yes, please.

RUSSELL HARADA:

Hello. My name is Russell Deka Harada. I'm ICANN79 Fellow and also ccTLD administrator over .pg.

So my question is very simple. Sometimes this GNSO is [inaudible]. Many people, they don't know how to apply ccNSO [inaudible] .com. So many PNG companies, they don't know how to operate this ccTLD. That's why many people operate .com like PNG hunters. Our—not national team, but the rugby team represents our country, operates this pnghunters.com. Full stop. Not .com—.pg.

So my question is how? We [inaudible], but we want to make more marketing to use this ccNSO rather than GNSO. So do you have any idea or suggestions. GNSO, my understanding, is that globally, like a local presence must [apply] this ccNSO. So what do you think about?

GREG DIBIASE: So there's differentiation between—the GNSO doesn't have control over ccTLD policy. It's something completely separate.

[BIYI OLADIPO]: Yeah.

GREG DIBIASE: Often times, registrars work with both. Right? They'll sell .coms, which are governed by GNSO rules and ccTLDs, which are governed more specifically by the country itself. So there's not so much of an overlap, but—

RUSSELL HARADA: Sorry, I'm stopping you. Do you have any data, like a GNSO, especially .com, from my country how many records from my country to .com [that's a] GNSO?

GREG DIBIASE: I don't think [inaudible].

RUSSELL HARADA: You don't think, yeah, because it's very difficult to identify if this a .com from which origin.

GREG DIBIASE: Yeah. No, I'm not sure.

RUSSELL HARADA: Yeah. One day I have to make a research from my end, like some companies in my country apply this .com [at this] GNSO. Yeah, but I don't think ... Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: But, Russell, we will come back to your question from the perspective of ccNSO.

RUSSELL HARADA: Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So we'll get back to you.

RUSSELL HARADA: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Krislin, please.

KRISLIN GOULBOURNE-HARRY: Hello. My name is Krislin Goulbourne-Harry. I'm from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. I'm an ICANN79 Fellow, and I'm speaking on my own behalf.

So my question is, how do you manage the different interests for the different stakeholders, especially when it comes to the gTLDs versus the ccTLDs? For example, in my country, our ccTLD is .vc. However, maybe there might be a gTLD for .svg. But we also identify as SVG because that's the abbreviation for our country. So that is a little bit of a familiar conflict of interest, which I don't quite understand.

So how do you manage that interest with the different stakeholders?
Thank you.

GREG DIBIASE: Sure. So I think one answer might be—so you're talking about a new gTLD that might be similar to your existing ccTLD and how that potential conflict is managed? Am I—

BIYI OLADIPO: What I hear from her is more like a new gTLD—

GREG DIBIASE: Right.

BIYI OLADIPO: —that bears similarity to the ... So they have a regular name that this country is called, but they also have a pseudonym that the country is called. So you have a new gTLD that bears resemblance or similarities to that pseudonym.

GREG DIBIASE:

Right. So when a new gTLD is applied for, part of that process, there is an opportunity for governments to express their interest and object to certain strings in gTLDs. So that's one avenue that it could get adjudicated. I think there's also—I could be wrong—a list of geographic names that are listed that gTLDs cannot be. Right?

But as part of this process of someone applying to create a new generic top-level domain, the government Advisory Committee can weigh in on those applications and address concerns of that nature. So let's say, as example, this new gTLD seems confusingly similar to an existing ccTLD. That's something that the government Advisory Committee could raise.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Wafa, you want to intercede—

WAFI DAHMANI:

[inaudible] ccTLD, and I'm ccNSO counselor. I want to add something to make it clear for you, dear Fellows. Keep in mind that ccTLDs are about two characters, not three. Keep in mind that it's not a ccTLD. When you say it's an [inaudible] of my country, it's not [inaudible]. And generic top-level domains are composed of three characters.

Now, when you see that there is a similarity between a gTLD domain name with your country, it's another issue that can be discussed. They didn't take [inaudible] ccTLD because [ccTLD] is two characters and not three. It can be a new gTLD and not a ccTLD.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Wafa, for clarification. Yes, please. Go ahead, Waqar.

WAQAR AHMAD: Waqar Ahmad, ICANN Fellow, speaking in my own personal capacity. I have a question. How does GNSO Council interact with [inaudible] registry and registrars to ensure policy compliance?

GREG DIBIASE: To ensure policy compliance?

WAQAR AHMAD: Yes, yes.

GREG DIBIASE: So there is a compliance function within ICANN. So once a policy is passed, it becomes part of the contract for registries and registrars. And if a registrar is violating that policy—so, for example, the example I brought up about they have to send reminders when a domain is about to expire. If a registrar fails that obligation, they can be reported to ICANN Compliance. And ICANN Compliance will send a notice to them and say, "Hey, we've gotten this report that you are not fulfilling your obligations. Provide corrective action." Or they can risk de-accreditation.

WAQAR AHMAD: So are there any guidelines on the policy documentation, like in case of the compliance?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah. The actual policies are publicly available. But beyond that, if you are becoming a registrar, ICANN has resources detailing what all the obligations are. And I believe they have resources for registrants as well.

They have, I think it's called a Registrant Bill of Rights, or something along those lines, where you can go and see, "Hey, it feels like I should have gotten a reminder. Did my registrar fail to do this?" And you can look on the ICANN site. "Oh, it looks like this was a rule," and submit a complaint there. So they have repositories of where those policies are.

WAQAR AHMAD: Okay, thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Before we go to James, there is an online question, if I may. You want to add?

BIYI OLADIPO: [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, Biyi.

BIYI OLADIPO: ICANN also has a registrant capacity building program which helps registrants to know what their rights are and then be able to now ask ICANN for compliance and take redress. So you can check that out.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. So there is a online question from Pranav. "Can intellectual property lawyers also be part of the IP Constituency? Or is it restricted to businesses, professional associations, and law firms?" So an individual can be a part of—

GREG DIBIASE: Yeah. That's a very common constituent [inaudible] IP or individual IP lawyers. And it might even be broader than that. I don't know their Charter. But, yeah. Certainly, an IP professional can join the Intellectual Property Constituency and advocate for their viewpoints.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. James, go ahead.

JAMES OLORUNDAREH: All right. Thank you very much. So my name is Olorundareh, James Kunle. ICANN79 Fellow. So my question has to do with the fact that ICANN is a non-treaty organization. And, of course, GNSO makes a lot of policies and stuff like that. So to what extent are these policies implemented? Vis-à-vis the fact that you have to take into consideration the GAC interest [inaudible] Governmental Advisory Council.

I guess [inaudible] speaks more to issues around what government wants and all of that. So, I mean, how have you been able to maneuver and navigate that environment in which you have to let them know, "Hey, this is what we think should happen." And, of course, this is a non-treaty organization. How do you balance that? So that's number one.

Then the second question is on the issue of even the policy that the GNSO is making. I really want to understand the way you are able to manage the contractual party and the non-contractual party coming together to have, maybe, let's say, a particular document. Is it that, okay, when the policies come in, it comes from, let's say, the non-contractual party. Then at the end of the day, it gets to a particular stage. You have to invite in a contractual party to participate, and vice versa? How does it work out? Thank you.

GREG DIBIASE:

So, I guess there's a couple things. Like what you're highlighting is—because at ICANN, this policy is not treaty-based. It's contractual, right? The policy is developed by essentially amending the contracts between ICANN and registries and registrars. But how that policy is developed is by the broader multistakeholder community.

And in particular, the Governmental Advisory Committee plays a crucial role there in providing feedback on what the government perspective is as well as participating in certain circumstances in the policy development itself. So in each stage of the policy development, feedback is requested from the Government Advisory Committee. And when it goes before the ICANN Board for adoption, there's formal advice from the Government Advisory Committee to ensure those interests are heard.

[MELISSA PETERS-ALLGOOD]: Hey, Greg. Can I jump in here for a second?

GREG DIBIASE: Yeah.

[MELISSA PETERS-ALLGOOD]: So we've observed a number of different groups. We've talked a lot about policy.

GREG DIBIASE: Yeah.

[MELISSA PETERS-ALLGOOD]: But I think what might really help this group is if you explain a bit about how the Council is the manager of the policy development process, and what that looks like in practice: how we spin up working groups, how those interests are represented in that space, and then where that policy goes. Because I think we're getting a little confused that policy is springing up in all the different SVs and Cs on its own.

GREG DIBIASE: Right, right. Yeah, that's a great point. No individual constituency is making policy. It's a bottom-up process where all the constituencies come together in these larger working groups to build consensus to reach a recommendation, right? So this organization has proposed this policy, and this organization has this policy.

That's kind of the function of the Council, bringing all these diverse stakeholders together, having them work together to try to reach consensus on a recommendation. And that recommendation is what is put forward and ultimately adopted. And part of that process of

bringing together different stakeholder views, you know, governments have a role in that as well. Even though the Government Advisory Committee is a separate organization, they provide advice to ICANN Org.

Is that helpful?

HAFIZ FAROOQ:

I'm Hafiz Farooq, ICANN Fellow. My question is about the ownership of ccNSOs—ccTLDs, actually. So my question is what is the current guideline for the ownership for the ccTLD? Internet community can own it? I mean, like universities in the particular country? Or is it going to be the government organization? Why I'm asking is because I came across the news that Lebanese ccTLD recently, the owner of the ccTLD died. And then IANA actually took the ownership of that particular ccTLD for some duration.

So what is the policy here? I mean, do you think that [inaudible] streamlined in a way that either it should be the government-owned? Or it should be owned by the Internet community or any academia from that particular country? So what is your stake on this? Thank you.

GREG DIBIASE:

I defer to my ccTLD colleague [inaudible].

BIYI OLADIPO:

Okay. That question will be answered when I make my own presentation.

GREG DIBIASE: Okay.

HAFIZ FAROOZ: Okay.

ABRAHAM SELBY: Hello, thank you. My name is Selby, Abraham. I'm an ICANN79 Fellow. For the record, I speak in my own capacity. My first question was asked by Hafiz, but there is a follow-up question. My concern—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I'm sorry, Abraham. Can you make sure that you do not touch ccNSO part? Because we will come to that during the second half of our session, GNSO focus.

ABRAHAM SELBY: Okay. So in terms—like, with GNSO you have some policy formulation and also collaboration. How do you do the collaboration? Do you have external parties that you do the collaboration with? And maybe later, I can ask my question on a country code. Thank you.

GREG DIBIASE: Do we collaborate with ccTLDs or do we ... Who—

ABRAHAM SELBY: Yes. So in terms of collaboration, which parties do you engage with in terms of collaboration?

GREG DIBIASE: Right.

ABRAHAM SELBY: Yeah.

GREG DIBIASE: So we collaborate with all the different stakeholders within the GNSO. That includes the different supporting organizations in the GNSO—the Government Advisory Committee, ALAC (the At-Large Committee), and SSAC (a security advisory committee). But in terms of ccTLDs—ccTLDs, I think are separate. Countries are—we're not even going to speak to [inaudible]—they have more, I guess, sovereignty over—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah.

GREG DIBIASE: —over how they rule, as opposed to generic top-level domains, which are ... Policy is built by this broad consensus from a lot of different stakeholders.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Shanelle.

SHANELLE MCPHERSON: Yes. My name is Shanelle McPherson. I am an ICANN79 Fellow, speaking my own capacity. I just want to provide some clarification to my fellow NextGens and perhaps some Fellows here.

I know that we have been speaking about some terms such as registries, registrants, and registrars. I just want to let you guys know that the registries are the ones that manages the domain names, and the registrars are the ones that sells the domain names like GoDaddy, for example. And then the registrants are the consumers, like myself, that purchase these domain names.

And my question is, I wanted to know what is the policy of the naming convention? Is it that any user can just create a gTLD and just say, "Okay, I want this gTLD. Let's call it .psp." Do you guys take in consideration—or if there's any policy surrounding the type of names that you can choose or how you can create your names? And where can we find this information? Thank you.

GREG DIBIASE: Yeah. What the ICANN is working on right now is what's called an Applicant Guidebook. So anyone can apply, when this next round opens, for a generic top-level domain. There are certain geographic terms that are restricted, and there may be some other restrictions that are outlined in this Applicant Guidebook. But there literally is a document that says, "If you want to apply for a new top-level domain, here are the rules." And that's available to anyone in the community.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And we'll take one more question related to GNSO, and then we'll move to ccNSO.

CARON DAVID: Hi, good afternoon. My name is Caron David. I'm an ICANN79 Fellow, speaking in my own capacity, right? So you mentioned that governments can express their interest in not having certain gTLDs being issued. Right? I know Rob from the GAC session, he mentioned that there's still a bit of, I guess, some low engagement in terms of some countries not being engaged with the GAC.

So I just wanted to find out, can countries dispute these gTLD that might be, I guess, personal to them after they have been issued? As in countries that may have not been engaged with the GAC before.

GREG DIBIASE: That's a great question. So I think—and I'm going to have to have someone double-check me—but I think there's the Government Advisory Committee which can issue advice. And then there can also be individual objectors to an application. So if an application is processed, I think there are people outside of established the ICANN Organization that can object to a new application for a gTLD on certain grounds, the grounds that would be listed in the Applicant Guidebook.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. With that, Greg, thank you very much. You may stay and listen, maybe engage with other questions which we'll come to related to

ccNSO. But if not, if you have to go, then I just want to thank you for being with us.

And let's move to ccNSO. And, Biyi, the floor is yours.

BIYI OLADIPO:

Thank you very much, Siranush. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Biyi Oladipo. I represent the country code .ng. But I also sit as a Councilor in the ccNSO as well as one of the vice-chairs.

It is just for us to have a brief discussion around what the ccNSO is about and what we do and, generally, who we are. But before I start the presentation, I would like to ask how many of you—

I'll ask two questions. So the first question is how many of you sitting here know who your ccTLD manager is? The ccTLD is the country code of your country. How many of you know who they are? Okay, so that's like—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

20%.

BIYI OLADIPO:

—20-25% of the room. Okay. Of those who know their ccTLD managers, how many of you actually have engaged them or have any form of engagement with them? Okay, that's like half of the number that—

[SIRANUSH VARDANYAN]:

[inaudible].

BIYI OLADIPO:

Okay. Now, the reason I'm asking this question is more than anything else—you've heard about the generic names, but more than anything else, the ccTLDs belong to the country that you come from. And it's always important for you to also know what is happening with it and what is happening around it. And that's why we're here to have discussions with you and engage with you so you can also be a participant.

And where I come from, it's a multistakeholder organization that manages the ccTLD. So anyone who's from Nigeria can actually join and be part of it, to have a say in how things have been done.

Okay. So, about the ccNSO. Introduction to the ccNSO. What does this stand for? If you've heard, it's the Country Code Names Supporting Organization from ICANN. It was created for and by ccTLD managers.

Now, a ccTLD, manager is the entity—now, you can see that I'm choosing my words—the entity that is managing the country code name, or the organization who is responsible for the management of the ccTLD, the country code name of whatever territory or country that you belong to. And the ccTLD, of course, is the country code name.

Now, you ask yourself why is it important? Why is the ccTLD important? Of the top 10 highest number of domains registered globally, 7 of them are ccTLDs. So you can see that it's important for us to get to understand what ccTLDs are all about. And the top 10, you have them there. And the top 7 here—.cn, .de, .uk, .nl, .ru, .br, and .au. So those form 7 out of the 10 domain names that are registered.

Now, what's the purpose and the goals of the ccNSO? So, the ccNSO undertakes policy development and engages in policy-related work. You've heard so many things about policies, I'm sure you're tired of policies by now, you know. And we also create policies. But like you will get to understand later, global policies are not specific policies for the individual ccTLDs. And I will explain that later.

And, of course, we also cooperate and we learn from one another. I remember when we were starting out, we had to practically engage with specific individuals within the ccNSO to find out how they were running their own ccTLDs so that we could also learn from it.

And then there are several education sessions that ccNSO engages in, which helps to improve the knowledge base of individual ccTLDs. Tomorrow, there's going to be the Tech Day. So what we do at the Tech Day is actually look at the technical aspects, security, and all of that of running a ccTLD registry. And we share ideas amongst ourselves. And, of course, we engage with other stakeholders—the GNSO, the GAC, RSSAC, SSAC, all the different organs of ICANN.

So, the question you would ask yourself is, why are ccTLDs different from all the other TLDs? Number one, the ccTLD belongs to a sovereign territory or country. So rules that will have applied to generics would not apply to those sovereigns. So that's the first thing that [stands out].

We have 176 members, and the 176 members come from different parts of the world, different nationalities and all of that. So the governance models [hire] local as far as each ccTLD is concerned. So unlike the GNSO where there is a general policy for management for this, for that, each ccTLD develops and manages its own policies related to how the

ccTLD is governed and how domains are registered. Okay? So that's a distinct part of this. So our registry models are different. We can decide.

Some ccTLD registries are closed. They're only allowed for some certain type of people. Some are open because maybe the model to get it going is allowed. So maybe it's a more liberal environment. So each ccTLD decides what their registry models are as well as what their governance models are.

Okay. So in terms of the composition of the ccNSO, we have ccNSO members as well as the ccNSO Council. That's what makes up the ccNSO. ccNSO members are ccTLD managers who have signified and actually applied to join the ccNSO. Because you are a ccTLD manager does not automatically make you a member of the ccNSO. You have to apply and ask to join. Okay?

And there's a membership process that is available. The details of that is available on the ccNSO website. Anyone could actually see. But for you to be able to join, you must be a ccTLD manager. The ccNSO Council is the body that manages all and coordinates the affairs of the ccNSO.

Like I said earlier, there are 176 ccNSO members as of February this year. And this 176 are spread over all the ICANN region. So in North America, we have 6; Latin America and the Caribbean, 29. In Africa, there are 39 of us. In Europe, there are 47. And in Asia Pacific, there are 55. And, of course, all of these include both the IDN members, which is Internationalized Domain Name registries, as well as the regular domain members.

So what's the benefit of joining the ccNSO? As a member of the ccNSO, you will be able to select your Councilors and people who join the ccNSO Council. And also, you would also be able to elect the members who will go to Seat 11 and Seat 12 on the ICANN Board. That, I'm going to make a bit clearer later.

Of course, you can vote on global policies. And talking about policies and policy development in the ccNSO, I'm sure someone will say, "Oh, I thought you said that each ccNSO is responsible for its own policies." Yes. But we also have some other global policies which are general policies for ccNSOs within the ICANN structure. So, we actually vote on those policies as well as we make our voice heard within the ICANN community.

And more than anything else, we share experience and we share information with ourselves. We don't call them best practices because what best practices applies in your own environment might be different from what's [inaudible]. But we share information on how we've done things and how we've gotten things to work.

So what does the Council do? We administer and coordinate the affairs of the ccNSO. We manage the policy development process. When Greg was here, he talked about the GNSO Council managing the process of getting people to contribute to policies and making recommendations and [inaudible]. The same thing with us. When we have those global policies that I mentioned earlier, the ccNSO Council actually manages the development process for that.

Councilors are actively involved in, one, setting the course for the ccNSO leading and participating in various ccNSO working groups,

engaging the community in topical issues. We have cross-community engagements and topics that are interesting to us in other constituencies. We also get involved in those conversations and then developing positions based on community input.

So who can sit on the Board—sorry, on the Council? Who can sit on the Council? Anyone who has the support of a ccNSO member is qualified to sit on the ccNSO Council, and there are 18 Councilors in all: three from each region, each of the five regions that I mentioned earlier. And then we have three who are NomCom appointed.

Here in the room today, I have Molehe, Pablo, Jenifer, and Wafa. And, okay, Peter is an incoming Councilor. So we're all here. We could engage with you at the end of this.

Pablo represents .pr, which is the North American region. Jenifer represents dot—

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: PA.

BIYI OLADIPO: .pa. That's Panama. Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: PA.

BIYI OLADIPO: PA, yes. .pa, Panama. [inaudible]. I think that was some senior moment. Okay. So that's from the Latin American and Caribbean region. And

Molehe represents the .za. That's from Africa. And Wafa is a NomCom-appointed counselor. Now, we didn't plan this. Okay? [He just walked] out like that. And Peter is representing Europe. We didn't plan it, but we're all complete here. Yeah? Okay.

And then we also have observers. Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible].

BIYI OLADIPO: Okay. So she also was a ccTLD manager. Okay? But now she works with AFRINIC. Yeah.

We also have observers to Council. So we have a liaison from GNSO. We have from ALAC and the regional organizations. So there are four regional organizations: for Africa, that's AFTLD; from Latin America, which is LACTLD; from Europe, that's CENTR; and then from Asia Pacific, that's APTLD. All of them, because they coordinate the affairs of ccTLDs wherever, in whichever region they are in, they are also observers to the ccNSO Council.

So these are the current Councilors. Just look at their faces very well. You can meet any one of them during the week. You can just stop them and ask them questions around—whatever questions you have on the ccNSO. Okay?

So how does the ccNSO fit in the ICANN structure? By now you will know that the ICANN structure consists of SOs (that's supporting organizations) and ACs (advisory committees). ccNSO is one of the

supporting organizations in the ICANN structure, and we actually nominate and elect people into Board Seats 11 and 12. Currently, we have Patricio Poblete on Seat 11 and then Katrina Sataki on Seat 12.

So how can you participate in the work of the ccNSO? We always welcome members to the ccNSO. So to be a ccNSO member, you have to join. But you must be a ccTLD manager. But you can also be a ccNSO volunteer. And a ccNSO volunteer is that person who is a representative of a ccTLD. You can also be a ccNSO Councilor. But to be a ccNSO Councilor, you must have been nominated by ccNSO member, seconded by ccNSO member, and elected by ccNSO members from your region. Okay?

So each region holds elections and then nominates people into the Council. And if you look at this, you'll see the structure: ccTLDs, members, volunteers, and the Council.

How do I contribute to the work of the ccNSO? You can attend sessions. We're going to have sessions this week from Tuesday up until Thursday. So you can pass by at any point and listen to us and see what we're doing.

Only members are allowed to vote, so you can vote if you're a member. But there are surveys that go out from time to time, so you can also participate in that. You can give a presentation, especially if you're supported by a ccNSO member. Use the mailing list. Join the ccNSO Working Group. You can join TLD OPs, the mailing list, and also apply for a position on the Council.

Can I join a working group? Membership of ccNSO working groups are open to everybody who is associated with a ccTLD manager, regardless of whether they are members of ccNSO or not. There are some ccTLDs that have chosen or opted not to be members, but we don't discriminate. You can also participate in the working group.

And depending on the scope of the work, there are other people from larger ICANN organizations who could be part of the ccNSO work. These are some of the topics that are interesting to U.S. security and stability of services, Internet governance, legislative initiatives, operational best practices, and other things. And internal governance of the ccNSO.

So we actually have a committee that is responsible for being sure that we live according to the rules that we have set for ourselves. Okay? And I'll share with you who they are, currently. These are the ongoing works of the ccNSO in the policy arena. So we have a ccPDP3 for the retirement of ccTLDs. And then there's also the ccPDP3 Review Mechanism for decisions pertaining to how to delegate a transfer of a ccTLD revocation/retirement.

Somebody asked a question earlier about how do you manage, you know, if something happens and the owner [inaudible] of a ccTLD dies or something. That's a conversation that is currently going on [inaudible] because we currently don't have a policy to manage it. Maybe you have a caretaker. Maybe you would do this. Which, currently, we don't have any policies around that. And it's a conversation that is going on currently, and we're hoping that very soon we will come to an agreement and make recommendations to ICANN on what we think can be done.

One thing that we also need to understand is that ccNSO does not meddle in the affairs of individual ccTLDs. We do not. We make general policies which relates to, like we said, delegation, transfer, retirement, and all of that. But as far as the ownership and the specific running of a ccTLD is concerned, ccNSO does not get involved. Okay? Of course, that's understandable because of the sovereignty that is attached to the names.

Then we're currently having the ccPDP4 that is going on, on IDNs, which is going to replace the current fast-track for IDNs.

These are the working groups that we have. We have the DNS Abuse Standing Committee, which already is new, but [they started working]. They're developing a library for DNS abuse issues, currently.

Then we have the TLD-OPs which, of course, is like an Incident Management Committee which also has a repository of different kinds of incidents that you could come across as a registry. They have a playbook that they've developed, and you can look that up.

Then you have the UASC. That is Universal Acceptance Standing Committee. We have the SOPC, which is the Strategic and [Operating] Planning Committee, which works with ICANN on their planning procedures and helping to raise issues if there are some on the plans and budgets of ICANN.

We have the Meeting Planning Committee, or MPC like we call it, which is responsible for planning all ccNSO meeting days for ICANN meetings and outside of ICANN meetings.

Then we have the Internet Governance Liaison Committee, which is understandable [inaudible] within the IG space. And we need to have a group that is responsible for liaising between us and other IG-related things.

And there's a Technical Working Group. I mentioned Tech Day earlier. The Technical Working Group is responsible for planning Tech Day.

Then we have the Guidelines Review Committee. That's the police of the ccNSO. That committee actually helps us to keep in line with the rules that we have set for ourselves.

So how do you keep up to date with the ccNSO? We have several avenues that you can. You have the websites and the Wiki and all the other platforms that you can use. You can send an email to the secretariat with any question that relates to the ccNSO, and I'm sure you will get a response.

All right. So these are the opportunities that you have to engage with the ccNSO this week. Tech Day starts tomorrow. And then the members meeting days from Tuesday—mostly Tuesday and Wednesday. And then now it spills into Thursday. So Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, you can avail yourself of the opportunity of knowing what the ccNSO is about.

I showed you the pictures earlier. Any one of us you meet on the corridors, you can stop us and ask questions. And I have people who have gladly [inaudible]. Jenifer, you all know. Jenifer is here. So you know Jenifer. She's not strange. So you can get ahold of her and ask her any question.

And Pablo. Pablo is quite busy this week because Pablo represents .pr, and they are hosts for this meeting. But Pablo is here, you can just grab. And Pablo has special interests in community onboarding and helping younger people to come up to speed with things. He's a very good candidate to be a mentor for people here. So please get ahold of Pablo. He didn't hear that, so it's good that he did not hear. Don't worry. I've committed you.

And then you have Molehe and Wafa. And, of course, Peter Koch at the back. Okay. Thank you so much. I think that's—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Biyi, that was a wonderful presentation. Thank you very much. And I really enjoyed having the ccNSO Council here with us. We didn't expect, honestly, but thank you for coming and showing that you are so much interested in the program and in the newcomers. And your support is really appreciated.

And ccNSO chair is a long-standing ICANN Fellow, so you always can go and talk and find and consult with these talented people.

BIYI OLADIPO: Can I say something?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes.

BIYI OLADIPO:

I also would like to encourage everyone here. You can set your agenda for yourself and how you want to engage. Like she just said, the current ccNSO chair, at some point, was a Fellow like you. And today, she's been involved, and she's done so well. And she's the current chair of the ccNSO. Jenifer here was also a Fellow, and now she's in the Council. So you can set your own agenda and engage. Which, I ran away for so long.

I always like to tell people my ICANN story, which is that I just happened on ICANN. I didn't know there was anything like that. I just happened on it. And then I came here, and I was using it as a holiday for myself. I just come, have a holiday, enjoy myself, and go.

However, at some point, I told myself that, "It's not worth your while. You have to get involved." Today, I'm vice-chair. I didn't plan for it, but it still happened. So that's where I am today. And you can also—the first few meetings, it was all different languages. I didn't understand what was happening. I just told myself at some point, I asked myself, "Biyi, is this not self-inflicted injury? How can you spend your money to come for an event, and you're not even understanding what is happening there?" But I kept at it. And that's where I am today.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Biyi, when you asked, actually, at the beginning, "Who knows your local ccNSO," when I was at my first ICANN meeting and this question came up, I even didn't know what is it. So I didn't know even what was my local—

BIYI OLADIPO:

[inaudible] ccTLD.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: —and who was the managing. And my first task when I was back was going and finding out. And now I am Board member for our local ccTLD manager who is ISOC Armenia, which I am proud of. But that came out of no knowledge. So I went back because I heard people were talking registry/registrant. And the registrant, as Shanelle was explaining to us, I even didn't know what does those words mean.

But when I went back, that was my task number one. Get to know. And there's were your passion starts to come up. If you have the interest, you have the passion, you will go back. You will learn. You will digest. You will come back and get engaged and stay here forever.

BIYI OLADIPO: The whole idea is: get engaged.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes.

BIYI OLADIPO: First, you show up. You're here already. The next thing is to start to get engaged. Pablo.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We only have one minute, Pablo. So if we can wrap up somehow. But I want, first, to applause to this person, as .pr—

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Oh, thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: —our host here for the amazing, great event. Pablo, to you.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank you very much. It is a real honor and a privilege to share with you here. The one thing that I want to overstate over and over again, is what was said here. You guys stole my thunder. I wanted to mention exactly what they said. Our ccNSO chair is a Fellow alumni. Jenifer Lopez—[inaudible] Jenifer Lopez; don't mistake it—from Panama was also Fellow and a mentor. And so engage.

Never mind if you don't understand what's going on here today. Engage. Read. Educate yourself about ICANN and other things. Reach out to your ccTLD operator. And, yes, I am busy. But nevertheless, if you see me, pull me. Talk to me. Ask me because it is precisely the purpose of you being here, is so that you can contribute to ICANN. And I know that you're interested. You're engaged. But it takes a little while to get those cogs running.

But thank you for being here. Continue to participate. Continue to contribute. And I assure you that you have a beautiful future at ICANN. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And your applause [inaudible]. Thank you very much for being here, and thank you for the really very detailed explanation of ccNSO activities. And you all know that we do have all the presentations uploaded. This is the slides which includes quizzes, but we didn't have time to go through them. But this is something we'll come back. But you have the slides, so feel free to go. Thank you very much.

With that, the meeting is adjourned. Can we stop the recording, please?

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]