
ICANN79 | CF – ICANN79 Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Participants Meet and Greet Event
Saturday, March 02, 2024 – 9:00 to 10:00 SJU

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hello, everyone. Good morning. Please take your seats. We're starting our first session. Please start the recording. Thank you. Hello, everyone, and welcome to the first session Meet and Greet with ICANN79 Fellows and NextGeners. Buenvenida a Puerto Rico, if this is the correct way. Welcome to Puerto Rico. Welcome to the Fellowship and NextGen Programs, and welcome to ICANN79. This is our first session, and I will first go through some scripts. My name is Siranush Vardanyan, as many of you know already, and I also will be doing the remote moderation for this session.

Please note that this session is being recorded and governed by ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and I put in the chat the link to these standards of behavior. During this session, questions and comments will only be read aloud if they are put in a proper form, and I put that form in the chat. So, if you are not joined via Zoom to this session, please do it, because we have some virtual participants also joining us. But if you would like to speak, we also have here the moving mics, and you have also mics on your tables. And also, for those who are joining us remotely, they can raise their hands, and I will give the floor for them to speak.

We do have interpretation for this session in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, and I will really encourage you to use the interpretation

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headsets. They are right next to the entrance door, like there, because we are a multilingual community, and for many of us, English is not the first native language, but we encourage you also to speak in your native language.

So, with that, today is a special day for all of us. We met with each other virtually. We went through some sessions with the Fellows and NextGeners. First, we did virtual meet and greet, and today is the purpose of our meeting here, to get to know each other, to put the name next to the face, so we know the faces of people, and also to introduce you, the key people from our global stakeholder engagement team, from our Public Responsibility Support team, and from our communications team who joined us today for introduction and for letting all of you know who they are, and also the colleagues from policy team with whom we will have the opportunity to be for the next session on consensus building.

So, I want to give the floor to my colleagues who are here so you know who they are, and then we will move forward with our daily agenda. But first, let me introduce with great pleasure the vice president for Public Responsibility Support team, the person who manages, who coordinates, who supports, who is behind of both Fellowship and NextGen Program, Ergys Ramaj, the floor is yours.

ERGYS RAMAJ:

Thank you, Siranush. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to beautiful Puerto Rico. I won't try the pronunciation that Siranush tried earlier. So, I looked at the numbers this morning, and 90% of all the Fellows are actually newcomers, and of course, 100% of all the

NextGeners are newcomers, so this means that this is your first ICANN meeting. So, I suspect one of the questions is, is there a home for me at ICANN? What's at ICANN for me? Right, and I see a lot of nodding. And the simple answer is yes.

So, from your onboarding, you probably recall the three pillars that make up ICANN, the Board, the community, and ICANN the organization. If you look at all three of those, there are former Fellows and NextGeners in every single one of those groups. In fact, and correct me if I'm wrong, Siranush, when we looked at the numbers of the community just a few months ago, over 115 individuals who are active in the community are former Fellows or NextGeners, and about 20 or 25 of them hold leadership positions.

So, why do I say this? Because you guys are both the present and the future of ICANN. So, use this week wisely. Leverage us. Ask us questions. Make sure that we put you in touch with the right people, and really, you yourself have to take that initiative to really know where you fit, what you want to do, and make sure that you leverage us to get you to that point. So, with that, welcome, and I hope you enjoy ICANN79.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Ergys. Thank you. I also would like to introduce my colleague Deborah Escalera whom you had the pleasure to meet in many sessions with us. She is managing the NextGen Program, but she's a great friend of Fellows as well. And you may see me and Deborah being in many sessions together and running that session together. Deborah?

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Good morning, everybody, and welcome to ICANN79. It's a pleasure to meet you all today in person. NextGen, raise your hand. I don't see a lot of you here today. You should all be here. So, we're going to be spending a lot of time for the next couple of days in this week, and it's a pleasure to see you all here today, and I'm looking forward to getting to know you better. NextGen, I want you to meet me at the back of the room after this session for your goodie bags. And Fellows, don't worry. You're going to be getting yours from Siranush later on this week, or in the next couple of days. But it's a thrill to have you here this week, and I look forward to spending some time with you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Deb. We will see about goodies for Fellows later in the week. So, another colleague from Public Responsibility Support who joined us today is Fernanda. She is managing the leadership program at ICANN.

FERNANDA IUNES: Hello. Nice to meet you guys and see some familiar faces as well. My name is Fernanda Iunes. I work very closely with Siranush and Deb, and Melissa as well, and Andrey Ergys over here. And it's very nice to meet you all. I'm looking forward to seeing you this week. As Siranush mentioned, I manage the leadership program, sharing skills, as well as the ICANN for Beginners virtual program, and some other things as well. So, yeah, looking forward. Have a great ICANN79.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Fernanda. Thank you. And you will have the opportunity to see Melissa, but just give her one second.

MELISSA ALLGOOD: Hi, I'm Melissa Allgood. Some of you have already seen me in a video that I apologize you had to watch. Specifically, I work with Fellows on consensus building, so that will be our next workshop. I hope you guys are ready to be interactive, so that I will need to hear your voices. We'll be doing a lot of talking. But at ICANN, I run a program called the Policy Development Accelerator, so kind of a next step in the beginning kind of your working policy and advice. Some of you I know either know about the program or a few of you participate. So, we're about to start the second term of that, and I also do conflict resolution. I'm a high conflict mediator.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Melissa. So, as we said, welcome to Puerto Rico. I would like to start introducing you the host country representatives from ICANN, our Global Stakeholder Engagement team members. You will see the abbreviation GSC. We will be using this abbreviation many times, but you know this is Global Stakeholder Engagement team. And Naela Sarras, Vice President for North America. Please.

NAELA SARRAS: Thank you, Siranush. Oh, wow. Thank you. You're so kind. I'm delighted to be here. As Siranush said, GSE, Global Stakeholder Engagement, its sole focus and purpose is really to focus on people like

you. Our job is to do outreach, to do engagement, to help people engage back within the organization and the community. And as Ergys said, you are the future, you are the present and the future, and our job is really to focus on you and make sure that you find your way through ICANN, through the different organizations, the SOs and the ACs and the policy making.

So, I'm delighted to be here. I have at least a few other colleagues that I want to introduce because I want you to use this meeting. I want you to use us. I want you to flag us down when you have questions. And this is not the end of our relationship. We will be engaged with you because I know we go to these meetings, and then we hear back from Fellows and NextGeners that say, hey, I was in the meeting, and now what do I do? How do I find my way through ICANN? And that's our job. We do need to hear from you.

So, to ask with us today, we have Alex Dans. We work very closely together. She's on the communications team, but she supports our team to do a lot of outreach and communications work that we do in the region. So, Alex, say hi. And Alex will be presenting later to tell you about how to engage with her and how to find out about all the stuff that we do. With us also is Joe Catapano. He's the director of engagement here in North America for the North America region. He's also involved in global academia and directing ICANN's efforts for global academia. So, I know a lot of you are involved with universities, associated with universities, so he's a person you want to know.

Also, with us from the comms team that supports our region is Felipe Varejao. He's here. So, thank you, Felipe. Felipe has been doing

amazing work already on social media for us to give presence and give visibility to the work we do. And we should have another person, Josie McGinty, but I don't see her right now. She's not here. Okay. We have another person that you will be hearing from a lot. But I'm really glad to see you here.

I don't have a feel, Debra, for-- I know this is for the North American region meeting, and I know the NextGen are North American NextGeners. So, I don't quite see who's here, but please use us. Please come up to us. Please know who we are, because this is our job, is to make sure that we are together with all of our colleagues in public responsibility and the policy team helping guide you through the organization. And I think that's it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

I want NextGeners to stand up, so Naela and our colleagues can see all of you. Thank you. So, we have one, two, three, four, five, six for now. Ten should be here. So, four to expect more. And can I request also Fellows from North America to stand up? Waqar? Yeah. Chrisley? Zoe? We have three. Thank you. Thank you.

NAELA SARRAS:

Thank you. I don't know how you share our contact information with them. Just make sure everyone has what they need from us. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And with that, before we move forward to another region, I would like to introduce Alex, and she has a couple of things to announce for you.

ALEX DANS: Thank you. Welcome. So, you can start practicing with the headset. I will make my presentation in Spanish. Welcome everyone to Puerto Rico. I will give you some minutes to get your headsets. You have to do this. Before every session, you have to take your headsets. See, it's a good exercise. So, now for the future sessions, you know you have to have your headset with you.

I'm the com person, the Communication Director for Latin America, and the Caribbean, and for North America as well. We're very happy to be here in Puerto Rico, and I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity just to run this exercise so that you will be ready for all the coming sessions this week. You can see my picture on the screen as well as Felipe's picture. Felipe is here with us, and you will see Felipe in several sessions taking pictures for the social media. So, if you don't want to appear in any picture, just let Felipe know, but he will be taking pictures in several sessions this week for the social media.

ICANN is present on several media. We are on Facebook where we post information in all UN languages. We're also on Instagram. Our postings on Instagram are usually in English. We're also on X, Twitter. In Twitter, we have accounts in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Arabic, Russian. So, I'd like to encourage you to follow us on any language you may like. We are also on LinkedIn, YouTube, and there are also other communication channels with the regional community.

For example, there are some newsletters that we publish every month. We have newsletters for Latin America and the Caribbean that are translated from English into Spanish and Portuguese, and there is also the North American newsletter that is available in English, and we also have newsletters for the other regions. Using that QR code, you can scan the QR code so as to subscribe to that newsletter. And we also have a mailing list for the North American region where we share news, events, links to the newsletters if you have not subscribed to them, and I'd like to encourage you to be part of that list, to subscribe to that mailing list.

And here, you can see some QR codes, which I think are interesting, especially if this is your first ICANN meeting. We have the engagement calendar, which is a meetings calendar that we have within the ICANN Org website. You can run an easy search and find meetings taking place in your countries. You will be able to find more information there. I think that is very important. There is also a QR code for ICANN for Beginners, where you will also find lots of information.

I'm pretty sure my colleagues have already shared this with you. And finally, there is the list of acronyms and terms that are used in ICANN. This is very important. You may have seen that we use lots of acronyms. This acronym list is translated into all UN languages, so this is also a very useful tool. I think this is it.

Well, here, I just want to let you know that during this meeting and all ICANN meetings, we issue daily newsletters that are shared with all of those who have registered to the meeting. Here, we share specific information about this meeting. This is also shared over the social

media, and we use the ICANN79 hashtag during this week, so if you want your postings to be forwarded, so use that hashtag. And you can also mention our Twitter account in your specific languages.

If you have any questions about any of these tools, if you want to know how to subscribe, any question you may have, get in touch with me or with Felipe. We'll be around. We'll be participating throughout the week in all the different sessions. Thank you all.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you for the information. Just for everyone to know, all the slides, all the PowerPoint presentations which you will see during today and tomorrow, they are already uploaded in the meeting schedule. So, whenever you go to the specific session, like if you click on the session Meet and Greet, you will see Alex's presentation is uploaded there. So, wherever, you have access to all those presentations. Okay?

With that, thank you, Alex, for introducing this communications approach and what tools you can use. I would like to introduce you to my colleagues from Global Stakeholder Engagement team from Latin America and Caribbean. They are over there. Please, Rodrigo De La Parra, Vice President for LAC region, Latin America and Caribbean.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA:

Thank you. Good morning, everybody. It's a pleasure to have you all here. I think, as I always say in these sessions, congratulations are in order. You've all made a huge effort for being here. It was a very competitive selection process, so we are very, very happy to have you

here. San Juan in Puerto Rico is a very special place for the Fellowship program because this was the first place where in 2007 the first generation of Fellows came. And there are a couple of Fellows I can recognize here from that class in 2007, and one of them is me. I was a fellow myself, so yes, so good memories, good fond memories.

This is actually the third meeting we have in Puerto Rico in San Juan, but there's yet another person who I recognize who is from that generation, and that's my colleague, Albert Daniels, and he's our lead, our head for Caribbean engagement. So yes, very special, very special to have you here. I do recognize some places that people have been working here for a long time, so it's great to have you here, both from Latin America and the Caribbean. So yeah, we'll be in touch. Some colleagues from the organizations we work very closely and dearly, LACNIC, LACTLD, other organizations. I also see UA ambassadors from the Caribbean and friends from Jamaica. We're finally here. Shanelle, thank you for being here. It's fantastic. So, I sense this is a great generation of Latin American and Caribbeans around ICANN.

And this is not from the first generation of Fellows, but there's another fellow I recognize, and he's also in my team. This is Rodrigo Salcedo. So, I recruit Fellows, be aware. He's from Bolivia, and he takes care of our engagement in the Andean region, and of course follows our planning for that. So, thank you. Welcome. We're here to help. We are here to make sure that your journey at ICANN doesn't stop here in ICANN meetings, so it continues through different activities we do in every region. You will have time to talk to your GSE regional vice president and team. They'll be happy to guide you through the different

activities they have in every region. So, welcome again, everybody. And with that, let me hand it over to my colleague Albert Daniels. Thank you.

ALBERT DANIELS:

Thank you. Thank you so much, Rodrigo. What do you say to new Fellows and NextGen in one minute? And this is what you say. You are members of one of the most precious programs in ICANN, one of the most highly respected, and one of the programs where you can learn the most about ICANN. Take advantage of the time that you have here at this meeting. As Rodrigo said, at Global Stakeholder Engagement, we are here to support you. We are here to guide you.

Siranush gave you that little sticker that you put on your badge which says Fellow, and which also you get one that says NextGen. That is also a very precious sticker because it gives you the ability to ask any question to anyone, and they will jump to try to assist you. So, wear that Fellowship and NextGen sticker with pride, and it will be your gateway into learning as much as you can about ICANN. Come to your Fellowship and NextGen sessions on time. The leaders from the community will come here to speak with you and share their knowledge and experience with you.

And with that, we've already met our next DNSSEC expert from the Caribbean, Shanelle, and our Universal Acceptance ambassador, Chris Lim, from the Caribbean. Caribbean and North America work very closely together, so you'll see a lot of interaction. So, welcome and make best usage of us. And with that, I'll hand over to my colleague, Rodrigo Salcedo, who's also on the Latin American Caribbean Global Stakeholder Engagement team.

RODRIGO SALCEDO: Thank you very much, Albert. Good morning, everyone. My name is Rodrigo. I take care of the Andean region on engagement. As Tocayo, my colleague, has mentioned, I was once part of this great program, and I remember in my first Fellowship, it's very, very demanding, and sometimes very hard to figure out what do you want to be part of or where you want to land in at ICANN. So maybe if it's your first time, don't worry about it. But as GSE, this team takes care of you. I think we are here to guide you a little bit and we can work in the regions and help you understand where can you belong in this ecosystem. So, we'll be here the entire week and whenever you see us in the hallway, just follow and we'll be there. And now I'll pass it to Daniel Fink.

DANIEL FINK: Good morning, everyone. Hello. Yeah. Do what I say, don't do what I do. So, I'm late. Sorry. Hello, Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: It's not accepted in the Fellowship and NextGen.

DANIEL FINK: Yeah, I know. I've never been a Fellow, and this is my fault. Exactly.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: But that's you have the excuse. You don't know. You were not a fellow.

DANIEL FINK:

Everybody I call boss in ICANN has been a Fellow before. So, I feel like big trouble. So hello, I'm Daniel. I am from Brazil. My soccer team is Grêmio, Porto Alegre. Anybody knows? No? You know? Okay, we're going to talk later. Yeah. My boss is Rodrigo. He is a former Fellow. And I belong to the regional team for stakeholder engagement. And I am also around other countries in the region, neighbors of Brazil like Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina. So, we help in these areas as well.

And we have many ideas for you. Please make sure to talk to us during this meeting. Take this opportunity because what we love to do is work, doing projects, doing engagements with you. And you have a brilliant future as leaders in ICANN community. I hope so. And I'm sure about it. Welcome, everybody. And let's stay in touch.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Daniel. And thank you for being with us. And Rodrigo reminded me that ICANN29 in Puerto Rico and ICANN79 in Puerto Rico. So, we are celebrating 40 Fellowships in a row at this meeting. So, thank you. And just to add, when the first generation of ICANN Fellowship you saw here, I am the third generation. And when I came as a Fellow to ICANN, my mentor was Albert Daniels, the guy who is sitting over there. And just give us statistics or just give statistics related to the community. There are 15 ICANN Fellows working as ICANN staff. So, we are also in the staff now. So, you know now, luck team. Thank you and welcome again. With that, I would like now to give the floor to my Asia Pacific colleagues. And I see Jia-Rong, Vice President for Asia Pacific and Australia is here, and Save is here. So, Jia-Rong, please.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Good morning, everybody. My name is Jia-Rong. I am from Singapore. My luggage is still somewhere, not in cyberspace, but I don't know where it is. So hopefully you won't see me in the same clothes for the next seven days. So, I look after the Asia Pacific office. It's based in Singapore. And actually, the Asia Pacific region is very big.

So, for the ICANN community, unless you may be confused, because when we say APEC region, it starts from Armenia all the way to Pacific Islands. And from the engagement team, each of us, we cover the region in smaller sizes. Otherwise, it's too large a region to cover. So, I look after from India all the way to before Australia, then Save, who you will meet later, he covers Oceania region. And we also have Bahia who covers the Middle East, and Misha who covers the Eastern Europe, Central Asia region. So, it's a very large region.

Now, don't worry about your identity crisis. 90% of you are new, so you would have not heard me say this before. But some of you may feel you have an identity crisis. Like, oh, am I from APEC or am I from Middle East or am I from Central Asia? You are from all of them. And it depends on what issues or what activities you have. We will work very closely with you. Now, some of you would have received an invitation from my colleague Athena. We are organizing a morning networking with some of the APEC leaders. So, that's one of the things we want to do. Like, you want to learn about subject matter.

But another thing that's very important at this meeting is meet people. And we hope that you form and forge connections with the APEC leaders and learn from them. Why did they participate? What got them in? How did they get to become a leader today? And learn from them.

And through that, perhaps you can also contribute and participate as well. So, we have a morning networking. And also on Tuesday, late afternoon, 4:30, we have an APEC space. That's for the whole community to gather together. So, I hope to see you there on Tuesday. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And, Save, please. You can come here so everybody can see you. Because we have a lot of Fellows coming from your region, Oceania.

SAVENACA VOCEA: I'll say Bula Vinaka. That's Fijian. And hello. It cannot be translated. So yeah, I'm Save Vocea. I'm the regional vice president for the Oceania region. I'm really happy to be here and to meet many of you, first-timers. We've got three Fellows from the Pacific region. They've traveled very far, and so did I. Like 35+ hours to get here. Very painful sometimes. But I'm happy that they're here.

And one thing that I'd like to ask of you is to also reach out to them. Because sometimes, coming from the region, they can be quiet. But make sure you can talk to them and learn about the region as well. Even though you are networking amongst yourselves, for us as RVPs, we also welcome your interests in our region. See how development is and how can we collaborate. There's many events that goes on in the region. And see how you can also participate in those. So, have a good week. And thanks very much for being here. Congratulations.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Save. And during our virtual meet and greet, when we were reviewing the agenda, I also noted for all of you that there are regional space meetings. So, there are Africa space. There are LAC space. There is North America space. Europe space. Which region I missed? APEC space. And APEC will have two specific sessions on APEC space. And APEC with Fellows and NextGeners. Two separate sessions.

So, I really encourage you to go to those sessions, to the regional space sessions where you belong to. This will help you to learn and to see people from the region, not only our Global Stakeholder Engagement team members, but also the community members, the GAC representative, the civil society representative, At-Large people from your respective regions. So, it's very important that you start your first entry to the global community by learning about your regional folks. Okay? So please, they are in the agenda. You have this all in your also Fellowship slide deck. Make sure you plan accordingly to be there.

And I tried not to have any mandatory sessions planned during that time so you have the opportunity to go and meet people there. Thank you. Thank you, APEC region. And I would like to give the floor to my colleague from Europe. Adam Peake is here. Adam.

ADAM PEAKE: Good morning, everybody. Adam Peake, I'm from the GSE. So, Adam Peake, Global Stakeholder Engagement Europe. There will be two of us here for this meeting. Chris Mondini, who's the vice president for the European region, will be arriving on Sunday evening. So, he'll be

around. As mentioned, we'll also have a European space meeting, and that's from about 4:30 on Tuesday afternoon. Please come along. And I think, I hope, I've already invited some of you European Fellows for lunch on Monday, it would be. Fellows march on their stomachs or some Napoleonic thing. But anyway, we will keep you entertained.

There are five colleagues from Europe. We cover different, all the countries. I think it's around 50 of them. Myself, Adam Peake. I also do Global Stakeholder Engagement for civil society. We have Gabriella Schitteck, who does the Nordics and down into the German-speaking regions. Andrea Beccalli is the fortunate one. He begins in Portugal and then goes along all the resorts of the Mediterranean and into the nice parts of the country. Mikhail Asimov is the Central and Eastern European countries. And Chris Mondini covers, well, the whole region. We're here just to help you, I think.

I will send you a slide which shows who we are. I'm going to change the picture because I noticed that my picture was actually taken at ICANN27, and I've changed quite a lot since then. This T-shirt is from ICANN12 and has aged better than its owner. Anyway, we're here to help you, and it's an absolute pleasure always to see NextGen and Fellows. Have a great meeting. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Adam. Thank you very much and thank you for being here. I don't see my colleagues from Africa, but I'm sure we will have the opportunity to meet with them as well. Okay. Any questions related to our Global Stakeholder Engagement, team members, our social communication options? So, whatever relates to that. Any particular

specific highlights or questions you would like to ask? If not, then we'll move forward. Yes, Shanelle, please.

SHANELLE MCPHERSON:

Good morning, everyone. My name is Shanelle McPherson. And it's not a question but a highlight. So, when I came off the bus this morning, Mr. Albert Daniels, he was the first person to greet me, and then he walked up the stairs, and then he greeted me again. And so, I was unsure where to go, what to do. In fact, this is my first ICANN meeting in person.

And first thing he looked, he looked at my badge. He didn't see that I had the Fellowship sticker. So, he said, "Okay, let me go ahead and find out from the front decks." And we couldn't get any answers there, so he escorted me here and introduced me to some of his colleagues, his friends. And the first thing he said to me when I walked through the door is, "Shanelle, the first thing that you need to do is to pick a headset, because once you're at an ICANN meeting, persons speak in different languages." And so that was done.

And I'm saying this to say that this just shows us the type of leadership that we have regionally. And I just want to encourage all Fellows and NextGens that are here, get in touch with your regional leaders. These are people who care. Talk to them. Embrace them. Go on phone calls with them so that you can have a relationship. And I just want to thank everyone from the Caribbean regional leaders for their support in everything and also to ICANN for having me here. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Shanelle. This is amazing intervention. And thank you. And you are one of the lucky people who met Albert just in front, who greeted you the first. So, you are in strong hands. And I'm sure that this is your first participation in person, though you had been virtual NextGen during one of the previous meetings. And I already noted you virtually when you were participating at that meeting, and you couldn't make it in person. But this is the real start. So, this is the way how we meet. That's why our meet and greet here starts with our regional engagement folks. They are key for you to move forward.

So, you are selected from your region to come to this global meeting. But you are learning here. You are the unique people from the region, each region selected. And you are unique, capable people to be back to your region, to give back to your region. And these are the guys who will guide you on regional level as well. And you will become their real capacity asset in the region. So, please keep this in mind that the collaboration starts here. It should be continued from here to the region and back to the global. So, this is all the change. Yes, Abraham, please.

ABRAHAM SELBY: All right. Thank you very much. My name is Abraham Selby, ICANN79 Fellow on the record.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent.

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- ABRAHAM SELBY:** Looking at the regional representative within our leadership, we have Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, North America, and other ones. I want to know, under the regions we have so many countries, even listening on what Asia was saying, that before they are big, they have to share. How do they collaborate to achieve the goal of ICANN, maybe as a region? Because as a region, I know the work is big. And we have so many different countries with their different goals. And how are they able to work together to achieve their goals in ICANN? And do they have third parties they work with? And how do they operate in such areas? Thank you.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you, Abraham. And we'll get back to your point there. We don't have African representative here. But I'm sure one of our general global stakeholder folks will respond to this. Because we do have different countries in every region. So, every region has a diversity in place. And they need the different approach to every country, to every person. So, if Rodrigo or Jia-Rong can, as an example from your regions, how you deal with that question, will respond. Thank you, Adam.
- JIA-RONG LOW:** Thank you. So, I'll respond. I'm not from the Africa region, but I think amongst other regions, we do all share a common goal. So, the question is, in each region, we have so many countries and our interests are different. How do we find something in common to work together? And I'll start with ICANN's mission and purpose.
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For us, it's about maintaining a single and interoperable internet. That's our common purpose. And I'll share a couple of points on this area. Because there's actually quite a lot of you have to dig a little bit deeper to understand what a single interoperable internet actually means. So, we are all using one internet. There is no other internet that we are using. But there are actually other systems that you can use. But they are called intranets. So, they are different from the internet that we are using. This single internet that we are using allows me to connect to you anywhere in the world. And it's because we all use one set of unique identifiers.

So, what are unique identifiers? We have to code our computers to speak the same language. Every device uses IP addresses as an address. And because we cannot remember the address, we use domain names. So, these three unique identifiers are coordinated by ICANN. But will they be the same forever? Short answer is no. For example, IP addressing, everyone is familiar with IPv4. It's just like four sets of three numbers. 192.101.3. 4, something like this. Now, IPv4 ran out because it cannot support the number of devices all of us have. So, it becomes that we have to think of as a community, what is a new system that will replace this? So, the Internet Engineering Task Force came up with a new system. And it's called IP version 6.

Now, why am I taking time to explain this? It's because as we use the Internet differently, what is holding the Internet together, which are these unique identifiers, will have to change and will have to evolve with time. And how do we know how to evolve it and how to change it? It's from all of you, every one of you. It's not just a single government who will decide or a single institution who will decide. But different

users, different people using Internet in different ways, different institutions, all of us have to come together and unite to keep this Internet a single interoperable Internet.

Now, this is the larger, bigger picture. But coming to your region, there will be some common areas in your region that you will feel, oh, actually, we should work together. For example, for the Asia-Pacific region, we feel that the Internet domain names currently use mainly English alphabets. But now it has evolved. Now we are able to use scripts in Chinese, in Arabic, in other languages. But it's not enough. We need to be able to do more. More in terms of adoption, more in terms of software that will support these domain names in other languages.

So, this is a very important topic for us within our region. And we are working very closely with the different countries, different stakeholders from these countries to find a way to help each other and work with each other to drive this area forward. There are others as well. You may be concerned about cybersecurity. And within ICANN, the community now has been talking about DNS abuse. So, it's another topic that you can find some common areas.

And actually, I realize in talking about these topics, our interests are very much aligned within our region. So likewise, for you, it's also asking your friends and your community members from your region, what are some of the topics that really feel very close to you in your heart? And if you likewise share the same interests, this is a good place to start to talk about these topics and participate in the discussions here in ICANN meeting. So, thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Jia-Rong. This is very important. And just to summing up what Jia-Rong has said, ICANN community is multicultural, multilingual, as you noted also, that we are using different language interpretation during the sessions. That means that every person can find his or her place here in this big ICANN community. Every voice matters. Every region matters. Every fellow, every NextGen matters. So, make your voice heard and bring your regional challenges or successes to the global fora and learn from global experience and take it to your region. This is the way how it works.

With that, just summing up our meet and greet session, ahead of us we have two full days of the sessions planned for NextGeners and the Fellows to learn about ICANN multi-stakeholder model. You will learn from different communities who they are, what they are doing. They will come to us and talk to us, explain the way how you can get engaged. We will also cover two pillars of ICANN, technical and policy, so how we work, what does it mean. So, you will hear the ICANN experts from tech team and from the policy team. And by the end of tomorrow, you will have the global idea what is taking place here.

And the idea of making this weekend so heavy for you is that during the week you know where to go, what to do. You use every single opportunity to introduce yourself. And whenever you take the mic, as Abraham was a great example, you state your name. My name is Siranush Vardanyan. I am the ICANN Fellow, or I am the ICANN NextGen. For the recording purposes, I am speaking on my personal capacity. So, that's the way people will start learning your name, remembering you,

and then putting your name and your face, and then you will become famous. That's the way how it works. So, use this opportunity.

Wherever you go, during the breaks, during the networking events, talk to people. Don't shy. The first and most important thing, we are here to learn. And there is no stupid question at all. So, you can ask whatever you want to know. And if you don't ask, we will not know what you don't know, and we cannot help you with that. So, this is the opportunity to learn, and we all here are also learning with you. And it doesn't matter we are here since ICANN29 or ICANN30. Every ICANN meeting is unique. And there is always something new to learn, and we need you also who came here. You are experts in your sphere, in your sector, in your region. We need your expertise here as well. So, use this opportunity to learn and to network.

Today, at 5:30, there will be a special networking hour organized for Fellows and NextGeners, not only to interact with each other, but we also invited ICANN Org members, ICANN community, ICANN Board, to come and talk to you, welcome you, have a drink with you. So, enjoy. There will be a very beautiful welcome ceremony on Monday and then welcome reception on Monday evening. Don't miss them. Come to those networking opportunities.

I know many of you, this is your first time in Puerto Rico. You would like to go to see the beaches here, the lovely country around, but you will have time for that as well. This is the time for us to learn, to interact, and to network. So, why I told you and I also requested you not to be late is it's showing our professionalism and respect towards each other. So please be on time. Please come with a smile. Take your time to

sleep, even if you are on the beach by 4:00 o'clock. I hope you will take at least one- or two-hours nap, but ICANN Fellowship and ICANN NextGen, there are programs 24/7. Once you are in, there is no way out.

Welcome to ICANN79. And I would like to finish this session by sweets which are treated by Abraham Selby from his own community. Abraham came here when he was selected as a Fellow, as he explained to me yesterday. His team prepared chocolates for all of us, and Abraham wanted to share it with you. And with that, the first session is now being adjourned. Welcome to ICANN79. We'll see you at 10:30, all Fellows here in this room. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]