

Participants Networking Event

ICANN79 | CF – ICANN Board Members, ICANN79 Fellowship, and NextGen@ICANN Program Participants Networking Event
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 1:15 to 2:30 SJU

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hello everyone and welcome to the joint session of ICANN 79 fellows and NextGeners with ICANN leadership, ICANN board members and ICANN interim president and CEO. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. And I forgot to mention that my name is Siranush Vardanyan and I will be doing the remote management for this session. During this session, questions and comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud if put in a proper form which I mentioned already in the chat. Remember to state your name and the language you will speak in case you will be speaking a language other than English. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom or raise your hand here. We have moving mics here available. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Portuguese. With that, it's my great honor to introduce our guests today. ICANN board chair Tripti Sinha is joining us already. Thank you for joining. ICANN board member Leon Sanchez and ICANN interim president and CEO Sally Costerton. I will hand over the floor to them to do a brief welcome introduction and then we will start the open mic so-called questions and answers from your end. We will have about an

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hour for this unique opportunity and we might not be able to cover all the questions. That's why my request to you, if you want to raise your hand and ask questions, be very specific, very clear, make them as brief as possible, and do not ask several questions within one question. With that, it's my great pleasure to hand the floor over to Tripti Sinha, ICANN board chair. Tripti, the floor is yours.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you very much. First, I'd like to extend a very, very warm welcome to all the new fellows in the NextGen. This is an extremely important program inside of ICANN. The strength of our community relies on new blood and I'm sure you've learned a lot about the multi-stakeholder model that we all operate within. What that essentially means is we bring voices and individuals from different sectors in our ecosystem and you actually represent those sectors and you are the next generation. It's extremely important for the sustainability of this organization for us to stay in touch with the next generation, the generation that grew up with the Internet and hear your voices so that we can build your opinions and consider your opinions and views into our policies and just understand what's happening in the world today through your eyes. So you're an extremely important component of our organization and welcome. I hope you've had a great three days now. Today is our third day, so I hope you've enjoyed the meeting so far. And don't feel shy. Come embrace all the different sessions. Come talk to individuals in the community, whether they're board members or executives or other members of the organization. So a very, very warm welcome to all of you.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Tripti. And it's my esteemed pleasure to introduce you, my friend and colleague, my fellow colleague, with whom we started to be a fellow when we were at our initial steps coming and joining ICANN, Leon Sanchez, board member. Leon, the floor is yours.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Siranush. And I will speak in Spanish if you don't mind. So if you have a headset, please use it. We take advantage of the interpretation services. And thank you to our interpreters. Hello. All right. As Tripti has said, the program, the fellows program and the NextGen program is critical for ICANN. You are the next generation that will lead this organization. And I would like to invite all of you to look at this as an opportunity to serve the global community. It is a real privilege to belong to this group of people, to the fellows, to the NextGen. And I insist, to have this opportunity to be able to serve the global community through the development of policies for the domain name system and the different issues going beyond that, like internet governance. We all know we are going through a crucial stage for the future of the internet governance. There are several events that will take place in the next few months. And all of this will be able to redefine how all of this internet governance will happen. And all of this can have a direct impact in ICANN, in our multi-stakeholder model, and in the way we shape these policies and make decisions. So it is for me a great pleasure to be here with you. I am at your disposal to answer to your questions. Do take advantage of this session. Ask as many questions as you want. Remember, there are no silly questions, but actually silly

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people who don't ask questions. And then here we are to be able to answer to all your questions. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon. Thank you very much. And Sally Costerton, ICANN interim president and CEO. The floor is yours, Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much, Srinish. And welcome, the warmest of welcomes to you. And I know many of you, most of you are here at an ICANN meeting for the very first time. And we are so excited to have you. As you will know, both these programs are very competitive. So many people apply. And so getting here is you should be very happy, proud. I hope you feel that way. We feel, hopefully you feel how special we feel you are. And that is because of the reasons that Tripti and Leon have been talking about. The future of the internet is in some really quite major part in your hands, in the hands of your generation, your friends, your families. And we talk about diversity at ICANN. We tend to think of that in terms of geographical diversity, most obviously, or maybe gender balance. Those are very important things. But we don't often enough stress the importance of diversity of views based on age and experience and attitude, we put it that way. And Tripti is right. The world is changing. The internet is changing. And we need to bring those opinions, those views and those thoughts into ICANN. So my request of you, my hope is that you will feel empowered to contribute to what we do, to share your views, to share the context and the priorities that you have in your way, where you live in your academic institutions, in your

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studies with our community, because I think you will find a warm welcome. Everybody wants there to be, you know, the new blood as Tripti put it, in the community. And we know that we need to work with you to make that happen. So please do feel that you've joined a big welcoming family. And we're delighted to have you with us. And the final thing I would like to say to the fellows and particularly to Siranush, some of you may know, some of you don't, Puerto Rico is where the fellowship program was born. So this was the first time we had a fellowship program was here, our first meeting in Puerto Rico. So it's a good time to be part of our newcomer program. And thank you very, very much for being part of this process and looking forward to getting to know you better. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Sally. And indeed, it's 50th ICANN fellowship this time. So as you all know, this session is for networking, interaction. This is not public forum. So feel free to raise your hand. And if you have questions, we'll give you the mic to ask. So anyone who would like to start? Please, Shanelle. Thank you, Pranav, for helping with mic.

SHANELLE MCPHERSON: Good evening, everyone. My name is Shanelle McPherson, I am an ICANN 79 fellow, speaking on my own behalf. I'm from Jamaica. And my question is, is the board taking in consideration for ongoing and developed, well, developing projects that's happening within ICANN, is there any space that is, you know, worthy for NextGen and fellows to be injected in some of these plans? Because even today when I was at the

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SSAC and ICANN board meeting, we were talking about, you know, name collisions, and that's an ongoing project, and the team, TRT team is going to be involved in that. And so I had questions about that project, and I wanted to know, even though I was raising my hands, I realized it was a closed meeting and only members and the board could have asked questions. So I didn't get to have an input on it. So my only question is that, is there any space that is injected for both fellows or NextGens to be a part and involved in any upcoming or developing projects that you may have? Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I probably will start because we, on Saturday, we had a meeting with SSAC, and they came, and it was great pleasure to be with them introducing and networking with fellows, and the first idea which they put in place that they are going to open the doors and already opened the doors for this young generation to SSAC meetings, discussions, working groups. So you may take from there. So the steps are there to start.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Siranush. So the way ICANN works is you have got the different constituency groups, and to join a constituency group, they have their individual procedures. You can go through the procedures and then see how you get on to those groups. However, beyond that, like the TRT, the technical review team that they talked about this morning, for those kinds of working groups, typically there is a call, and anyone can apply. Anyone, correct me if I'm wrong, but anyone can

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apply, and then there is a committee that will select the composition of the committee. So, yes, everything is open to you. You just have to highlight your competencies and how your skill set will make a difference in that working group or committee.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And I will add that at the end of the meeting, which is usually the case, I will send you the links to the communities, and you actually have this in your initial slides during the on-boarding, so you can review their web pages, find out about the groups, how you can join them, and also sign up for the information to be received. And whenever there is a call, you definitely can apply. And I see Edmon came here, who would like to add to this.

EDMON CHUNG: Yes, just quickly. Actually, all of the working group meetings here in the policy development process, they're all open. And if you go in, you put up your hand, you can also speak. Most of them are like that. Very few of them are limited membership. And if it is limited membership, during the ICANN meetings, they are also open. So if you go into a room, if it's talking about, let's say it's a registrar transfer policy, you might not know what that is, but if you do and you want to speak up or ask questions, you can actually go in and do that. That is my first experience 20-odd years ago. I just went in, and any working group that is doing the work, you can just put up your hand or stand behind the mic and whichever -- figure out how they are managing the queue and speak up.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, Leon, please.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you. So yes, I mean, this is the beauty of ICANN. Everything is open. And what's even better is that when you say that you are a fellow, people will be very welcoming to you. Not that they are not to others, but when we say that we are fellows or we are NextGen, we are especially welcomed. So try to look at this as a 50/50 partnership. The fellowship program puts you in, drives you, and takes you by the hand and literally introduces you to this ecosystem, but the other 50% depends on you, on your curiosity, on your drive to go into the different spaces and the different working groups and the different mailing lists. So that's the part that you have to fulfill, right? The fellowship program is that special space you are asking for.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And just to highlight the importance of these programs and when you are selected to be fellow or NextGen, you are assigned mentors. This mentoring and support from the staff is not ending by the end of your fellowship. It's continued process. We are becoming one big family with one network, and we are always there to continue this support on day-to-day process, on daily process, like every day. Come on. And end of the meeting is coming. So, yeah. Abraham, I see you, and then I see Krislin. And yes, I will come to you, Dana.

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ABRAHAM SELBY: Okay. All right. Thank you very much. For the records, I'm Abraham Selby, ICANN 79 fellow, and I'm speaking on my own capacity as a student of School of Public Policy, University College London. I love everything about ICANN because as part of my academic, I'm supposed to write research papers, so I'm focusing on ICANN. Last semester, I published one in terms of organizational transformation. And I want to know, I also enjoyed the NextGen's presentation because they were also doing some research contributing to ICANN. But I want to know in terms of the leadership within ICANN, apart from the NextGen or joining into some constituency and community, does ICANN have research areas that students can -- they can give it to students to contribute in terms of policy recommendation and research and publication, whereby students can really have some impact in terms of their academic journey? So this is my question. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So just before I give the floor to Tripti, I want to remind Abraham that we had a session with John Crain's team, who -- oh, John is here. John, please, take a mic. So they have this research department, and they are doing a lot of work -- a lot of researches where they would like you to have the input. John, thank you for being here.

JOHN CRAIN: So good afternoon, everybody. So research is actually quite a big area at ICANN. So I'm the tech guy, right? So we research about protocols, changes to protocols, what's happening on the Internet, how it affects ICANN. But we also have researchers that are looking at policy and other

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things. Now, we don't have, like, a formal internship or anything like that, but we are always happy to collaborate. Even if it's just as simple as giving you a viewpoint on your work, we are more than happy to have that discussion. Maybe you can save us doing some work. So that's always good.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Tripti, you wanted to add something? No? Sally?

SALLY COSTERTON: It's a really good question, Abraham. And I think what I've noticed since we've had our newcomer programs the last sort of 15 years is we build a partnership with you. When I say we, I mean the board, but also the staff, the ICANN staff. And we do that initially through Siranush. But as you know, ICANN fellows go on to have many roles in the community. And you see Leon and Siranush here are both ex-fellows. And so as you go through the next few weeks and months and hopefully years, you will begin to be really clear about what you're interested in, what topics you're interested in, and perhaps what area you're in, which is what Tripti was saying, the SOAC structures. And based on where you live, you said you live in London, yeah? Good man. I'm very glad to hear it. So we have an engagement team that are all over the world that are part of our team. So I have somebody on that team, for example, who covers the UK. So what will happen is we will we do this routinely. All of you will be invited by the different regional teams to become part of our regional community groups. And this is another great area where you can get connected to networks of a lot of researchers. For example, in

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London, we have a lot of interesting research organizations that are working in the ICANN community more broadly. And we'll get to know you and then where you're interested in how we can partner exactly what John's saying. So it could be in policy. It could be in internet governance. It could be in things like how do we bring more people into ICANN on languages, on scripts. There's so many different areas where we're doing research. So that's what I hope we'll see is that build that partnership so that as we get to know you better and you get to know us better, we can see where we can do that work together.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please, Edmon.

EDMON CHUNG: Edmon, very quickly. I hear that you actually have done some research on organization transformation. So if you have already done some research, you feel free to input it into some of the comment public comment periods as well. For example, if you are working on that, there is an active working group on continued improvements of the ICANN system of the organization structure and there are different reviews that happen. Maybe you can also submit those. Obviously, don't send the whole report in. Summarize the ones that are relevant to the topic at hand and then maybe link to the longer research paper. But those are opportunities for input into the process as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Edmon. Krislin, you are the next.

KRISLIN GOULBOURNE-HARRY: Hello, everyone. My name is Krislin Goulbourne Harry from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. I'm an ICANN 79 fellow. For the past few days, I've been learning more about universal acceptance, DNS, the TLDs, et cetera. And I feel like the more that I'm learning, it's the less that I know. Right? So with all that is happening, I'm wondering, I'm curious about the fragmentation and with how everything is managed. And I'm wondering, considering that the different sections are managed, some of them independently by the based on the geographical location. So I'm wondering if there is an overall strategy that the board has in place to make sure that everything works in the way it's supposed to work and the Internet actually operates in the way it's intended to operate. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. I'll start and my colleagues on the stage will continue to add. So ICANN has a very well-defined remit. And we're focused on the unique identifier systems only and policies surrounding that. Now, the Internet itself, when you look at it holistically, is quite complex. And we're not the only players in this space. There are lots of other colleagues in the space who manage different parts of it. For example, the IP addressing system is managed by what we call the RIRs, the IP addressing registry organizations. Then you have exchange points around the world, massive exchange points where you've got these big fat pipes that come into exchange points and you've got routers and so forth that sit there. And they exchange, you know, basically address books or routes, actually routes. There's a protocol called BGP and so forth. I don't want

to get into the details. But the point I'm trying to make is that there are many, many people involved in the operations of the Internet. ICANN is focused on the unique identifier systems, which is the IP addresses, systems and protocols. So it's a very well-coordinated function. The function itself is run by IANA, which is a subsidiary, a function within ICANN. It's treated as a subsidiary organization. However, it's a huge function within this corporate structure called ICANN. And it operates on a system of processes and procedures which are extremely well run, lots of rigor and discipline that goes into it. And the way the root zone is managed, what goes into these files and there are other zone files. They are all dictated by policy, which is constructed by this community. The board itself has an oversight role. We just ensure that things are operating. And there's something called a strategic plan. And that's a long-term plan. Typically it goes in five-year cycles. It looks into the future of how this organization, this ecosystem should, you know, what are the things we anticipate and how we will approach that. So this is kind of a longer explanation of what you wanted. I don't know if I've answered your questions. But I'm going to look -- ask my colleagues on the stage to add more content if they'd like -- if anyone would like to add anything.

EDMON CHUNG:

Edmon here. Happy to add a little bit. That's a very good question. One of the things is that ICANN only manages a very small part of the entire Internet ecosystem. So for domain names and IP addresses, for example, the domain names, it's just the generic top-level domains that ICANN has a direct contract with that certain things can be enforced. So

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many of the things we would like the Internet to work a certain way. But that is where the beauty, I guess, of the multistakeholder model is. We are a platform that allows that discussion so that we end up with a consensus that everyone follows. Not everything could be, like, enforced as in, like, a police -- there is no Internet police, and ICANN certainly is not an Internet police. But the model itself is built on the collaboration between different parts, as Tripti has mentioned.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Edmon. And before we move to Dana, you are the next, I would like to ask our board member who is here, Catherine Adeya, if I'm pronouncing your name properly. It's okay if not, apologies. But to introduce yourself and say a couple of words. We always love to see board members coming to this session. Dana, if we can have the mic given to Ms. Catherine. Christian is also here, yes. You can come and join us here.

CATHERINE ADEYA: Thank you. And actually, I was somewhere else. And thank you, Wendy, for telling me. And I came running because I've been talking to people like you. It's very close to my heart. I can see some of you smiling. I think this is a really great opportunity. One or two -- I've talked to a couple of you already. So I'm Catherine Adeya. And I'm on the board of ICANN. How old am I now? Five months old? Technically. But over 20 years old in the industry. I think I've already chatted with some of you about the great opportunity you have. Having worked with even some ex-ICANN fellows who are doing great things out there. I think you met some of

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them in the IGF in Addis. And also a pleasure to see some of the mentees of my -- what were they? From Kenya. From Kenya. No, but the interesting thing about her is I mentored her mentor. So it's good to see her here. And her mentor now is doing a lot of things in ICANN. So it's just a pleasure. I don't want to say so much more about myself because you can find out. But this is a really great opportunity. For those of you I've met along the corridors, I'm saying don't waste it. And it's so good that you have the board here to also engage with. And if you see us anywhere, if you see me anywhere, I think those of you who have met me, I stop and talk to you. So don't hesitate. Stop and talk to me. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much, Catherine. Christian, would you like to say a couple of words?

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: So sneaking in five minutes after you have started is not saving me from saying anything. I will keep that in mind next time. As you remember last time I was on stage and it was my first time, since then I'm following the fellowship program. So that's why I came back today. So it's good to see some familiar faces are back. And otherwise I don't have to say so much about it, to be honest. But I'm happy to be back and see what you present today. Thank you.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. You loved last time our session and came back. It's always a pleasure to see you. Dana, please.

DANA CRAMER: Thank you. My name is Dana Cramer. I am in NextGen program from Toronto, Canada. I do my PhD there. My question builds on the first question earlier, which is about youth within ICANN and recognizing that we can, as you have all noted, get involved in more ways. But I was wondering if the board has considered, for example, like at the ITU right now there's a new youth advisory board. There are new advisory boards and youth advisory boards and youth advisory councils in different organizations and different governments and different spheres and corporate entities. And I'm wondering if that's something that ICANN has considered. Because with youth we have an opportunity to peer mentor one another when we're in these smaller spaces. And in a moment like this, I think we've all done a lot of that this past week. However, you lose that after the week is over, potentially, because that connection is lost unless there is a dedicated space. And with youth as a bit of a soft hustle in how we are as a stakeholder group, because we might be students but we're not in academia. We might intern but we're not industry stakeholders. We might intern with government but we're not government stakeholders. And has there been that consideration, especially now that we're in the decade of crises? And youth types of boards have always grown out of when crises have occurred because youth are the primary ones who feel policies for the longest amount of time. Has that been something that has been considered or might be considered? Thank you.

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SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much for your question. So there's quite a bit in there. But I mean the theme really is about a group or a series of different kinds of groups for the younger voices in ICANN to have a network. I just want to make sure I understand the question.

DANA CRAMER: Yes, essentially I don't want to say an alumni network. Like for example, myself and actually someone else who is in the fellowship program, we're part of the Internet Society's Young Ambassadors program. And that allows 15 of us to really spend a year connecting, collaborating, looking at how we can be the next Internet leaders. If there's something that can do that that allows for consistently a youth take in that way or an advisory council in some capacity but youth focused.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much for the question. I think it's a very good point. We are continuously evolving I would say our participation strategy for the whole of ICANN. Because we do have gaps in our participation at ICANN. Whether they're geographical gaps or different kinds of as you say stakeholder groups. And I understand your point. You said we might not be exactly the right fit for this particular stakeholder group. I might not be an industry player. I might not be in this kind of thing. I get that.

I think this is a very interesting food for thought idea for us to take away from this discussion. Because as we move forward and as you say we will have some very challenging issues this year in the Internet

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governance space which you're clearly aware of. And I think governments particularly and society more generally will be looking to younger voices to understand what you need if you're a citizen of a country. How to look after you as an Internet user. How to keep you safe. This kind of issue.

So leave it with me. I think it's an interesting suggestion. And as I say we have an ongoing not review but we have a very open mind is what I'm trying to say about what our participation strategies how they should evolve. And I will take that thought away. So perhaps we can have a separate conversation. But thank you very much for sharing it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Edmon.

EDMON CHUNG: Yeah, I think that's a great question. And you've probably already learned the structure of ICANN. There are three what is called supporting organizations that create policies. And then there are four advisory committees, including GAC, the government, SSAC, the security and stability, and ALLAC which is the At-Large Advisory Committee. You're really suggesting a youth advisory committee. It is not impossible. ALAC for example was created—when I first participated ICANN, ALAC does not exist. It was created because there was a gap. And whether a YAC or a youth advisory committee can eventually be created, I would encourage you to start participating at the At-Large though because right now where the youth probably fit a little bit better because it is cross-boarding, the advisory committees

actually look at all different policies and can provide advice. So if in fact in APRALO for example in the Asia Pacific, part of the At-Large there is already the net mission ALS which is called—sorry I keep using these terms which you guys should be learning—At-Large structure. One of them is actually youth based. And if the different parts of ALAC start coming together with the youth network, then over time maybe some advice to the development of the structure of ICANN which I mentioned earlier like the continued improvement work that is actually ongoing. Maybe there would someday be a YAC, but right now I think the best part to insert may be a part of ALAC and, you know, maybe a youth network among the five regions inside ALAC, which could potentially be a possibility.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And Dana, just to add, the current fellowship and NextGen programs have different goals and objectives. But as Sally mentioned, this is the idea which we will take and discuss among the team and the community how to move forward with. Rashedul, please.

RASHEDUL HASSAN: Thank you for the opportunity. So, I am Rashedul Hassan, and I am a NextGener at this program. And I come from Bangladesh, but I am a graduate student, a PhD student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln studying computer science. So, my question is that ICANN supports projects through the ICANN grant program through nonprofit organizations and through research and other type of things they do. And this is a very good program I was able to know some time ago. So,

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my question is that on individual level, if we do some research or do some proof of concept that can actually benefit the Internet infrastructure in many ways, how ICANN can support it? Or is ICANN grant program can be extended into that to support individuals who want to work towards the betterment of Internet? Or what is ICANN's view on that? I just wanted to know about it. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you very much for the question. So, this is about the ICANN grant program and the qualifying criteria. Yeah. So, we will publish this. We've already published it. We will open the first grant cycle, as I said in my opening speech, the first \$10 million charge of grant funds next month. No, this month, end of March.

So, what I would encourage you to do is go and have a look at the website and the collateral and you'll be able to see exactly what the qualifying criteria are. And if you don't find, if you find that it won't be appropriate for what you're looking for, come and let us know. And we will have a look at the kind of things that you specifically want and we'll be able to tell you whether or not we can help. And if not, if we can't help directly with a grant, we'll be able to connect you probably with some grant giving foundations who can. So, that's what I would suggest so you get an accurate answer to your specific need. Thank you for the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. I do see many hands there, but the lady over there, please.

WINNY KOECH:

Thank you very much. I think I've probably spoken to every member of the board because of my crazy idea of data protection and all that. So, they probably just know my name. But for the record, my name is Winny Koech. I am from Kenya, but I live in the United States. This is also an appreciation to the members of the board for being able to talk to us. My question is actually still tied to what Dana said about forming YAC. When I joined ICANN, I actually joined because of a mentee of Catherine. And let me tell you one thing. To be able to get to speak to Catherine in Kenya is actually very impossible. I actually spoke to Catherine. It's because she's really busy and she's running so many things. The time that I've gotten to speak to Catherine here is probably more than the time I've gotten to speak to her when she's in Kenya. So, that's just to say that getting to know or speak to the board members while they're outside of ICANN might be an impossibility. Not because they don't want to do that, because they also have busy schedules and other things that they're doing. So, I am literally her grand mentee because I'm benefiting from a mentor that she mentored.

Now, my suggestion or rather my question is in connection to what Dana said, I am taking this slow. I am learning ICANN at a very slow pace. And I want to be here to be able to contribute for the long run. Ten years, 15 years down the line, I want to be the chair of ICANN at the board or just sitting into this position. But that cannot just happen overnight. We have to be realistic. I am a compliance director. That is a senior position. But I still have a long way to go. Is there a way in connection to forming the YAC that we can get the mentorship of the board? Because we want

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to be an ICANN for 10, 15 years. But I will be 40 in 10 years' time. And I probably want to apply for the board. But I just don't want to jump out of nowhere. I want to have been mentored by Tripti, by Catherine, to just know the ropes and where I am really going. So, in connection to what Dana is requesting, is there a way we can just have that YAC formed or followed up? It's like a little young board members. I don't know. That's something. Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Winny, thank you for your idea. Clearly it's well received by your colleagues in the audience. That's a good idea. And as Edmon suggested, the YAC. But there is already a construct, ALAC, within which you will probably find a home. But we will take that under advisement and see how we can create a mentorship program from senior members of the ICANN community. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Tripti. The good outcome of this is I was happy to hear that in order to meet board members, you had to go through the very competitive process by being selected through the NextGen or the fellowship program. But Leon has something to add.

LEON SANCHEZ:

Thank you, Siranush. So, we do have a mentorship program At-Large. So, there are mentors that are ready to mentor you. And I'm going to tell you a little bit of what I did. I started as a fellow back in 2012 in the Prague meeting. That was my first meeting as a fellow. Before that I had

applied, I think, maybe four times. All of those times I got rejected. But that didn't stop me. I kept trying and applying. And then finally I got accepted. And, well, as I guess many of you or pretty much every one of you, when I came first to ICANN meeting as a fellow, I was marveled and I didn't know what I was doing like pretty much any newcomer. But nevertheless I was compelled to commit and to serve and to learn and to do things and to network and relate with others.

So, what I did is literally talk to people and try to find my own mentors. I have been a very lucky guy and I have had wonderful mentors along the way. So, once I was lucky enough to find a mentor in a certain topic, then I jumped into a different topic and I found a different mentor. So, in other words, it's pretty much like when you go to your university, right? The quality of your education in a way, at least in Mexico, depends on yourself. The teachers that you choose, the subjects that you pick, etc. So, you have to look at the fellowship program again as a tool that will allow you to get pretty much wherever you want. The barriers are only set by yourself. In the fellowship program, we let those barriers down, we release those barriers and we allow you to dive right into the ICANN ecosystem. Again, grabbing you by the hand, taking you through each of the structures, mentoring you and providing you with additional tools like the ICANN and courses, etc., that will allow you to eventually have access to leadership positions. But again, you have to look at those leadership positions as opportunities to serve the community, not to serve yourself or to exercise any kind of power that you might think that position might come along. No, these positions are to serve our community, to serve the internet global ecosystem. And if

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you have that mindset, then I'm pretty sure that you will get there eventually.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon.

WALE ADEDOKUN: Thank you. My name is Wale Adedokun. ICANN 79 fellow. I'm from Nigeria and I'm speaking for myself. I think on behalf of all the fellows, we should let the board know that we are very grateful for this opportunity. Siranush has been doing a very good job. She has made us to be at home. She has taken care of us like our mother. And I think we should all appreciate Siranush and her team for this great job. Thank you.

Having said that, I'm from the academic community. I've been teaching for maybe close to 20 years. And in these last few days, I've spoken with quite a number of people. John, Adiel, [inaudible] quite a number of people that I have probably one way or the other have had contact with what they do because of my job. And I see that ICANN is doing very serious work in the internet space. I've talked to quite a number of people and I can tell you for a fact that probably I'm a different academic because I was actually a technical person before I started teaching. So I have a lot of links with the technical community. So what I teach in class may be a bit different from or the way I look at things may be a bit different from the way probably somebody who just grew in the academic environment.

I wanted to say that the work that ICANN is doing is not really very prominent because I think the advocacy is not as much as it should be. So I wanted to ask if ICANN is looking at a better way of doing advocacy, especially in the academic community. When people grow in the academic community, when people grow in the academic community or they are being trained in the academic community, especially people that have had anything to do, I've seen quite a number of work being done in universal acceptance and DNS, DNSSEC, all these things that we're teaching in school. But if people learn these things and they don't even have an idea of some of the work that is being done by ICANN, I don't think it's fair on the side of ICANN. So I think ICANN should improve on the level of advocacy, especially in probably developing countries. Our situation and circumstances are not the same. I'm sure you understand what I'm saying. So is ICANN doing something to improve the advocacy level to get people more involved, especially in the academic environment, about the work that is being done by ICANN? Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you. So advocacy is a good word because my understanding of that is it isn't awareness raising just for its own sake. You're talking about raising ICANN's profile in the academic and technical community. That's the question, isn't it? Yeah. Well, I think it's a very valid point. I think we can always do more. And in my view, the area where we have to focus particularly at the moment is to increase understanding of ICANN's role in the broader academic and technical community so that we have a better understanding of, as Tripti said, exactly what we do,

the role of the identifiers and the way we make policy, the way we use a multi-stakeholder model to do that. So everybody's hands on with the policy and that makes it better. It makes it sustainable. It makes it more effective. It's in the public interest. So I think for me, the area I would say a primary focus where we can do more for advocacy in that community worldwide is widening the understanding of the technical and academic community from perhaps not just from the narrow technical brief, if you know what I mean, but the wider delivery of the public interest. What does it take? What is the role of the technical and academic community along with civil society, along with governments, along with industry? And how do we come together? Because we need that community very much. Don't get me wrong. It is ICANN as a technical organization. So it's a critical part of our stakeholder group. And we want to mobilize the members of that community to want to be part of this important mission and the broader work that we do together as well as raising the profile of the kind of skills we need for the very specific technical groups. I hope that helps. So we can always do more and we need to do more. No question. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Yes, please. You have your hand raised. Long time already. Pravan, please. Thank you. And thank you, Pravan, for helping us.

DAPHNE EKPE: Hi, everyone. My name is Daphne Ekpe and I am a NextGen participant. I'm speaking in my personal capacity. So thank you very much for the NextGen opportunity as well as the fellowship program. But my

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question is, basically, as NextGen participants, we are required to make presentations, do research along with our mentor, and then we make our presentations during the ICANN meeting. But I'm just concerned about what becomes of after our presentations. Most of us, we have recommendations, you know, areas in which maybe ICANN can get better. For example, my presentation is on reforming the UDRP policy. So I just want to know if there's an opportunity or if the board has a way in which we ensure, it's a follow-up to Dana's question, in which we ensure that our presentations, our recommendations can be reviewed, revised, reformed, better improved. But at the end of the day, it seeks the purpose of the NextGen application. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you very much. Thank you very much. It's an extremely good question. The answer is yes, we do. We capture your presentations. That's why we ask you to do them. I mean, they're key. We're asking you to participate, to give of yourself, and we want to know what you think. That is why we ask you to do it. So yes, we do. Deborah, I've got Deborah down here at the front who runs the program. Is there anything else you'd like to add to the specifics about how we share and store the presentations and how we make sure people have access to them?

DEBORAH ESCALERA:

Yes, the presentations are on the website in the session link. And so they're always on the archive, on the website, and available for everybody to access at all times.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Next question. Yes, Zoe, please. And then Alyza, we'll come to you.

ZOE FILOMENO: Hello. My name is Zoe Filomeno, ICANN 79 fellow. I'll be speaking in English, and this is on my behalf. I've been trying to understand more of ICANN, and I wanted to ask, given the 2014 attack, apparently just done by anonymous, where the ICANN's officials discovered months later, and from my understanding, if you guys can correct me, was a phishing scam done towards the ICANN staff that created the breach all the way until 2017. I noticed that that pack of information was still being purchased. And I would like to understand with emerging technologies, how ICANN is going to face the new threats of possible hacktivists or other hackers. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I probably will give the floor to John to respond to this question.

JOHN CRAIN: Well, that's an interesting question, and welcome to my world. So ICANN has two sort of technical areas. We have inward-facing and outward-facing, if you like. So we have a highly competent technical team that has an operational security team, so we are constantly going through audits. If you're in the executive questionnaire, I talked a little bit about crisis management. So we are constantly testing our crisis management teams. We're not in crisis all the time, don't panic, just most of the time. So I think we stand up those teams probably at least once a month for various types of things. So we have a built-in muscle

memory about dealing with incidents when they happen. I often joke that there are only two types of networks, those that know that they've been hacked and those that just don't know yet. So data will leak. Now, when data leaks, no matter what reason that's for, it gets sold on what people refer to as dark web. Sometimes we refer to it as the underground economy. You can't stop that stuff. Once it's out, it's out. So we do monitor a lot of those kind of activities. We're the outside guys, but we look a lot at what is happening in that area. We have very strong connections with the operational security community. We've had many cases where we've had to tell people in the industry that they've got an issue because we hear it first. So you constantly have to train. You constantly have to keep that muscle memory about dealing with issues. And you always have to be vigilant. And, of course, then on top of that, you do all the basic OPSEC things, operational security things like good passwords, patching your systems, all that kind of stuff. So it should be a worry for every organization, but it should just be part of your DNA that you deal with these things. And we do it just like everybody else. I hope that helps.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, John. Alyza, please.

ALYZA JOSEF: Hi. I'm Alyza Josef, and I am an ICANN 79 Fellow. And actually, I don't know if you can answer my question, but maybe you can redirect me to someone who can, because it is about the ICANN website itself. I've actually noticed that you make use of a dark pattern in your cookie

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consent interface. And now I know that, or I assume that ICANN does not need to adhere to the GDPR. However, I was wondering if ICANN does take into consideration limited user knowledge and understanding about cookie consent and its implications. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you for the question. You are right. We will give you an extremely precise answer to that very precise question. So if you'll forgive me, we'll take that off, and we'll come back to you with a direct answer, because it's a very particular question. I want to make sure we answer it accurately. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Yes, please. NextGen, yes, from North America.

MADDIA SANCHEZ: My name is Maddie Sanchez. I'm part of ICANN 79 NextGen. My question is a little bit of a follow-up on Daphne's question. So, of course, the NextGen program has been running for a few years now. And could you give an example of some of the other suggestions or ideas that NextGens have presented that have been implemented and how those steps were taken for those to happen? Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Deborah, I would suggest Deborah or Ergys, but probably Deborah, if you want to just answer that.

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DEBORAH ESCALERA: I don't know of any particular suggestions in terms of the presentations that have been implemented. Perhaps at our rapid session tomorrow, our alumni who are in the leadership positions, Mark and Matthias, can probably answer that question better than I, because they're actually active in the community, and they probably have a better answer for you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Great suggestion. Edmon?

EDMON CHUNG: Edmon here. I guess, of course, it is possible that there's a specific suggestion, but if you're talking about broader things, this is not kind of how ICANN works. You don't just do a presentation, and then somewhere it works through to the board, and then we act. No, actually, the community needs to talk about it. It is a suggestion for broader things. I don't know what you're talking about in terms of suggestion, but most of the time when you look at whether policy development, whether it's a change in the ICANN structures or additions or changes to the policy process, that requires discussion in the community, and your suggestions, ideas should be brought to, for example, to the ALAC or to the GNSO or through those processes to actually make an eventual change. So it's not that fast. I just want to make sure it doesn't leave the group here an idea that you come in—not belittling that the week's work, but I guess there are processes in ICANN to create changes within the organization, and those structures should be used.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Leon?

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you. So what Edmon just described is what we know as the bottom-up multi-stakeholder process. So bringing in your presentations and your ideas to the board and saying, oh, we're going to implement this, would be exactly the other way around, would be top-down. So as Edmon suggested, if you want to see your idea come true and come to life, well, then a good way to try to start doing that or to try to bring it alive is to socialize it first with the very bottom of the process, and from there start climbing it so that if it gains traction, then maybe a policy development process can be done, advised to the board. There are many ways in which changes and decisions may be made, but in the end, all of them should go through this bottom-up multi-stakeholder process.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon. Yes, Pedro and NextGener there.

PEDRO LANA: Hello. Just a quick one, actually building upon the answer that Tripti gave during the NASIG before ICANN, and also I think it was Sally's comments yesterday on the panel session about NetMundial+10 and the priority of the multi-stakeholder model nowadays, and considering the amount of processes, important processes on the net governance that are happening this year, ICANN as an organization that was already

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discussed believes it would be an important result coming out from net NetMundial+10, meaning what is something that would differentiate this process from the other ones that are happening during this year?

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you for the question. So firstly, I would say if you're interested in the internet governance issues, including NetMundial, we will have a session tomorrow at 1:15. I think it's in this room. This is the main room, isn't it? Yes. So that will be, we're calling that the geopolitical and legislative session, and we will talk about this issue and nothing but this issue during that meeting. So if you can, I would really encourage you to come to that meeting. The team will talk about, Veni Markovski and the team will talk about, where the broader internet governance landscape, and as you say, there are many different things going on in the next couple of years. NetMundial+10, we know the CGI.br are planning to hold this event at the end of this month, at the end of April, I'm so sorry. And there is, you'll see at the top of the escalator, outside here actually, there is a big banner to tell you more about it. There are people here from CGI, and I'm very happy to ask my team, I'm just looking here, probably Debs, if you could do this, we can make sure, if you can coordinate with Rodrigo or Albert, and we can, I can just see Albert there. We'll make sure that we can direct you to the right people who are actually here from CGI, who are the organizers of the event. So that will give you a much better steer on what their goals are and what their priorities are, because it is their event, not ICANN's event. And along with many other participants in the technical community. We're aware of it. We have a member of staff on the committee, so we are

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following and involved in the track, but we're supporting their events. So if you're interested in understanding what the goals are, I would definitely recommend that we connect you to one of the CGI team who's here at this meeting. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And we will take the last question from Steven

STEVEN LUO: Hi, my name's Steven. I'm a second year undergraduate student at UC Berkeley. I study computer science and I'm part of the NextGen program. The first part of the question is mostly for Tripti, since I do some work with my school's chief information officer and some work with instructional technology. With your experience as the CTO of an R1 public university, besides funding, what technological challenges or challenges to research progress do you see facing public institutions? And then more broadly for everyone, what challenges do you think ICANN is facing? What are the most pressing challenges that this organization faces? Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you. Two very intense questions. So in terms of R1 public research institutions, such as Berkeley and Maryland, one of our big challenges is funding, as you know, and state funding is dwindling. And also just the competition in getting very top-notch students and faculty. And believe it or not, most people don't think of academic environments as competitive, but they're intensely competitive

environments and they're basically big businesses that are trying to capture the best minds and the best students in the world.

So I would say that funding is certainly a big challenge, but there are also lots of opportunities, as you know, the Internet or the information technology, and my background is also computer science, so as you know, our field is growing so rapidly. The pace of innovation is staggering. Every time you turn around, there's something new. And right now, AI is all the rage and you've got quantum technologies that's also picked up a lot of steam.

And in terms of what's challenging ICANN, ICANN right now, as has been noted, we are going through some, the next few years focuses a lot on Internet governance issues and the paradigm, what paradigm works best for this kind of work. Right now, multi-stakeholder paradigm has proven to be very successful. It has been challenged. I think we need to continue to be eloquent in messaging that that indeed is the only solution that can move, that keep this model in place. And yeah, I cannot think of any other model that works in pushing innovation and creating the kind of operations that the Internet has, you know, rested on all these past four or five decades now. So I would say that is probably our next immediate challenge. Now, there are other technical evolutions that are also percolating new namespaces and so forth. We just need to keep our finger on the pulse of what's going on. I hope that, but there's so much more that I could be saying, but I just wanted to condense my immediate thoughts. Thank you.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Tripti. And at the end, I would like 10 seconds, each panelist, your call to action to newcomers to ICANN. We will start from you.

EDMON CHUNG: Certainly. So I guess my ICANN journey started 25 years ago when I brought along the issue of internationalized domain names here. Initial few years was very difficult. You know, many people didn't like the idea. It's meddling with the DNS. But what kept me coming back is the community that is very open and allows you to bring in new issues and work through the system to actually see it implemented. So this is what drives me. And what keeps bringing me back is the ability to actually make an impact on the Internet infrastructure. So and this is a very open environment. So I invite you to come back again, whether it's in person or online, because a lot of the working groups actually work online as well. So keep participating.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Edmon. Leon.

LEON SANCHEZ: You set the bars. You define where you want to get and get there.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Sally.

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SALLY COSTERTON: My plea to each of you as you come to the end of this meeting is go and have a look at ICANN's mission. It's on our web page. It's not all that long. Have a look at the mission and the bylaws, the mission, what we do, what we are supposed to do, why we do it, who we do it for. And think about how you, to Leon's point, connect with that. What is the thing that if you look forward three or four or five years, you say, that is what I feel is my thing. That's what makes me feel empowered, that I care about, because that's what will keep you coming back to ICANN. And the friends you make and the networks you build, those will all be important, but we are a mission-based organization. And that's the thing we all have in common. So as you're at this stage, it's never too early to look at it and think for yourself, which piece of that speaks to me? And how can I build that alignment between what ICANN needs to do and what I want to do? And I know that you, I hope that you will all have the time to think about that and to do it. Thank you. And thank you so much again for being with us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Sally. Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA: So my passing remarks would be that, first, immerse yourself in this conference here. Attend as many sessions as you can. And I am a firm believer that you really have to have a passion for whatever you pursue. Find your passion. And if your passion is ICANN, then within ICANN itself, there are many different constituencies, find your home base, and then contribute. And many of you have said you look at us as mentors

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and so forth. I just wanted to say that what you're looking at is almost sort of the end of this long continuum. I've got over 30 years behind me. And you guys are where I was 30 years ago. So work hard. Roll up your sleeves. Work hard because only then will you, you've got to just immerse yourself in hard work and study and learn and embrace whatever your passion is. And eventually, you will hit your pinnacle. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And with that, I would like to thank all of you for coming. And our applause is to our guests for this session. Thank you very much for participation. Thank you, tech team and interpreters for being with us. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]