
ICANN81 | AGM – Get to Know ICANN Community: IPC, ISPCP and UASG
Sunday, November 10, 2024 – 10:30 to 12:00 TRT

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hello and welcome to the session, Get to Know the ICANN Community. This is a series of onboarding sessions for newcomers at ICANN 81. And during this session we will be learning about the communities within the Commercial Stakeholder Group. We have heard from the Business Constituency yesterday, but we will hear from the other two, the IPC, which is ...

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The Intellectual Property Constituency ...

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: ... and ISPCP, which is ... Philippe?

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: It's the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent. Thank you. So we will learn new terms today. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior and ICANN community anti-harassment policy. During this session, questions and comments will

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only be read aloud if submitted in a proper form, as I have not noted in the chat.

Interpretation for this session include six UN languages plus Turkish. So if you would like to use our interpretation services, the headsets are near the front door. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use physical microphones to speak. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if you speak the language other than English and speak at a reasonable pace to allow proper interpretation.

With that, we would like to start with the Internet Connectivity Provider Constituency presentation. And it's my honor and pleasure to introduce you to Philippe, who will also introduce Susan, the colleague from our ISPCP constituency. Philippe, the floor is yours.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

Thank you. It's a pleasure and honor to be here too. My name is Philippe Fouquart. I'm the chair of what's indeed called the ISPCP, a new acronym for you. I'll be assisted by Susan Mohr, our vice-chair of the constituency.

So, just a few elements about the constituency and its history. We became or have been a constituency since 1999 within the GNSO, although that was not called the GNSO at the time. The point is that we've been within ICANN since its inception. Some of us were actually part of the trial that preceded ICANN, the registry registrar split as a telecom provider.

Our constituency includes essentially three buckets of members; Internet service providers, so those that provide Internet connectivity to the end users; connectivity providers, so those that would operate IXP, so network to network interfaces; as well as associations of all of the above. So our membership varies in terms of geography. We've got people from Asia, a lot from Europe, from North America and South America as well. I have to say that we only have three or four from Africa, I would say, off the top of my head. The challenges you would expect is always time zones. And you will hear that very often at ICANN.

We are indeed a member, part, of the CSG with our IPC and BC colleagues, and we're part of, as I said, of the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

SUSAN MOHR:

Good morning. This is Susan Mohr. Our mission is pretty straightforward. We are here to help ICANN achieve its goals, the goals that have been assigned to it from its inception, in a way that benefits the ICANN community and enhances the operational stability and security of the Internet, which is important to everyone that's involved, but particularly to ISPs from our own, I think, technical remit.

And of course, we are committed to the effectiveness of the ICANN multistakeholder model, which we may talk a little bit more about through the work we've done with WSIS+20 that's coming up.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

Okay. Just a few pictures of possibly familiar faces that you might have seen in the corridors. Feel free to reach out or to say hello. They're good people. Have a chat or send a LinkedIn or something.

So we updated our bylaws recently. I will not go into the details, but as a GNSO constituency, we've got a chair and a vice-chair, an exec officer as well as two councilors that sit on the GNSO Council, an NomCom delegate, as well as a team that reviews the applications to determine whether the applicants, those that would like to join the constituency, actually meet the criteria of being within one of the three buckets that I was referring to earlier.

SUSAN MOHR:

So what does it mean to be a member? You know, you go through the applicant process and it does go through an internal review by our Membership Coordination Committee. To the extent you qualify, then you become a member. There's no fee to be a member of the ISPCP, and it's really up to you to decide how much or how little you're engaged. And we welcome all forms of participation.

And so one way you can participate is just signing up and following our mailing list. We distribute information on a regular basis on the issues that are important to the members. And you would also get the benefit of seeing our agenda for our monthly membership community meetings. Those do happen on a monthly basis, usually the first or second week of the month. They last between 60 to 90 minutes. Often we have a very robust agenda and so we do go for the full 90 minutes.

But everyone, every member, is welcome to participate and listen to, learn about the issues, or join the calls and get as involved as you want.

We have active members that participate in the ICANN policy development process. Many of those PDPs or Policy Development Process activities are winding down and we're often more in an implementation mode. But as they come up, we will give an opportunity to all of our members to join any of those PDPs and participate.

There's also various working groups and small teams that are formed from time to time, not only within our constituency, but also within the broader GNSO and ICANN organization. And so we open those up to our members as well.

And then finally we do develop comments and various papers. And so from time to time, ICANN may seek community input on a particular topic. Also, when it's an issue that is of interest to our broader to our membership, then we will participate there and seek input from our members. From time to time, we develop policy papers on discrete issues. One of those was Internet fragmentation. But we will seek input from members and there's a chance to either write or provide input to that. And then again from time to time, there may be external work that's being undertaken. This year, we did some work with the WSIS+20. But in all of those instances, all of our members have the opportunity to participate as little or as much as they want. So lots of ways to participate. It just is really driven by the member interest.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

And I should have started with this maybe, but really the purpose of us being here is also to let you know that whether you are with a different hat, possibly associated with an Internet service provider, telecoms operator, an association of ISPs, feel free to reach out to have a look at our webpage and consider joining. That's also the intention of us being here.

So policy development. We are indeed active in the policy development, both with a capital P, the GNSO PDP or the PDP in general within ICANN and policy development with a small P, I would say, policies that are not developed by ICANN, but that have an impact potentially on ICANN. We are interested in the stability of the DNS, in the stability of ICANN, moving forward. So we'll help our members figure out what's going on within ICANN and outside of ICANN. We provide guidance on the issues that would have an impact on our business. We contribute to the GNSO policy development process. And I'll say a word about that later on. And as you would expect, we work by consensus.

SUSAN MOHR:

So how does our policy development process work? And I think you'll find it works very much like other organizations. An issue might come to our attention from the executive staff who will bring it to the membership. Often we might have a member who brings an issue to the broader organization for discussion. So it can come both ways. We really want to hear from our members.

Once the decision's been made that we're going to develop a policy or develop a submission, then we'll assign someone as our drafting team leader, and that person is really responsible for driving the policy development through the entire process. So they'll convene our members and get some initial input from our members on what we as an organization believe the position should be. They'll take the lead on drafting the initial policy or the initial submission, and then it's really important to get member feedback. So that leads into the consultation and approval process.

The draft team leader will distribute the document. We always try to give our members, all of our members, the opportunity to weigh in on the draft. So typically we try to give them about at least seven days. We take into consideration all of the feedback that we've received. When we have conflicts, we'll set up time to understand both sides and make a decision on whether we can reach a consensus. But our goal is to reach a consensus on the policy before we submit paper.

So once we have that consensus policy, then we'll finalize it within the membership. And if it's a position paper, we may post it on our website. If it's a submission, then we'll get it submitted. So it's really important. I just want to reinforce that it's really important for us to hear from all of our members and give everyone a chance to weigh in. And that consensus component is really important for us.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

So I'm not going to go into the details of this list, but it's just to give you an idea of the sort of statements that we develop, interestingly enough,

those are not related to ICANN policies. Given that we're a GNSO constituency, we have representatives in the working groups who channel our thinking into the work of the group. So when we develop statements, we tend to focus on things where we don't have a direct say, as we do in ICANN GNSO working groups. So we've got things like that this year at least relate to WSIS. And the point is really to provide some material that would help our members to contribute in the relevant forums, like the UN or the ITU-T, for example.

So going back to ICANN, a couple of examples that are of interest to us: obviously the new round, anything that would relate to the retrieval of WHOIS data, the accuracy of those data, as well as DNS abuse. We're also very much interested in policies that go beyond the GNSO. You will hear about the pilot holistic review, both in terms of reviewing our processes, but also potentially our structures as well as Work Stream 2.

We have topics that are very specific to ISPs such as not only fragmentation but also DNS resolvers, and we also do capacity building for our members. But those sessions are, as you might have noticed, open to everyone. We had one on Saturday and a hands-on session developed with the help of the Office of the CTO, and we'll have a series of webinars that you'll be free to join over the course of the next few months.

SUSAN MOHR:

So in terms of challenges, as Philippe said, we are undertaking an effort to bring in new members. And so we have over 60 members from around the world, I would estimate that about 20% of those are active

members. We are really looking to expand our overall membership around the world and to increase that engagement and participation. And the work that Philippe mentioned in regard to the partnership with the Office of Chief Technology, I think, will be a really great partnership. The webinar series that mentioned is focused on the DNS, different aspects of the DNS. And so as he said, I just really encourage you to take a look at our website and see if there's any of those topics that are of interest to you. And you're welcome to join whether you're a member or not. You don't have to be a member to participate in the webinars, but if you do qualify to join the ISPCP, we'd love to hear from you. We'd love to talk to you, love to talk more about what we do and see if there's an interest from you to join the constituency.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

And I think that this concludes our presentation.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you very much. Thank you. So I really appreciate this information because those who are from the Internet service providers and connectivity providers area are interested to learn more. And thank you for this time to be here and introduce your constituency here.

And we have 10 minutes for a couple of questions to be taken. Yes, we have Mira. Emmanuel, thank you for helping with the mics.

MIRA FAJRIYAH:

Thank you. This is Mira, ICANN81 Fellow from Indonesia. So yeah, it is clear that ISPCP is part of GNSO constituency. So I would like to know

whether the work is strictly restricted to the GNSO when maybe the topics of DNS resolver or Internet fragmentation are also related to the work of ccNSO. So I would like to know whether the ISPCP constituency has reached out or maybe has participation also in other working group other than the ones in GNSO. Thank you.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

Thanks. That's a very good question because indeed our constituency may be a bit different from what others within the GNSO do. We do have an interest, as I said, on things that do not pertain to gTLD policies and the associated policy development process.

The only caveat is that when we take part in GNSO working groups are, especially if it's what's called a representative model, whereby the constituencies appoint members, certainly those members that we appoint in a working group would speak on behalf of the constituency. They can speak on behalf of the ISPCP. When we work on things that do not relate to the GNSO, we obviously cannot speak on behalf of the constituency. We just provide elements for our members to participate.

So to your second question, yes, we do have an interest. We have links with some of our cc colleagues as well. As I said, we keep an eye through our members on policy development or policies that could have an impact on ICANN elsewhere, like the WSIS+20 discussions at the ITU-T or at the UN. We developed a couple of papers to respond to questionnaires, for instance, from the ITU.

And in that case, to your question, we do not speak on behalf of the ISPCP. Our members use the material for their own answer, given that

in that case, those forums are generally intergovernmental discussions, where, for good or bad, and generally for bad, the technical community has no say—direct say, I mean. Generally, ICANN may have. So the purpose of this is really to help our members to contribute in their own capacity to those discussions as well. So, yes, it's both inwards and outward looking.

Do you want to add something?

SUSAN MOHR:

And I would just add, I think I agree with everything that Philippe said. The one other area where we do try to focus is on the technical side. So we follow very closely the technical white papers that are developed within ICANN. We aren't consulted in advance of those papers being written, although we have a lot of expertise on the topics that are included in those white papers. But we will bring in those authors into the ISP constituency meetings and have a chance to talk about the topic, get a get a briefing on the topic, how they came, they arrived on that particular topic in the conclusions, and then we are afforded the opportunity. Then if there is a way to take that position forward, take that paper forward in some way, or modify it, or expand on a particular issue, those technical groups with an ICANN are interested in hearing from us and we have an opportunity to influence that if we so choose.

So that's another way. We very much, I think, are focusing on that technical aspect of ICANN and in particular with the partnership with the Chief Technology Office on DNS. So you'll see, I think, perhaps more of that going forward.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Any other question? Yes, I see the question form the lady behind.

IQRA EJAZ: Hello. Good morning and thank you for the presentation. I'm an exchange from Pakistan. My name is Iqra Ejaz, and as I know, all ISP company members of APNIC are from Asia-Pacific. But may I know how ISPCP is connected or related to ISP policy, either APNIC or something else? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: What was the last part, please? Can you repeat?

IQRA EJAZ: May I know how ISPCP is connected or related to ISP policy, either APNIC or something else?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. How they related to IP policy.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: IP policies or ISP? I think the question is ISP policies. I guess it depends on what you mean by ISP policies. If by this you mean national regulations or public policies that are developed both nationally or regionally, I do not recall us providing comments or positions on projects that would be developed nationally. If you look at what I can

as a whole worked on over the last 10 years or so, it was rather the opposite. I think the national or regional policies that have been developed, especially regulations, if you think about NIS2, which for a large part has an impact on ISPs, then it will have an impact arguably on ICANN policies as well, in which we take part. Certainly we take into account our national and regional variance in terms of regulation, but we do not get involved in those in ... Our affiliations do nationally, but not on behalf of the ISPCP.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. More questions? Yes, Mayssam?

MAYSSAM SABRA: Thank you. So actually I'm not going to ask any technical questions because it's not my area of expertise. Just curious to know about the membership engagement. You mentioned in your presentation that the engagement is very low. So maybe 20% of your membership are active. Have you tried to know why the membership engagement is and are there any measures or actions that you may take to increase the participation of your members? Thank you.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: Thank You. Yes, that's a good question. Well, if you look at the figure, it may be a bit frightening if you say only one member out of five. Now, I've been involved in international standards development organizations for 20 years, and it's not that different from what we see elsewhere. If you look at other organizations, if you compare those that

are active even within a group, I generally say you have 1/3 of active members, you have one third of onlookers, and the last 30 sleeping. So that's pretty much what we've got in the group.

So that's just to say that it's not necessarily a problem. It's something that we would like to improve because especially our concern is to have regional representation. And we don't really have that. We have strong participation from Europe and from the Americas and from Asia, but not from Africa. And the participation from the Middle East varies a bit. So that's our main concern. And it's good that we have new blood as well.

So that's essentially our concern. And we're aware of the fact that any things that can have an impact on ICANN may come from anywhere. And I don't think that we have that full coverage.

To the part of your question on the reasons, I think there are several factors that may explain this: a sense that the issues that ICANN is currently working on may not have a direct impact on ISPs. WHOIS data may not be a direct interest. As I said, the stability of ICANN is important for all ISPs, even if the DNS has become a bit of a commodity. It's something that our network cannot live without, clearly, but it's perceived as a given on the Internet, maybe, and something that especially smaller ISPs cannot invest in, if that makes sense, spend time and effort on. So I think that's the issue.

The other issue is, unsurprisingly within the GNSO (and it's not specific to us), the earth is not flat, and time zones are time zones. And with our monthly call, although we tried at some point to have a rotation, it can

be a bit of a problem for some regions. So we're working on it. But for obvious reasons, there's no simple solution.

SUSAN MOHR:

And I'll add to that. I agree, it is a good question. So before COVID, we had outreach sessions at each of the ICANN meetings. And because of, I think, COVID, a lot of that, for obvious reasons, declined. And now that we're back in in-person meetings, over the last year, we've really made a concerted effort to hold in-person outreach meetings. And so we've gotten some engagement there. And then also, through this partnership with the Office of Chief Technology, the CTO office, what we're looking to do is really engage globally because at ICANN meetings, you're really just focused on the people who are able to attend that particular meeting, which is important. At the same time, with these global webinars, for example, the first webinar that we held (it was on DNS101), we had over 300 registrants and over 100 participants from locations all over the world. So I think we felt like that was a really positive outcome. And then as we progress through these webinars throughout the year, not only do we hope that we'll continue to get that kind of engagement, but whether the ISPs ... Ideally they would join the ISPCP, but the most important thing I think is for them to have the engagement with the ICANN office so that ICANN can help address the specific needs that they have. And then if they join the ISPCP, then that's just icing on the cake. So we are trying to make some efforts in doing that outreach. So great question. Thank you.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: And just one last point, if I may. Coming back to the numbers and the fact that 60 arguably is quite small, we have large members, I would say. We have associations that would cover half of the subscribers in Europe, for instance, associations that cover 3/4 of subscribers in Brazil. So it's not the question of how many numbers, but to us it's also a matter of how we cover Internet users as a whole.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Thank you, Philippe. Thank you, Susan. Thanks for this informative session.

And we now will move to the Intellectual Property constituency. And it's my pleasure to introduce Chair of Intellectual Property Constituency, Lori Schulman, and Patrick Flaherty, Participation Coordinator from the IPC. Lori, the floor is yours.

LORI SCHULMAN: Thank you so much. It's so great to be here in person. Last year I had to do this virtually and it's nice to see faces directly. I have to say it has a whole different effect.

I'm Lori Shulman. I'm going to explain my background a little bit because I think it's important. I'm going to ask Patrick to do the same because a lot of questions that we get is how do we get here from where we started. And why the IPC? Why is it so singularly focused? We could technically be part of the Business Constituency because we primarily represent businesses, although we also represent nonprofits and anybody who has an interest in intellectual property protection.

So I we're both lawyers by training, and I started out as a government employee working for the US Patent and Trademark Office. Then I went to the private sector and worked for Big Oil. Then I went from there to work for a charity and decided to switch it up and spent nearly a decade with a global charity that helps prevent birth defects and promotes maternal health. After that, I did a few other things. But the point is, in every part of my career, intellectual property played a very important role, particularly when it came to protecting consumers from fraud and abuse.

The work that I was doing here at ICANN up until I was hired by the International Trademark association, which you may have heard of ... We have 7,000 entity members and 30,000 volunteers globally, representing over 170 jurisdictions. So even though I'm only one person here at ICANN, I'm literally representing global IP interests. And as I was going to say, until I started doing this professionally, I'd been doing it as a volunteer. I was a volunteer in this organization for about 15 years. And then this job opportunity came up where I could get paid to do something that I thought was really important and I was doing anyway, and it was a real honor. It's also been a challenge, and we'll explain a little bit of the challenges later, but I also want to hand the mic over to Patrick so he can explain how he got here.

PATRICK FLAHERTY:

Thanks, Lori. My name is Patrick Flaherty, and I'm-in house counsel for Verizon. Verizon Communications is a global telecommunications company and we operate in about 150 countries around the world. I'm based in Washington, D.C. but I'm originally from Ireland, so I'm closer

to home here today than I would be back home in DC. And unlike Lori, I haven't had the opportunity to move around a lot. I went to law school in Ireland, and after graduating, I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to go and work for Verizon in New York in 2001. And I have been there ever since. And I first started working in the area of patents, doing patent licensing and patent litigation. And then around 2003, I switched to working on trademark and copyright matters.

And probably within the last 12 to 15 years, I got involved more with ICANN and the two constituencies that Verizon is currently members of, the IPC as well as the BC, the Business Constituency. And at that time, I was working for my boss, Sarah Deutsch, who's since retired from Verizon and is on the Board at ICANN. So this has come kind of full circle for me, and we're concerned about everything IP related, and that's why the IPC in particular is a great fit for us. And we're going to talk about some of those concerns as part of that presentation.

LORI SCHULMAN:

Thank you, Patrick. I just think it's important to understand the backgrounds of the people who are doing the work here, because we all come together, but then we really don't know each other, except in a very superficial way. And I think it's important, particularly with some of the issues that we have and the fact that we take opposite sides, that we see each other more than just our constituency, but with people with very deep backgrounds who care. As you've heard, between Patrick and I, we have over 60 years of combined legal experience, and that's something. And we take that and hope that we're contributing in a positive way to the development of policy at ICANN.

I'll ask you to advance the slide, please. Oh, I have the clicker. Okay. And the big green button works. Good to know. Okay. So as I explained, we represent the views and interests of intellectual property owners all over the world. We also are very interested in what is known as related intellectual property rights. So this would include trademark copyright, trade secrets, patents, the broadcast scope of intellectual property protection.

However, in ICANN, there's a special home for trademarks because of the string identifiers that we use, and when you put a bunch of letters together, they create words sometimes, and those words create context all the time. So the idea here is what makes sense from a technical perspective with protecting intellectual, intellectual property in what is primarily technical strings, and what happens when those technical strings take on meaning because of their context inside of the world. So it can be very complicated technically and policy-wise to make sure that ICANN's technical remit in the interest of intellectual property owners are coordinated in a way that makes sense for making sure that the DNS is reliable, safe, redundant, and all the good things that ICANN stands for.

We, like the ISPs, have a policymaking process that's very similar to the ISPs. As president, I coordinate all of the activities inside of the IPC. But as participation coordinator, Patrick is the one who recruits the people to write the comments, take the position, and then that position is vetted through the IPC. We make sure that we have, I guess what I would call rough consensus, a simple majority. And that usually rules the day. If we're really split on an issue, we will choose not to comment. Or if

we're really split on an issue, we may decide that. In the case of my organization INTA, we sometimes do split with IPC thinking, so we'll make comments on their own and say they're on behalf of us. And so this policy making input can work in several ways, through a constituency or through your own independence. I think that's part of the beauty of ICANN.

And I always like to say, in our world, IP does not mean Internet protocol. And I think that's one of the funnier things about what we do, because I'll go outside and use IP in the technical sense as it's understood at ICANN. And then I have to remember, wait a minute, I'm an IP lawyer. I'm an intellectual property lawyer, not an Internet protocol lawyer, although some would argue maybe I am.

So as I said, we care about consumers. I think that's the key message that should come across, we hope comes across at ICANN. We focus on matters of building consumer trust and confidence in the digital world. And we believe protecting IP rights is a great path forward because one of the things you might learn this week is, particularly in terms of domain name abuse, that the number one threat vector for cybersecurity attacks is intellectual property infringement and breaches. Think of how many times a day you get messages, either on your phone or through whatever your email server is, saying, "Hi, I'm Verizon, you haven't paid your bill yet. Please pay your bill," or, "Hi, I'm Verizon, we have an offer for you. Please give us your information so we can get you started right away."

This happens so much, and I have to tell you, it has a huge impact on the global economy. Trademark owners and the products and services

they provide represent \$12 trillion of global GDP. This is no small matter when it comes to impacting entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large companies. The large companies are used as the lever for the cyberattacks. The smaller companies can get edged out. All it takes is one bad scam in the beginning of a business and that's it. You could be done. So these are very serious matters.

And I'll speed this up. Next slide. Oh, I'm the next slide person. Sorry.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I already did it.

LORI SCHULMAN: Oh, you already did it. So then I have to go back. Okay, so who are our members? Our members are corporations, legal professionals, domain name providers, academics, and we even have emeritus members. We have members who've been members since the IPC and been engaged in ICANN since the mid to late '90s, even before ICANN was formed. We have a lot of what I would call founding fathers and mothers in our particular group and we have approximately 100 members. We do charge fees. However, if you have a circumstance where you can't afford fees, we will take that into consideration. But that's done on an individual basis and it's not a general application. You need to ask. But usually we're pretty generous with that.

We do receive some financial support from ICANN for travel and we have a membership management team that is generally allocated those funds.

We also want to note particularly the one thing that we think ICANN does extremely well is provide a wonderful secretariat. We have a secretariat from ICANN that supports our volunteer efforts, and without her (and I'm going to call her out: Brenda Brewer), we couldn't get our work done. So we're very appreciative of that support from ICANN.

Next. Given what I explained about our role in the global economy, in fact, in terms of policymaking at ICANN, our role is part of a multi-segmented process. I'm sure this week you'll be learning about the GNSO and how it has two houses, contracted parties and non-contracted parties. And when you look at the commercial constituencies, you see there's the Intellectual Property Constituency, the business constituencies, the Internet service providers and the connectivity providers. My apology for leaving out connectivity. But when you look at our percentage of the vote, we're one third of one half of a vote. So we have a very small percentage of impact per vote versus our impact on the global economy. That's a challenge for us because some of our members don't necessarily understand why certain IP views are not adopted more easily than they are, or why it's sometimes very much an uphill battle.

We have a full boat of officers. We go by more corporate names, which I guess makes sense. I'm the president, we have a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and a non-voting participation coordinator who in fact does opine on policy and does have absolutely an informal impact on our decisions, if not a formal vote. It's rare that we take formal votes, but it does happen, particularly with how we spend our funds. We do have a robust treasury that helps us subsidize travel and

helps us take on some of the professional services that we need to support ourselves. For example, we have a bookkeeper because we want to make sure we're doing financial best practices with the money we are collecting.

You will note most of them are from the USA. There's one female me, although I'm the head, so it's okay. What can I say? We understand that that's a challenge. And the same questions that you ask the ISPs and the same challenges that they have with outreach and member retention is identical to the IPC. We all suffer from it because quite frankly, the organizations that can support the work, that can provide personnel, are primarily based in the EU and the US, and it's very difficult to reach out. When we do reach, and we do get members. We have again, a few members from Africa, a few members from Latin America. We have Asian members.

Actually, our Asian members are great. We recently onboarded the Japanese Manga Association as a member. And given their importance and impact on global intellectual property, we're very pleased to have them. And in spite of the time difference, they are participating. Sometimes they participate more in writing than they do verbally. That is partly because of the time difference and also because of language differences. Even though our members are generally fluent in English, it's still difficult to be on a call and listen to fast English. You know, it's not easy. And they'll say that we're writing this because it's easier and we'll always answer written questions.

And in terms of shifting time zones, we've experimented with a lot of different arrangements, and it hasn't worked. So we tend to stick with

what is generally around noon on the US east coast as being the most humane for most.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Lori, can we slow down a bit for interpretation?

LORI SCHULMAN: Oh, I'm too fast. I'm sorry. Thank you. I was raised in New York City. I speak super fast, and I felt like I'm speaking slow. I'm sorry. Let him catch up. Okay. We also have our GNSO councilors, one from the UK, Susan Payne, and Damon Ashcraft from the US.

We also have policy priorities, which I'll go through very quickly, but you could imagine them, without even having this little list there, what they could be. Rights protection mechanisms are number one for us. Reasonable access to domain name registration data for the purposes of investigation and IP enforcement. Domain name abuse prevention and mitigation. Clear, efficient and predictable compliance policies. ICANN is run by contracts, and we want to make sure that the contracts are being followed correctly, implemented correctly, and, for times when you need enforcement or a registrar or registry needs to be reminded of their obligations that ICANN compliance is doing so.

We also advocate for very clear and predictable new gTLD policies. New gTLDs can really help drive a business, whether it's a mature business or a business that has recently lost who can invest in the program. So it's important to understand how you might predict outcomes. Otherwise it's impossible to form a business plan. This is one of the

challenges we had with the previous round and we're hoping to mitigate in the next round.

And of course there's ICANN's governance model, making sure ICANN itself is sticking to its mission and to the multistakeholder model. And we're very proud of our contributions to the discussions around ICANN governance.

And here we are. We have our own website. We have explanations about how our policy workflow is. We also have links to statements of policies and we always remind people to please look at the ICANN open comment periods. Make sure you're active in them, whether it's through the IPC or as individuals or organizations acting on your own. That's super important.

I apologize for the speed and while I did primarily the talking on the slides. Patrick is ready to take your questions, as am I.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Lori, and thank you Patrick. We have time for one or two questions. Yes, please go ahead, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [Let him take the first one]

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: No, can we start with the guy, the NextGenner?

NITISH YERRADODDI:

Hi, I'm Nitish. I'm a NextGenner. I'm from India and I'm a CPA, certified public accountant. But I'm also pursuing my law. And I've been a domain name consultant, helping companies get their dot-coms and dot-ins. That's a bit of background about me.

So this is mostly about the protection rights, mainly the UDRP. What I see is there's a fixed fee based on the number of applications, like number of domains you apply for. Not every company can afford what is currently being charged for the domain UDRP basically. So I just wanted to know, does IPC play any role in making recommendations to reduce these fees so that there are many small businesses who want to file a UDRP but they cannot afford the trademark attorneys' fee, application fees, mainly from India? Let's say their turnover is about \$150,000 and they cannot pay \$1500-4000 and then the trademark attorney fee. So is there any proposal to kind of decentralize this process of DRP country to country, based on the regions, and also reduce the fees to consider the purchasing power parity? Thank you.

PATRICK FLAHERTY:

Thank you for the question. Yes, the fees are always an important issue when it comes to deciding when to file a UDRP and how many names to include in that filing. It can get very expensive. Even for a company like us, Verizon, it's something that we have to worry about. We do have a lot of consultation with WIPO, and this issue around fees does come up. And there's no immediate opportunity to change these fees based on the current structure and what WIPO offers, for example, as an administrator for the UDRP. But it is something that the IPC brings up in conversations with WIPO. It's something that even Verizon, me,

myself, I talk to WIPO about all of the time. And we propose, if there is an opportunity to reduce the fee, to make that happen or to offer some other alternatives around how fees are charged and how they're administered throughout the whole process associated with the UDRP, up until, for example, when a case manager is appointed, when a panelist is appointed, or if there's a suspension during the process, things like that.

Right now, for example, if you file a complaint and you decide to pull it back later on, there is some return on that fee. And we have used that as a way to kind of manage the cost, where, in dealing with the respondent on the other side, if there's an opportunity to resolve the matter, or they decide, for example, to surrender the domain name to you, then you get back some of that filing fee.

Another thing to consider to reduce the cost of UDRPs is to think about the drafting process as well, and whether or not you can take on some of that drafting work yourself. We draft a lot of our own UDRPs in-house and that has saved us a lot of money as a result of doing that. And the best way to do that is to start by working off of the template that WIPO offers for its UDRP.

So I would recommend that as well as a way to offset some of the cost.
Lori?

LORI SCHULMAN:

Yeah, I'm going to follow up very quickly and just say this is why it's important to become deeply engaged if this is a meaningful issue for you in the policy making process because there is an opportunity when

the UDRP review comes up (although it will be delayed; we expect for at least another six months) to offer solutions because, to be frank about it, even though it seems high cost, when you look at that versus local litigation, it's actually a bargain. So we have to look at the relativity of the fees. But your point is extremely well taken.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And if you can tell us what UDRP stands for?

LORI SCHULMAN: Sure, it's Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy. This is something that was initially pioneered by WIPO, adopted as a policy by ICANN, and now there are multiple providers around the globe. WIPO is the largest provider and I would argue the holder of the pen on the policy, although it is a community policy, but WIPO is deeply, deeply influential.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Lori. Alexandru, please.

ALEXANDRU SOTROPA: Hello, my name is Alexandru Sotropa. I'm also a lawyer. I'm very happy to see some familiar faces on this point. I understand that your focus is on IP, but I was wondering if you or your group looked at other regulations that might be relevant for ICANN. I don't know. I'm thinking of consumer protection, maybe competition law or GDPR. I think it would be the most appropriate place to do that.

LORI SCHULMAN:

Thank you. The short answer is yes, we do. We definitely look at privacy laws because so much of the issue now about access to registration data is based on emerging legal principles that we're finding around the globe, with the principal, I would say, influence being the European Union's General Directive on Data Protection, GDPR, and how that is interpreted at ICANN. And other regions of the world, areas of the world, large economies like Brazil, have adopted similar laws. So we look at those trends and see how we can incorporate them or advocate for incorporating them into ICANN policy.

What we don't do and what makes us a little bit different than the Business Constituency is that the Business Constituency will actually lobby independently to government-regulating bodies. The IPC has a strict policy of not doing that. We only advocate inside of ICANN. But organizations like my own and Patrick's that has a large government relations team do work with other governments to spread the messages and the policy positions that we are advocating through the IPC. So that makes us a little bit different from some of the other constituencies. But the purpose for that policy is what you would expect. Sometimes our member organizations take different positions than the IPC itself. And in order to avoid conflicts, we do not, as the IPC, do any advocacy outside of ICANN.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Lori. And we may take the last question. Abdulrahman, please?

ABDULRAHMAN ABOTALEB: Yes, thank you. My name is Abdulrahman Abotaleb from Yemen ISOC and an ICANN81 Fellow, and I'm actually a journalist. My question: I know that ICANN has no matter to do with the content in the Internet, but the intellectual property could stretch between the domains and the content. For example, I will give you a small example. If I have identical website like BBC but with a different domain, I mean, with the same brand, with the same shape, with the same color, and the same website, should I go to the regular authorities, to the court, or can you and ICANN do something in this regard? Thank you so much.

PATRICK FLAHERTY: I think what your question relates to is somebody trying to pass themselves off using a similar domain name?

ABDULRAHMAN ABOTALEB: [inaudible]

PATRICK FLAHERTY: Oh, for content on the website.

LORI SCHULMAN: Yeah. So do you want me to change?

PATRICK FLAHERTY: Yeah, we don't have that.

LORI SCHULMAN:

No, we don't. So, as I said earlier, we have to be very, very careful about not mixing up content and ICANN's technical remit in a particular way. And we don't have time to go into that. But if you want to discuss it afterwards, we're happy to take a private question. But I'm going to say this. ICANN is very strong, and there are certain constituencies here that are very strong about not mixing up content and ICANN's technical remit. Unfortunately, that's impossible. And when you look at domain abuse and you look at content regulation, there's studies out there, credible studies, that say you really cannot separate the two, that in order to figure out whether or not a domain name is not functioning the way it's supposed to be, because there is the potential for infringement or abuse, you have to look to the content. That's just how the world works. And even in the string itself could be considered content.

And the famous example is VerizonSucks. If you go in and see that it's a site that's saying they have terrible service and don't use them, that's freedom of speech. But if you go in and you see, "Hey, Verizon sucks. Switch to my service," that could be an infringement.

So what do you do? And it's a constant battle inside and outside of ICANN to make sure where the lines are between content regulation and the technical remit of ICANN, because, as I said, they're not always as clearly divided as some would have you think.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Lori. And we cannot accept more questions for this. But if you do have questions related to IPC and ISPCP, you know the people standing behind those constituencies. So feel free to ask them

questions when you see them during the coffee breaks, networking sessions. And please, if you have more questions, you can visit the sessions of this particular constituencies.

With that, I would like to thank you for being here and to move to our last portion of the session to the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. And it's my pleasure here to introduce our presenters, Anil Kumar and Nabil Benamar. Thank you for being here with us, Anil and Nabil, and the floor is yours. Tell us about universal acceptance, what you are doing, and how the newcomers can learn more and where they can learn more and how they can be engaged. Thank you.

ANIL JAIN: Good morning to all of you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Nabil, Anil, if I can ask to switch on the mic for interpretation purposes, that would be great. Thank you.

ANIL JAIN: Good morning to all of you and welcome to ICANN. And for those who are participating online, good morning, good afternoon, good evening, depending on the time zone in which you are. The session is divided into various topics which are in front of you and we'll take up one by one.

Now, basically, universal acceptance is a topic ... When I was also introduced, I was confused: what is universal acceptance? Basically, we have domains which are available with us. And to my understanding,

till now, ICANN has delegated approximately 1,460 domains, top-level domains. And those top-level domains are converted into second-level and third-level domain also. The total domains which are delegated which are in the present DNS system is around 370 million or 380 million. The top-level domains, most of them, are in English. Ladies and gentlemen, more than 60% of the world population do not converse in English. They do not understand English also. So this is a very important gap in Internet community that we have to fill up. And that is where the universal acceptance comes.

There are domains which are now available from ICANN in several non-English languages. We cover almost 26 scripts and several languages to provide domains in those languages. So we have delegated almost 150 top-level domains which are converted into around 1.7 million second-level and third-level domains in the system which are working with us. And we have to ensure that the Internet or Internet society is inclusive Internet. What we call in ICANN “one word, one Internet” has to be realized when we fulfill the objectives of universal acceptance.

The reason of universal acceptance is that all domain names and emails are flawlessly working and accepted in all software applications and also in all hardware applications. And on the impact of universal acceptance, now you can understand we have around 5.5 billion Internet users. And we believe that next 1 billion Internet users will come from the non-English speaking world population. So impact is huge.

We are in existence as a special group, steering group, since 2015 and we are a community-based organization which is advocating and engaging various stakeholders in this group.

Now this is a very important slide. You know, once we reach out to anybody, whether it is a technical provider or a user, they ask, “Why should we adopt UA? How does UA matter to us?” And that is what we are struggling with now. Now, UA ensures that every person has ability to navigate and communicate on Internet using their own language. And this communication is in their business, in their culture, in their language, and in their script. So basically, UA supports a diverse and multilingual Internet. We enable greater competition because if we take out the non-English speaking technology providers, then competition is not uniform.

We create business opportunities. There was a study on the business opportunities in case somebody adopts UA, and this was conducted by ICANN around seven years back, and we found that there was a business opportunity of around 10 billion dollars at that particular time. This study is getting repeated now. We hope that this figure will be astronomical now.

And this assists the government and policymakers also to reach out to their citizen because they have to give lot of welfare programs which should reach every citizen of their country.

Now these are some examples. If you see the left hand side, there is a search of a particular website soap.organic. Now if you see, the domain is more than three digits. Normally, if you see dot-org or dot-com, in

these are two-digit or three-digit maximums. Now here it is more than three digits. So it is a UA concern/issue. So even in English, if the domain is more than 3 digits, then it is a UA-related issue. And in case the website is not UA-ready then on the bottom of you see if you try to search, the system refuses to search.

Similarly, in case you are going on any website or on a social media and putting an email ... And if you see the right hand side, an email is inputted in non-English language, and if the system is accepting this, then the response is that the email is validated, your account is validated, the account is created. But suppose this email comes from a non-UA-ready system. Then your email will get rejected.

So if I summarize the UA scope, the UA scope is that all domains and emails when they are inputted in the system which has hardware and software should be accepted.

So what are the steps in the whole process? Steps are if you come to the lowest one, when you input those non-English speaking or slightly longer TLD, it should the system should accept what you are inputting in it. Inside it should be able to validate. It should be able to process and also store it so that when the recipient receives that input, it should be displayed as you desire to do that.

So there are five steps in the universal acceptance process. The UASG works with working groups. These are the working groups which are available. Email Address Internationalization is a working group which solely works on the universal acceptance adoption in emails. Then there is a Measurement Working Group which first of all identifies the

gaps which are available in your system when you are adopting UA and then fulfilling those gaps. Then the Technological Working Group is working on various technologies which includes software, operating systems, hardware, all those things.

Then we also work with the local initiative. In addition to the global USG group, there are local initiative which undertake exactly similar work to what UASG does at the local level, at the national level or sometimes as a combination of the various nations. So we have five local initiative groups available with us.

In addition to that we have a UA Ambassador program where an individual who is capable of taking the UA program to the masses, to the people we select and make them a UA Ambassador, support them and then make this UA as an international phenomena.

I am very happy that in addition to UASG, there are several groups within ICANN which work on various programs which are IDN- and email-related, UA-related. So we have a liaison available from various SOs and ACs. So we have a liaison from GNSO, ALAC, ccNSO and GAC, which are shown here, and they interact, they reach out, to the UA programs, to various groups and then come back also. Now this is a leadership team which is active and working with us.

As far as the UA local initiative is concerned, as I said, we have a local initiative at China, we have a local initiative at CIS and Eastern Europe. We have a local initiative in India, in Sri Lanka and in Thailand. And now we are working on getting local initiatives from the LAC region and from

the European region also so that we are able to uniformly work on all geographical areas.

Now these are the leaders available with us who are chair of various local initiative. I am happy that Maria who is the chair of the local initiative of CIS and EE is available with us. She is at the back of you. Thank you, Maria, for being present here.

We have the UA Ambassador program. So we have 18 UA ambassadors which are available with us. They are appointed for one year but they can be reappointed also depending on their performance. So these are the ambassadors which are selected, and we have few ambassadors who are available in this audience also. These are the ambassadors which are from different countries which are seen to you.

And now I am coming to a very, very important topic, which is to create awareness about universal acceptance as a program within ICANN. And I am very happy to say that this program is really successful. And we have completed this in the last two years. In the third year, we have already started working on the on the program.

Now I invite Dr. Nabil who is also Vice Chair of UASG and Chair of Measurement Working Group also to brief you about UA Day. Dr. Nabil?

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Anil. Thank you, Siranush, for inviting us every time for this wonderful session with the Fellows. So as we say, once a Fellow, always a Fellow. I was also a Fellow during 2014 and 2015. So it was in London and Dublin, and it was one of the life-changing experiences, definitely.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So just a quick correction. There are not only Fellows here, but we have also NextGeners here and also newcomers, those who came on their own. So this session is open to any newcomers. So it's a larger group than Fellows.

NABIL BENAMAR: Thank you. So thank you for the correction. So for all newcomers, this is definitely a life-changing experience where you can find your way within ICANN and see where you can engage, where you can be an added value somehow, and you can learn. Definitely.

So this is Nabil Benamar for the record. I'm Vice-Chair of the UASG and Measurement Working Group Chair. So I'd like just here to talk a bit about what we are doing in the UASG for the UA Day events globally.

Next slide please. So this is an overview of UA Day in the last two years, '23 and '24. So UA Day is an event that we are organizing every day, everywhere, right now. So we had two experiences in 2023 and '24, and now we are preparing for this coming year, for '25. So the UA Day aims to rally local and national, regional and global organizations, invite them to create this buzz around the adoption of universal acceptance concepts. As you can see here, we are focusing on adoption or adopting UA because we moved from awareness and training to put more focus on UA Day adoption because we need to see some adoption at different levels to learn from those who have already deployed universal acceptance and learn from and get their feedback: what are the lessons that we learned so far, how we can move forward, how we can correct

our mistakes, if any. And then we will definitely make progress around this.

So we reach out to different ICANN communities like ALAC, RALOs, [LSAs], UA ambassadors, local initiatives, and all interested global partners to host events globally in different countries in different continents. And also there is one UA Day global meeting that we do each year. Definitely that's a global event, and we are organizing it, for example, where each year it should be in a different continent to make a balance between all continents here for this global event.

So far there were about 16,000 total people who attended 108 UA Day events in more than 50 countries each year, during '23 and '24. UA Day events were held in 32 languages so that we can approach all local communities and so that they can engage in and understand the main principle of universal acceptance. And as you can see in the slide, different languages like Amharic and Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Urdu, Sinhala, Russian, Portuguese, Persian—different, really different, languages and different scripts.

So here also we are focused on the script because this is one of the main things that we are working on when it comes to universal acceptance, like we did with IDNs, International Domain Names. But here we want to move forward not only for domain names, but to make this Internet multilingual. We need to be inside of the web content and the DNS with the IDNs. We need to move forward also to the email. So this is one of our works: we want to ensure that any email address can be written in any non-Latin script. So here the focus should be on the script rather than the language because the script here is playing a critical role when

you are writing your domain name or your email address. So you can see [this] on the UASG website UAD reports that are available in seven languages.

So last year, at the UAD '24 keystone event, (that's the global event world held in Belgrade), I had the pleasure to participate in that event and it was really nicely organized by the by the host. It was held on the 28th of March with the partnership with the Serbian National Internet Domain Registry Foundation. Speaking were speakers from the Serbian government, from ICANN, from different other organizations like UNESCO and ITU, which reflects the importance of the universal acceptance principle and that not only UASG or ICANN are now interested in this concept and this paradigm that is changing how the Internet will look like in the coming years, but also other organizations worldwide. So various sessions showcased UA adoption and UA curriculum and UA technical training.

So here we have added something from last year. And this is something that we are proud of in the Measurement Working Group the we are working on and that we have developed, which is the curriculum. So the UA curriculum comes from the fact that we believe that any change should start from the university, from academia. You are preparing the students, the next students, to be able to deploy and to adopt and to run universal acceptance at different levels. So for this, we need we prepared micro-models that are now available on the ICANN website that can be integrated in any university course, especially related to computer science, computer engineering and similar, in different levels, like networks, like programming, like network services, like the

DNS, like the email, like the web, like how to set up these services and security-rated models. So we have more than 12 micro-models that now integrates the principle of universal acceptance.

And the next step would be to deploy this, to invite some first cohort of universities to teach this, to try this curriculum, and we're looking for their feedback.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Nabil, there is a question asking what will be the approximate date you will publish the approved events for UA Day?

NABIL BENAMAR: Yes, this is coming here. I have the slides. Yes, I have the slides. I think it's ... Yeah. So this is the tentative timeline for UA Day '25. So we started the call for proposals in August, late August. The last date for proposal for UA Day was 18 of October. And this month, on 25th of November, we will shortlist the UA Day proposal for '25.

ANIL JAIN: [inaudible]

NABIL BENAMAR: And yes, around this day, the shortlist will be published. Then we will finalize contracting the UA Day event with the hosts in January. And in the last of January, the materials for UA Day, the event, will be published. So this is something that we have done so far and we keep doing the same thing, meaning that any material that can be used

during a UA Day event will be offered, will be accessible, through the UA Day event website on the UASG website. So anyone can download, freely download, all this material and use them if they want to organize something themselves. If there is a need for any experts and professionals from any working group within UASG or outside, this can also be done. They can send a request and we can organize this to see who is available during the day and the dates where the event is organized.

But mainly here, the most important thing is that the material is available in different languages and for different formats, meaning that for the UA Day event we have different categories. It can be one-hour event, two-hour events, half-day events, one-day events, and two-day events, where you have more content, more stuff to show to the participants, maybe some practical labs, some roadshow related to this. So depending on the event, we have different materials.

The review of UA Day adoption event will be on 28 February, so the last day of February '25, and the UA Day event will be held during this window from the 1st of March until the last day of May. There might be some exceptions after May. I'm not sure, but this is something that will be published when we are done.

If you want to engage with UASG during this ICANN meeting, we already had a session with the ccNSO Universal Acceptance Committee. It was yesterday. And tomorrow we will have another one, the UA Strategy Capacity Building Initiative, which also includes topics about this UA curriculum and UA Day. You can also get involved with and participate in UAE Day event at the main website that we have developed for this

event, UniversalAcceptanceDay. For more information, you can visit UASG to learn more about what we are doing and what we have published so far. There are multiple reports, different reports, progress reports, in different categories. There is a big hub there. You can just download the reports that you are looking for, register to participate in UA working groups. You are all welcome to join any working group within UASG so that you can start learning and giving us your expertise, and follow, share, like, and engage with UASG on social media.

Again, thank you for the invitation and I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Yes, Rookayya, you first and then we'll come to you, [Kapil].

ROOKAYYA GULMAHAMED: Thank you for the presentation. I'm Rookayya, ICANN Fellow. On slide 6, you mentioned UA helps with assisting governments in reaching their citizens. So my question is ... I have two questions actually. So my first question is, how does the UASG collaborate with governments to encourage the adoption of UA-ready technologies and policies? And my second question is about the UA ambassadors. So it mentions that the ambassadors are distributed geographically but I see no one from the North America region. So is it because of lack of engagement or why? Thank you.

ANIL JAIN:

Thank you. Thank you very much for the question and it's really good question. As far as engagement with the government is concerned, I am very happy to inform you that ICANN Org has recently appointed a very senior officer within ICANN who is responsible for reaching out to various governments, making presentations to them, showing them the benefits which the nation is going to get in UA adoption, and ensuring that UA becomes a part of their national agenda.

Coming to the second question is regarding the ambassadors we have. We have already covered 10 countries, and you are right that we are not able to get any applications from North America. So we are constantly in touch with those ICANN communities who are from America to become part of us. Let me tell you, although they are a less number of ambassadors, we have a huge, big community or UA community which we call UA community, through which we interact with them, and there is a good participation from the Americans also.

So I invite all the all of you who are newcomers, whether you are a Fellow or you are NextGen or newcomers in ICANN, to join us, become ambassadors, take the flag of UA and ensure that those 60% of people who are not on the real Internet should join the Internet as an inclusive Internet. Thank you.

[RUKAYA]:

Thank you. I would like to add that I submitted a proposal, so I'm hopeful that I'll get it. Thank you.

ANIL JAIN: You are welcome. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And we will accept the last question here. We will go with you and then we'll close this session. These guys will be here, but we cannot keep the tech team and interpreters more than that. Please go ahead.

[KAPIL GOYAL]: Hi, I'm [Kapil]. I'm an exchange fellow from India. So I had a question about variants that are a challenge at IDN and I wanted to know how UASG is addressing this issue to enhance, to make sure that there is universal acceptance, and is there any current active working group on this issue of variance?

ANIL JAIN: Thank you. Would you like to answer?

NABIL BENAMAR: So, thank you for your question. So we are not working only on IDNs. IDNs is a big topic that is a bit separated. But we are in the Universal Acceptance Working Group or steering group. We are checking if any IDN domain name can be accepted by any application that we are using. For example, you are filling in a form and you are introducing your email address or your domain name or your website. If it's written in non-Latin script, it's an IDN or it's an international email address. Generally, generally, most probably, the form will not accept it or will not display

it correctly. Especially for the email part, it will say it's an incorrect or invalid address. This is what we want to not have. We want to correct this or to fix this kind of behavior of the majority of software. Thank you.

ANIL JAIN:

Just to add—we are closing, ma'am. Just to add to what Nabil has said, for your information, UASG and ICANN publish a UA Readiness Report every year. This year, the UA Readiness Report of 2024 is already published. It is available on the UASG.tech website. I request you to kindly go through that report. It also summarizes why some people are not adopting UA, why people are adopting UA. Similarly, there is a report on IDNs which is available also on the ICANN website. I request you to go through that and your answer will be totally answered.

Now lastly, before I stop, as I said that there are several UA ambassadors available. In the audience today, I request UA ambassadors to please stand up and let us clap for their wonderful work which they are doing. UA ambassadors, I request you to please stand up. They are the people who are going day and night to the community to spread the message of UA, helping people and organizations, technically how to build up UA in their system. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Nabil. Thank you, and thank you both for coming. And UA is one of the hot topics and a huge interest for many around the world. And thank you for sharing all the information about the upcoming UA Day in 2025. I know how big a celebration it was in 2024. So I'm looking forward for another year.

And with that I would like to thank all our panelists, and I'm looking forward to seeing you back for another series of sessions. Get to Know the ICANN Community at 3:00 PM. And with that, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]