
ICANN81 | AGM – Get to Know ICANN Community: CSG/BC and ccNSO
Saturday, November 9, 2024 - 15:00 to 16:00 TRT

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. Hello, everyone. Welcome to Get to Know ICANN Community Sessions. This is a series of sessions which we will run today and tomorrow, which is an onboarding session, mainly focused for newcomers, those who are here for their first ICANN meeting to learn about ICANN communities. During this session, questions and comments will be only read aloud if submitted in the proper form, as I have noted in the chat, but those who are here can make the session interactive also by asking questions via mic here. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community anti-harassment policy.

As you all know already, my name is Siranush Vardanyan, I will be your participation manager, and I also will be doing the chat monitoring and helping our virtual participant to make their voice heard.

With that, I would like to introduce you our first group today who came to talk about the Business Constituency. It's a great pleasure and honor for me to have the Chair of the Business Constituency, Mason Cole, here, and Vivek, who is my favorite fellow alumni in the Business Constituency here who is assigned the nominated from Business Constituency to serve in the GNSO Council.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

We already know what is BC, this is Business Constituency. We already know what is GNSO, right? And we now will talk particularly how the Business Constituency works within that big ICANN community model. And without further ado, Mason, the floor is yours.

MASON COLE:

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. It's a pleasure to be with you. My name is Mason Cole. I'm Chair of the Business Constituency. I come from the United States. I have been Chair of the BC now for just over four years. And it's my great pleasure to be here to tell you a bit about the BC and what we do.

I'm joined, as you've heard, by my colleague, Vivek Goyal, and he's gonna add a few words as soon as I'm finished. So thank you, Vivek, for being here as well. So first, what is the BC? The BC, our formal name is the Commercial and Business Users Constituency, but everybody just calls us the BC, the Business Constituency.

And we are comprised of businesses around the world who have a stake in outcomes related to the domain name system. Our membership ranges from small businesses in economically disadvantaged areas, all the way up to international global companies. For example, Microsoft is a member of the BC. Each of those companies participate in ICANN processes via the BC because DNS outcomes are important to their businesses and to their customers. So we represent those businesses within the ICANN process.

The BC is a member of the GNSO. We fit in the GNSO in the non-contracted party's house, and we are part of what's called the CSG, the Commercial Stakeholder Group. And the CSG is made up of the BC, the Intellectual Property Constituency, and the ISPCP or the Internet Service Provider's Constituency. So we are all sort of like-minded participants in the ICANN process. And we work together in the GNSO to advance issues that are important to businesses and our and their customers. You may ask, what are some of the important issues going on right now for the BC within ICANN?

There are several. Probably our biggest priority right now is trying to do something about DNS abuse. We've been very active on DNS abuse now for the past probably three to four years. And our desired outcome for DNS abuse is to develop further policies that reduce the rate of DNS abuse as it impacts the businesses we represent and their customers.

What other areas are we active on? Registration data. So you've heard all about the RDRS system, I assume. So one of our objectives is how can we improve access to data for legitimate data requesters? Our businesses are impacted by things like phishing and malware and spam and things of this nature. And the companies we represent and need access to registration data in a legitimate way so that they can determine where the bad actors are and do something about it. We're active on gTLD expansion as well, so the next round of new TLDs is coming up. We'll be very active on that because some of our members intend to apply for a new TLD. Some members may not apply for a TLD, but they're interested in things like rights protection mechanisms that will come out of the new TLD program.

Other priorities for us, there's a backlog of community work that hasn't been completed. Things like the thick WHOIS policy, the privacy proxy accreditation program. I'm not sure how familiar you are yet with these programs, but they've languished within ICANN for many years, and those are of interest to our members as well. And so we plan to try to get those policies over the finish line.

And then overall, what we really want to do is encourage a more nimble and proactive ICANN ecosystem. ICANN can be very slow to move. It can be very slow to get processes and results through the GNSO or through the ICANN Board. Even in a bottom-up consensus-based model like ICANN, it can take quite a while to get things finished and we want to encourage a more nimble and proactive ICANN because it's good for the people that we represent. I didn't bring a presentation, sorry about that, but hopefully this has been a bit enlightening for you. I think Vivek is gonna say a few words and then we're happy to answer questions.

VIVEK GOYAL:

Thank you, Mason. So I just want to point out that in the audience we have Tim Smith and Marie, who are also part of the BC leadership who are here, available for anybody to ask questions if you have any. And we are told that we have half an hour, so we've just taken about eight minutes, at the end of what I say, if you don't ask us questions, we will ask you questions based on what I have said, right? So pay attention or definitely ask us questions.

My name is Vivek Goyal, I come from India. I have been associated with ICANN on and off since 2012. When the first round of gTLDs was opened, that's when I came to know about ICANN and how important it is to the operating of the internet. Since Mason has covered what the BC does, I thought it'll be helpful if I tell you about my journey within ICANN and BC, which will help you understand what different spots there are to working in ICANN and how, what role does the BC play in it. So, in short, like Mason said, BC is for any business owner who works or uses the internet.

Now I'm trying to find a business owner who does not use the internet these days, right? So if you're a business owner, one person business owner, a hundred people business owner, a thousand people business owner, Business Constituency is a place where you can get your voice heard and help drive policies that help your business. When I joined the BC recently after a gap, I was a business owner with zero employees, I was a one-man business owner.

What BC does is because of the strong support system that BC has, it encourages you to learn and focus on things that are important to you. So slowly and slowly, I was given encouragement leadership positions. I was made responsible for tasks, which I thought I could not do, but was provided with the support to be able to do those tasks. And that helped me in multiple ways. One, it helped me understand the topics that were important to me, and topics that I didn't know about, I came to know more about those topics.

Second, it helped me gain the confidence to participate more actively in ICANN. Now, one thing you'll know about ICANN is we love our acronyms, we love them, and I'm telling you, you have not even heard one 10th of the acronyms that float around. Please do not try and remember all the acronyms. Don't feel bad if you cannot look at an acronym, figure out what it stands for because there is nobody in ICANN, who remembers all of them? And we make acronyms faster than weed grows. So never think that you need to know all the acronyms to be able to contribute positively anywhere. If you don't know it, put your hand up, ask what it stands for, everybody will understand that nobody knows everything in ICANN.

So BC has been a home for me for roughly about 12 years now. I started participating in BC as contributing to small policy matters, putting my voice forward. I have progressed in the BC and now I'm a GNSO councilor. That has been made possible only because of the support and the guidance that I have received in the BC.

So for all of you, while you're starting your journey in ICANN, I would say if you're a business owner, please think of BC as your house, as your home, while you are in the ICANN atmosphere. If ever you need any support on any matter, feel free to reach out to us, we are always around. A lot of our members, like Mason said, big companies that are members, they're more than happy to guide you, provide support wherever required. With that, I'm gonna stop here and open the floor for questions. If there are no questions, then I'm gonna start putting up acronyms and expecting answers on those.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I so much love when the presenters are the representative of the fellowship program because they know what does it mean to be a newcomer, so they know how to speak to all of you. Thank you for this brief introduction. Before we move to the questions, can you tell me what particular sessions the Business Constituency will hold during ICANN81, which you think that those who are at their first ICANN meeting can come and benefit from? I know I'm asking questions on the spot.

MASON COLE: No, that's okay. Well first I would say the BC meeting which is held on Tuesday at I think 10:30 AM. Vivek, is that right?

VIVEK GOYAL: Yes.

MASON COLE: Yeah, Tuesday at 10 30 is an open meeting, you all are invited. It'd be a pleasure to have you as part of the BC meeting. We have a couple of guest speakers, and then we'll cover some policy business for 90 minutes. That session is open. We are gonna participate in-- there are several discussions about DNS abuse that the community one that deals with DNS Abuse and Human Rights, and another that deals with the contracted parties are having an outreach session on DNS abuse. We'll be participating in that because as I mentioned, abuse is very important to us. I'll just cheat and I'll look at my schedule. How about

that? So there are some other sessions as well. Vivek, do you have anything to add there?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: But take a note for Tuesday's session at the second block, like 10:30. If you are really interested to learn more about the Business Constituency and you want to hear and see actually this community work in action, this is the opportunity for you to be there and learn more. And while you are checking or if that that's the main session for them to be and benefit from, then we'll go to the questions here.

MASON COLE: I would also say that the CSG sessions are important.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: What is CSG?

MASON COLE: CSG is Commercial Stakeholder Group. It's the BC, the IPC, and the ISPCP together. There we go.

VIVEK GOYAL: Let me break this down for you. So it's BC, Business Constituency, ISPs, Internet Service Providers, right? So in your mind, think Commercial Stakeholder Group, people who make money is Commercial Stakeholder Group. That's how I remember. And this is being recorded,

so I'll put it out there. I am not speaking on behalf of anybody. This is the way I remember. So if it's not accurate, please excuse me.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just to let you know that tomorrow we'll also hear from IPC and ISPCP, so you will learn more acronyms, but we'll start with CSG today, which is the Commercial Stakeholder Group. And the first representative BC is there, so don't feel frustrated. Okay.

VIVEK GOYAL: So Commercial Stakeholder Group consists of the BC, business people, Internet Service Provider, because they are the gateway to the internet, and intellectual property house, they are the primarily the lawyers who work in intellectual property and deal with domain names on a daily basis. So these three form the Commercial Stakeholder Group. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Vivek. Lily, please go ahead.

LILY EDINAM BOTSIOE: Thank you for sharing. My name is Lily Edinam Botsyoe for the record, and I am an ICANN81 fellow. So the question I have is, because you mentioned that BC consists of small and large companies, I just wanted to understand how your working allow people to be fairly represented. Now, there are large corporations, you mentioned Microsoft, and usually large corporations go towards profits and like their interest and

having that represented, right? So in the case of BC, how do we ensure that everybody's voice is heard and superpower is gonna given the priority and all of that? So that's a question.

MASON COLE:

Thank you very much for your question. It's a good question. First of all, the BC is structured in a way that everyone's voice is equal. So if you join the BC and you're a small business, for example, you pay a smaller membership fee to join the BC than you would if you're a large business. So the barrier to entry for the BC for a small business is much lower than it is for a large business. Once you're in the door, everybody has an equal voice. So no company that's a member of the BC carries more weight than another member of the BC, we represent everybody equally. Vivek.

VIVEK GOYAL:

So every member of the BC has to appoint one representative. So if it's a large company, one representative, small company, one representative, they come into the meetings or they engage with the BC and then everybody's equal. If your voice needs to be heard, you just need to shout louder, that's all. Otherwise, the company from you come from does not make a difference to your voice being heard.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

We have additional input from a BC colleague, please go ahead.

TIM SMITH:

Hello, my name is Tim Smith and I'm from Winnipeg, Canada. And I happen to be sitting as the vice chair of finance and operations for the business constituency for this year, and we'll be leaving that at the end of the year.

But as it relates to representation, we have two new elected executive who are coming onto the board onto our executive committee in the new year. Both of them from Nigeria, Segunfunmi Olajide and Tola Sogbesan will be joining us. Segunfunmi in the policy portfolio and Tola in the finance and operations. So you can just see from that, and I mentioned that just to show that there is fair representation, there are open elections, and every region of the world gets to be represented within the Business Constituency.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. And I really welcome, like, I'm happy to see that our community here is very much open to newcomers and that's why I am very happy to see the colleagues from the Business Constituency also joining with their chair and GNSO council member here. So thank you for being with us. Ida, please go ahead.

IDA PADIKUOR NA-TEI:

Thank you, Siranush, for the opportunity and thank you for the presentation. My name is Ida, ICANN81 fellow, and you spoke about any business owner can join the Business Constituency, you mentioned that there's a membership fee, but it wasn't quite clear how one can actually join. And for the membership fee, is it monthly, is it annually? I'm

asking because I'm also a business owner, so I want to know what the process is. Thank you.

MASON COLE:

Thank you for the question. Nice to meet you. The fee is yearly, and I confess, Tim would know better than I do what the current fee structure is, so I can't tell you off the top of my head. But you apply for membership for the BC and then we have a credentials committee that reviews your application, and assuming all is in good order and I have no reason to think that it wouldn't be, then you become part of the BC, it's pretty straightforward. Tim has something to add as well.

VIVEK GOYAL:

Sorry, I'll just say that. There's an online form, we can send you the link for that or Sarah can send it to everybody and you fill that form in. We just review to make sure you are who you are and you have a business, and then we will share with you what the fees is. It's very simple. And Tim, if you would like to add something.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Tim.

TIM SMITH:

Hi, Tim Smith again. Vivek just mentioned that he can send you a link to a form. Actually, the ICANN BC website, ICANN BC, am I gonna get it right? No, it's icannbc@icann.org, I think. And there is a form that is actually posted right there, or there's a link on the form.

As far as membership goes, the largest members pay a thousand dollars a year and the smallest members pay \$60 a year. And then there's sort of a sliding scale in the middle of that, depending on whether you're from a developing part of the world or not. I'm sorry, it's icannbc.org is the website.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I posted also the link in the chat in the Zoom space.

TIM SMITH: Thank you.

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

ALEXANDRU SOTROPA: Hello, my name is Alexandru Sotropa, coming from Romania. I'm an ICANN81 fellow. In my day-to-day life, I'm a lawyer, so I'm working for a large e-commerce platform. I have this question in terms of-- I mean, I really appreciate the fact that you're open to all kinds of business, and I think this is valuable, but at the same time, there's a risk of having a lot of people that don't have maybe the best intentions or that they don't have like a, let's say, expertise in this field.

So I was wondering if you ever had like an internal conversation or some safeguards to make sure that the businesses that are there have some sort of a, let's say a minimum threshold of being, let's say, with

sufficient expertise or having like some sort of a background in this field.

VIVEK GOYAL:

So in the BC, we do not have any threshold as such, and we welcome newcomers. Anybody who is interested in participating in this process, either one hour a month or a hundred hours a week, is more than welcome to join and participate in the capacity that best suits them or they need to.

Second, you mentioned about intentions. We work on the principle that everybody comes in with good intentions, and ICANN follow the rigorous policy of behavior on how you need to act, and you need to act in the best interest of the community. And maybe Mason, Tim or Marie can say, but I don't recall any case where we had to kick a member out for bad behavior or we know that their intentions weren't good. It hasn't happened yet. I don't recall even any other part of ICANN it happened. So I'll tell you what happens, when people join, they join and then in short time they realize whether this is for them or not.

And then it's a self-sorting mechanism. Those who either cannot survive or they realize this is not of interest for them, they just get out of the ICANN ecosystem by themselves. So there's no need to kick anybody out. But we haven't had any bad members and we welcome anybody irrespective of size, location, interest to join ICANN and join the BC.

MASON COLE:

Probably the bigger risk that we face is our policy position shared universally within the BC. That's not always the case but most of the time it is, most of the time our interests are all aligned. There have been, I can recall a few instances where you have to sort of remind everyone what you're doing at ICANN and that's representing the business community and not another part of the ICANN organization.

So that's probably the biggest risk we face in the BC is misalignment of interests. But that doesn't happen very often. And I agree with Vivek, in general, we're a very collegial group. Vivek does all the work, and Tim and Marie. So it's a very collegial group, we do well and we advocate well for those we represent.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Questions? Yes, I see over there the lady.

POOJA NARANG:

Hi, my name is Pooja and I'm from New Zealand. My question is, if I understand correctly, the internet business user is someone who uses internet for their business. So for example, a lady who have got an online flower shop and doesn't know anything about BC and have any problems, how they will come to you?

VIVEK GOYAL:

Well, I hope after this session, you will go and tell them about the BC and then they can apply and we will welcome them with open arms. But there's a limited capacity of outreach that we can do.

And honestly, maybe the lady in the flower shop might not need the BC or the ICANN. The way the internet DNS is set up, it works perfectly fine all the time. So until, unless there are things in the internet that, or the domain name ecosystem that she's not happy about and she would like to make a difference, then she's more than welcome to join us and help us along in that journey. But if all she wants is the domain name system should work fine, she's happy and good to go, she should focus on her flowers. But again, if she wants to join us, we are more than happy to have more members join us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent. yes, Busayo.

OLUBUSAYO MARY BALOGUN: Thank you so much. Busayo from Nigeria, ICANN81 fellow. I think this is just my thoughts about what is said, just to piggyback. I think since the membership fee paying, I would think that only organizations or businesses that genuinely have an interest want to go through that process and pay that fee to actually join the BC. So the fear of people coming in with bad intentions, I think to a certain extent, I think that might like, you know, just might not happen since you have to pay a fee. So for you to pay a fee, it means that you genuinely have an interest you want to protect, and then that's what I think my thoughts.

MASON COLE: You're correct. Most of the time, the members that join us have a specific idea about what they want to try to achieve by participating in

ICANN, and the BC is their home to do that, and yeah, we rarely have a problem. Otherwise, your read is correct.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Last question for the Business Constituency. Yes, please, Mayssam, go ahead.

MAYSSAM SABRA: So as we are talking about the membership, so could you maybe summarize what are the benefits of the membership?

VIVEK GOYAL: Well, I think the biggest benefit is you get to hang out with us. We are all cool bunch of people, we are fun, we party whenever we can, we go to exotic locations wherever ICANN takes us. I mean, I went to Rwanda, I never in my life would've gone to Rwanda, but fantastic place.

So see, the benefit to you is if you want to make a difference or change something about the way the internet is run today, if you're unhappy about something or you would like it to go in some direction, as a business owner, Business Constituency is your home. That's where you find people whose goals are aligned with yours. So when all of our goals are aligned, we can work together and make things happen. That's the benefit to you. And if you want to be part of the policy making process, we welcome you. Mason.

MASON COLE:

Vivek is right. The other benefit that you get when you join the BC is an amplified voice inside the ICANN process. So if you're an individual participating in ICANN, you're one of thousands. When you're part of the BC, the BC can help speak for you and your interests. And we're a recognized constituency, we're part of the GNSO. Vivek, for example, is an incoming GSO counselor, when he speaks to the GNSO, he speaks with the authority because he's got the backing of businesses behind him. And that is the case for all BC members. Collectively, we're a louder voice and a stronger voice than we would be alone if we were trying to participate in ICANN.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you very much. And just to add what you said Vivek, that for having this fund, they are not paid. So they are fully volunteers in what they are doing here. So thank you for being with us and thank you for introduction of Business Constituency. We are looking forward for more new faces coming and joining your community. And with that, our applause is to our business constituency colleagues here. Thank you. Thank you very much.

And we move to our next constituency who I have a pleasure to introduce. This is ccNSO, so this is Country Code Name Supporting Organization. And my immense pleasure and honor to introduce the chair of ccNSO, who was a fellow with me. Yes, we were fellows together by that time, and now look at her, she's now chairing that huge constituency here with the amazing person, Biyi, who is the Vice Chair

for ccNSO, who graciously agreed to come here and talk to you. Without further ado, Alejandra Reynoso, the floor is yours.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO:

Thank you so much, and thank you for the warm welcome. It's always a pleasure to come back home to the fellowship. My name is Alejandra Reynoso, and I'm an ICANN41 fellow. So it's, again, an immense pleasure to be here with you. Biyi has done a very nice job of putting together a presentation that he will kickstart, and if anything, I will join him. So, Biyi, the floor is yours.

BIYI OLADIPO:

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone, and for those who are joining online, good time of the day to you. My name is Biyi Oladipo, I represent the- thank you- the Nigerian ccTLD on the ccNSO, and I'm vice chair. Unfortunately, I never had the privilege of being a fellow. That's why I said, unfortunately, however, I've had the privilege of getting fellows to know about the ccNSO, so I can say I'm a fellow by affiliation. All right. Now the ccNSO is the Country Call Name Supporting Organization. If you know about the ICANN ecosystem, the community has several supporting organizations and advisory committees.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Can we get the power for over clicker here? It should be working. Yes. You now can go ahead.

BIYI OLADIPO:

So the first question I would ask is, what does the ccNSO stand for? Before I go into that question, can I ask in the room, how many of us know about the country code of the countries that we are from? Let me see your hand, I know about the country code.

Okay, good. I'll ask a follow up questions. How many of us have had contact with the managers of the country code of the countries that we come from? Okay, so the numbers have gone down. It's okay, it's not a scene, you are fine. All right. Why it's important for us to know this is that country codes are very important because they are the identities of the countries that you come from, and you need to understand what is happening there and embrace them so you can also be part of what is happening.

The ccNSO, like we've all said, stands for Country Code Name Supporting Organization within the ICANN ecosystem. And ccTLD manager is the organization that manages, or the entity that is responsible for the management of the ccTLD. And of course, the ccTLD is a country called Domain.

Now, you ask yourself, why are ccTLDs important? Why should we all sit down and talk about them? Of all the top-level domain domains in the world, the top 10 of them, seven out of the top 10 are actually ccTLDs. So you can imagine having seven out of 10 as ccTLDs, then we should reckon with those and have discussions around them. And that underscores our importance within the ecosystem.

Now, the ccTLD has three main purposes. First is for us to undertake policies and policy related work. Now, because I know that you've

heard things around policies and policy related work, so I need to make some distinctions. Policy to ccTLDs within the ICANN ecosystem is a bit different from what we have with the GNSO or the gTLDs, which is all global. Within the ccNSO, policies are specific to general things and not things that relate to individual ccTLDs.

Because ccTLDs represent sovereign entities and geographical locations, their internal policies are strictly theirs. So for as many ccTLDs as we have, you have as many policies and as many governance models to run them. And that's different from what you have with the GNSO, where you have general policies, and then you have general governance models. So we carry out policy related, and I'm gonna talk a little bit about the current policies that we're working on in a little bit.

Then we cooperate with ourselves and learn from one another. We learn from ourselves around technical related issues, issues that relate to how to run the registry, the technical standards, and all of that. Now, all these are things that are suggested and best practices that people have adopted, and then you see them learn from them and work with them. And of course, we cooperate with ourselves and we engage with other stakeholders.

So we are here, my chair is here, I'm here, I have Pablo, Pablo is also a council member, he's here, and we are here interacting with you and engaging with other stakeholders within the ecosystem, and we engage with ourselves. We formed friendships with ourselves over the years, and it's amazing. What stands us out? First, we are regionalized, so all the ICANN regions, so we have Africa, Europe, Asia Pacific which other

one do we have? Latin America and the Caribbeans, and then North America. Pablo, don't worry, I won't forget you. And North America.

As many ccTLDs as you have, you have as many governance models. The ccNSO does not impose governance models on how to run your registry on the ccTLDs, strictly your own prerogative. And of course, your registry model is yours, the number of domains, we've seen the number of domains that ccTLDs have, and then number of employees. All of those are strictly left to you and how you want to run your registry. So this is the composition of the ccNSO. You have the ccNSO members, you have the council, and this forms the ccNSO. ccNSO members are those ccTLD managers that have applied and have agreed to join the ccNSO.

We have ccTLDs that are not ccNSO members because they have not asked to join. So when you asked to join, you are admitted, and then you'll become part of us. Slightly different from the BC, we do not charge registration fees at ccNSO. For the ccNSO, it's what? It's hop on, hop off. But guess what? Hop on, nobody ever hops off. People stay in because of the benefits that people get from the interactions and things that we do around the ccNSO. The ccNSO council administers the affairs of the ccNSO.

Currently, we have 178 members across the world. I always tell people that I never feel lost anywhere in the world. Anywhere I get to, I always have a ccNSO member that I can always call on and will make things a lot easier for me. This is how we are spread out, North America, six members, Latin America, 29 members, Africa, 40, Europe, 47, and then

Asia Pacific, we have 56 members. And this includes not just ASCII ccTLDs, but also IDN ccTLDs. So the ccNSO is open to both ASCII and IDN ccTLDs.

So what are the benefits? As ccNSO members, you have the opportunity to nominate and vote for ccNSO council members and also members of the ICANN Board. So the ccNSO occupies two seats on the ICANN Board. It's 11 and 12, and we as an organization, vote people into those seats, the two of them. As a ccNSO member, you also have the opportunity to contribute to and vote on global policies, on policies that are general to ccTLDs, and I'll talk about those couple of them in a little while.

You also have a platform by which you as a ccNSO member can make your voice heard within the ecosystem. I heard the folks from BC talking about the big corporations and the small corporations. The same way we have the big ccTLDs, we also have the small ccTLDs. Imagine if you're a small ccTLD and you want to stand on your own, your voice can't be heard. But when you walk within the framework of the ccNSP, it's a platform for you to get your voice heard within the ecosystem, and also, you can share experiences and information.

And I'll dwell on this a little bit. This is one of the biggest points of the ccNSO, I remember when we were starting out setting up the .ng, we gleaned from the experiences of so many. We had serious interactions with .pr, with Pablo's ccTLD, and we got assistance from people in knowing standards, how to set up, even as it relates to how to run as a business. And that was very, very instrumental to the successes that we have had as a ccTLD. So what does the council do? The council

administers and coordinates the ccNSO, manages the development of policy recommendations.

And then also the councilors are involved in setting the course of the ccNSO and also leading and participating in various ccNSO working groups. I'm going to show us what working groups are available in a little bit, and then engaging the community in topical issues and developing positions. Who sits on the council? The council has three persons from each of the five regions that I had mentioned earlier. But ccNSO Council has 18 members. So three times five is how many? Three times five, 15. So we have 15 members. Where are the other three from? The other three are nominated by NomCom. So we have NomCom appointed ccNSO councilors that joined the 15 that are elected by the different regions.

As part of the council operations, we have two liaisons, one from the GNSO, one from ALAC, and then we have regional organization observers from Africa center, APTLD, and LACTLD for the Latin America and the Caribbean. This is the current composition of the council, and yeah. The ones in purple are the ones that are NomCom appointed while the others are from the regions. Okay, so how do we fit within the ICANN structure?

We know that ICANN has SOs and ACs, right? So SOs, we are one of the SOs. And if you look within the circle that you see there there, the ones with the white dots are those who have voting rights, and ccNSO occupies 11 and 12 on those seats. The seat 11 is currently occupied by Patricio Poblete, who is from Chile, right? Yeah, from Chile. And seat 12

is currently empty, and we are in the process of filling that up. So how do you participate in the work?

First of all, let's ask who can be a member? Anybody who runs a ccTLD and is willing, the willingness has to be there, is willing to join, can be a member of the ccNSO. When I say anybody, I mean any entity, not individuals now, any entity. And of course, representatives from those entities become part, are the ones who sit and work within the ccNSO. Who can volunteer? Any ccTLD representative can volunteer, and it doesn't have to be a member of the ccNSO to carry out to work within the ccNSO. You don't have to be a member or you must be a representative of a ccTLD. And a ccNSO councilor can be anyone who has been nominated by a ccNSO member and has been seconded by a ccNSO member from the same region, and then also elected by ccNSO members within that region.

And of course, we have staff, ICANN staff who work with us in the ccNSO secretariat. So how do you contribute? Attend sessions. As members, you vote. Answer surveys. There are surveys that we send around both to members and non-members, and you could, from time to time, you can actually participate in those. You can give a presentation, use the ccNOS mailing list, join a ccNSO working group or committee, join the mailing list for TLD ops and apply for a position on the council if you want. I always use myself as an example and tell my ICANN and ccNSO story.

So I think Vivek said 2012, right? I started attending ICANN meeting in 2007. And guess what? For me it was a holiday. I just used to come for

a holiday. Which countries is ICANN going again? It's Colombia. Ah, I've never been there. Okay, let's go. I will just go and just generally follow. Ah, they're going to Costa Rica and say, where is Costa Rica on the map? He says, oh, it's after-- oh, okay, okay, let's go.

And then I saw myself the first time, my very first time, I got into the room and I asked myself, Biyi, what are you doing here? Everything sounded strange, all the acronyms didn't make sense. I don't know if they make sense to you, but to me they didn't make sense. And I was like, okay, so what does that mean now?

TLD ops, what are they opping? ccNSO, okay, it took me a while before I got the real name. But gradually, by participating and joining different working groups and all of that, and imagine me today from being somebody who just used to go on the holiday to becoming a vice chair of the council of the organization. She started as a fellow, and then today, she's the chair, I call her my chair. She doesn't drink and she doesn't smoke, I'm the only vice that she has. Okay, so there are two vices, okay. We are two vices. So vice one, vice two. We are the only vices that she has.

All right. So you can join and make your voice heard. Can I join a committee or a working group? Yes, you can. Okay. Let me be careful with that. Membership of the working group and committee of the ccNSO is open to all those who are associated with ccTLD managers, regardless of whether they're members of the ccNSO or not.

However, depending on what we are working on at every particular point in time, we can have observers from other SOs and ACs who are

part of the ecosystem or part of the community who can participate in that. So what do we talk about? We look at security, internet governance, legislative issues, operational best practices, and things that are generally of interest. To all of us.

In terms of policy development, you know I told you that we don't legislate policies for specific ccTLDs, no, but there are things that are general to all of us. So that's the kind of policies that we work on. So currently we have the ccPDP3 on retirement that is going on, and then also we had done the ccPDP3 review mechanism, which touches on delegation transfer, revocation and retirement of ccTLDs.

And then we've worked on the ccPDP four for the IDN ccTLDs, how to bring them in, and this is going to replace the fast-track process that is going on. So these are some of the committees that we have, TLD ops, DNS Abuse Committee, Universal Acceptance Standing Committee, Strategic Operational Planning Committee, that's the meeting we're just coming from, Meetings Programs Committee who are the people who plan our ccNSO days at ICANN meetings, ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee, Technical Working Group who organize our tech days, and tech day would happen at this meeting.

Tech Day is happening on Monday, and it's a full day. So it's a full day, it has like, sorry. Yes, in this particular room on Monday, right after the opening ceremony, Tech Day kicks off for the whole day. And in Tech Day, we talk about all the technicalities and technologies that can be used to make our work easier. We have the Guidelines Reviews Committee of the ccNSO, we call them the police of the ccNSO, they're

the ones who make sure that we keep straight and we stay true to the things that we have committed to.

All right, so how do you keep up with us? The websites are there, the Wiki, and you can meet any councilor this whole week. I have Pablo there; Molehe was meant to have joined us, I can't see him in the room. Okay, I'm here, she's here, and we are in this room for the whole week. So you can just walk to any of the councilors and ask questions, or you use any of this. There's a revamped introduction to the ccNSO on ICANN Learn. You can look at that again.

And then from time to time, we have the newcomers session for the ccNSO, you can also join that. In this meeting, this is the general block. Like I've mentioned some tech days on Monday is in this room, we have things on ccNSO DNS abuse session, if you're interested in DNS abuse, you can join us. This is on, what day is that? That's on Tuesday, Block 3, you can join us for those ones. We have two ccTLD news sessions. Those sessions, the ccTLD news sessions have become the favorite for all of us in the ccNSO, nobody wants to miss miss the ccTLD news session because it highlights topical things that ccTLDs are doing around the globe.

And you'll be amazed at the kind of things that people are doing and how, and this is the only way that people get to share them at a meeting like this. All right? So you can join us for any of these meetings and it would be okay. These are all the bookmarks that we can have. So thank you so much. I'm open to questions if you have any.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Biyi, excellent. I mean, I'm always impressed how enthusiastic and passionate you are for ccNSO and for the work you do. And I thank you always being so open and welcoming to newcomers; whenever I come to you and tell you that I need your help, though the entire ccNSO with the chair there are very open to newcomers and they are so happy to tell about their community.

But I want to name one person, two persons, actually. You also may know that our community selects the fellows and the next geners, those who apply. And these guys are doing an amazing job to do-- it's a hard job to like give simple numbers. 491 fellowship applications had been submitted for the next ICANN meeting and only 40 got selected. And I would like to introduce one of the selection committee members who is doing a great job for the Fellowship program. Pablo Rodriguez, he is here.

BIYI OLADIPO: Can I say something about Pablo? I can never, I can never get over or stop talking about Pablo. His passion, his willingness, and there a lot of us that he has mentored. Out of 18 people on the council, at least I can count like nine of us that he has mentored. So he's an amazing person and is always, always willing to help. Thank you, Pablo.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Pablo. Thank you, and thank you, ccNSO. And I also thank ccNSO for nominating a mentor for the Fellowship program. Jenifer López, I'm not sure if she is here, but amazing support, great work done.

So thank you, ccNSO. And we have like four or five minutes. If you have one or two questions, we can take it. But Pablo wants to go first, and then Abdul Rahman, we'll go to you.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ:

Thank you, Siranush and thank you, Biyi and Ale for your kind words. The one thing that I want to bring to your attention, and thank you, Biyi, because you made that distinction with the BC, there was a young lady that asked about if a lady that sells flowers would like to know more about the BC, and some of the answer was, well, maybe she doesn't need to know about this.

As a ccTLD operator, for my colleague here who has the flag of my country and his country, yeah, as soon as I walked in, I saw that flag and I went directly to him. Why would you want to know the ccTLD operator? That was the one question that Biyi said. Are you aware of your country code? Yes. But do you know the ccTLD operator? No. Does that matter? It does matter.

It does matter because the reason you are here is because you're interested in developing some kind of project in your country. If you are a ccTLD operator and you are not aa ccNSO member, become a ccNSO member. If you are not a ccTLD operator, try to meet the ccTLD operator of your country. Why? Because if you have a project that you would like to work on, perhaps it'll be in the best interest of the ccTLD operator to know about it, and perhaps if I cannot fund the entire project, I may be able to help finance a portion of that project.

Maybe I can help you find other people that can help us to get that project because it's in the behalf of our country, right? So imagine each one of you speaking with your TLD operator and saying, Hey, in this particular region of our country, there is this problem, I have an idea of a particular thing that I would like to do. Talk to the ccTLD operator. Perhaps the next time you come here, the ccTLD operator may be able to fund you and you can come here. But if you don't know the ccTLD operator, there is little you can do.

So to answer that young lady that I was asking about the flower lady, as a ccTLD operator of my country, I want to know all the flower ladies in my country and I want to be able to help them take advantage of their identity in the internet and offer their services because this is how we can help to the sustainability of our people in our respective jurisdictions. So it is important to know the ccTLD operator, even if you are not a ccTLD operator yourself, you should still try to meet these individuals and try to coordinate with them. So we're having a conversation, right? There we are.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

So we all know already you have the first action item after this event here. So go back if you are not a ccTLD operator, meet with your ccTLD operator and learn about the priorities of that particular ccTLD operator there. Good call to action. Thank you.

I think we don't have time for any questions now, but these people are around during this week and they also are invited for the fellowship social networking hours. So please be there to talk to us. Yeah, so I

didn't finish with the idea why I mentioned Pablo because he is one of the selection committee members who selected fellows for this round. So my applause is to this guy. And with that, I think this meeting is adjourned. I thank you, ccNSO, for being here with us. Thank you.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO: Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]