
ICANN81 | AGM – Get to Know ICANN Community: At-Large Advisory Committee
Saturday, November 9, 2024 – 16:30 to 17:30 TRT

JONATHAN ZUCK:

There's no way to get them to vote on what those interests are. There's no way to get them to elect us as their representatives. We can't represent end users, but what we can do is apply as much rigor as we can to try to determine what those interests might be. And we do that by talking amongst ourselves, by trying to bring perspectives from different regions, from different economic strata, from different genders, from different industries, different life experiences, etc., that hopefully come together in an amalgamation that is a good consensus place for us to be in terms of looking at and advocating for the interests of individual Internet users.

So, I mean, all of you are either in the NextGen program or the Fellows program, which are sort of related but different from each other. But the At-Large community is focused on this idea of individual end users and representing those interests. And you've all done homework and reading, I'm sure, about ICANN and its structures before coming, so some of what we end up saying or talking about today will seem redundant with some of the reading and research that you've done.

But basically, we work as an advisory committee, which is different than some of the stakeholder organizations that exist inside of ICANN, the GNSO, the ccNSO, the ASO, etc., and operate in a more advisory role within the ICANN community. But we do participate directly in ICANN

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.

policy development, ICANN budget analysis, ICANN multi-stakeholder reforms and reviews, etc., as well as having the capacity, as a kind of last resort, to provide advice directly to the Board, which is something that's only available to the advisory committees, the GAC, the ALAC, and the SSAC.

And so, we have a number of tools at our disposal to bring to bear to try and represent those interests of individual end users within the processes of ICANN, and it's our goal to try and be engaged throughout these processes so that nothing we say is new when we say it and that it gets said more than once. So, again, welcome. What I wanted to do is hear from our current leaders of these programs a little bit, give a little bit of introduction as well, so I'll start with Siranush. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Jonathan, and welcome, everyone, to this session. This is part of Get to Know ICANN Community, and this is the opportunity for us to learn about the community where I personally come from, and I have the pleasure of coming back and seeing the new leaders in At-Large coming from the fellowship program. And this is the opportunity for us to know those people in person so that we can take from here and learn from their experience, but we also are here to learn about At-Large because we have a big number of newcomers for whom this is the first ICANN meeting ever. So, these are potential new friends coming potentially to At-Large, and so welcome.

And also, I would like to thank At-Large for being supportive and open for the Fellows and the NextGeners who are coming and knocking their

doors. So, thank you for opening the doors for those people and for mentoring the newcomers. I particularly want to thank the mentors from At-Large, Shreedeeep, and-- Where is Denise? And Denise. And the new mentors who will come soon. So, with that, I'm giving back to you to facilitate this round of discussion, Jonathan. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

And thank you. And again, I want to thank the work that both Shreedeeep and Denise have done as mentors to these groups, and also Oksana who is here somewhere as well and took a bus 30 hours or something like that to get here, so that's dedication and was part of the NextGen selection committee. We now have incoming to the selection committee is Denise Hochbaum, and we have a new mentor for the NextGen, which is Roberto Gaetano, and Shreedeeep is once again the mentor as well. So please join me in thanking them for the work that they've done in putting this together.

Part of what we're doing here is a sales pitch, I suppose, to be honest. What is the friendliest port of entry into the ICANN community for people that are newcomers, whether it's NextGen or Fellows? What is the easiest way to ease your way into the ICANN community? Well, certainly if you are a trademark attorney, then I would say that the IPC might be the best place for you to find yourself, right? If you work in a large company or something like that, then the Business Constituency might be the place to go.

But if you are really just an individual looking to explore and understand what goes on inside of ICANN and have a home to really explore the

interests of really all of us, because when we talk about Internet end-users, it really is all of us, then I think the At-Large community has proven to be a very welcoming and meritorious place for this community to find this entry into ICANN processes. So, for example, we have the At-Large representative to the Board, for example, began as a Fellow. So, that's sort of the ultimate achievement, if you will.

But we also have currently a number of members of the ALAC that began as fellows, and at least one of them was an NextGenner as well. And so, I wanted to hear from them on what their experience was like and why they made the decisions that they made to come on board, because it will sound better from them than it is coming from me. So, I don't know what order to go in, but maybe we start with Natalie. Are you online? I didn't hear a voice check.

NATALIE TERCOVA: Yes, I'm here.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Well, there you go. So, take it away, Natalie.

NATALIE TERCOVA: All right. It's a pleasure to go first. Hello, everyone. My name is Natalie. I'm from the Czech Republic. And I am indeed a person who started as an NextGenner, then I was selected as a fellow, and I'm currently appointed by NomCom to ALAC, and I'm very grateful for this opportunity. And let me tell you that even a few months ago, it felt like

an impossible journey. I am also very sorry that I can't be there with you right now in person. It's COVID again knocking on my door. But this is something I really appreciate about being part of ICANN is that I can meaningfully participate from anywhere in the world.

And as for my interest in joining ICANN in general, even applying for the NextGen program, the Fellowship program, was that I am currently working on my PhD, focusing on children and youth in general and how they use technologies and how does that affect them also from a psychological perspective. This is a very specific and especially vulnerable group of end users. And I believe that these specific situations and insights should be also reflected when we talk about important issues within ICANN. And I am more than happy to be able to advocate for what they need to see reflected in the ICANN bodies and maybe give them a voice that was maybe not so strong in the past.

And yeah, that's pretty much what I want to share with you. Also, yes, going through all the programs is very meaningful and every one of them adds a special layer towards it. So, congratulations to all of you for being selected either as a NextGen or a Fellow. I think it's a great start for your possible career here if you feel like this community is the right fit for you. So, welcome.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Kathleen.

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN:

Hi everyone. So, I'm Kathleen Scoggin. I am from the United States based out of Washington, D. C. I started my first ICANN, it was actually ICANN77 in Washington, D. C. I don't know if that's right. But the one that took place in Washington, D. C. I was kind of shepherded into the ICANN community through the North American School of Internet Governance folks. So Eduardo is here and many of you know Alfredo as well. I was part of organizing NASIG as part of my job. I work at a university and we decided to host.

And from there these random guys I just met told me that they think that maybe ICANN would be a cool place for me to go to and I might be interested in it. I had no idea what was going on in Washington, D. C. I was very lost. I was just attending sessions and trying to absorb as much information as possible. Given this experience I decided to apply for the fellowship program to actually learn some of the background so that I could appreciate what was going on in those sessions.

Then I was a Fellow. Sorry. Sorry. That always happens to me. Apologies. Then I was a Fellow in Puerto Rico for ICANN79 where I met Natalie and Emilia who will speak after me. And then was elected to a two-year term at the ALAC through NARALO starting after the annual general meeting this year. I think the reason for joining the At-Large in the first place was that I didn't know exactly what my interest was. I didn't know what I wanted to focus on. I liked a lot of different things.

And the At-Large is tasked with not just a hyper-specific part of maybe the DNS but also community engagement and so many different types of issues that impact end users. We're working on a bunch of stuff with

the Applicant Support Program which you've probably heard about or will hear more about in the later sessions this week. But also coming up with community engagement plans and how to interact with students and just get more people on board to ICANN.

So, I think that was the main reason for joining initially. Now I'm kind of in the nitty gritty of wanting to learn a lot more about the specific policies and how the wording changes one thing or another. But I think that no matter what you're interested in really within this space there is a home for you in the At-Large even if you think it might be slightly out of the scope. As long as it's an interest towards individual end users and there is some connection there, I think that there is a home for you and work to be done. So yeah. Thanks for having me.

EMILIA ZALEWSKA:

Okay. So, I am the last one. So, my name is Emilia Zalewska-Czajczyńska. I am from Poland. And let me start by saying that life is all about random choices. And that's why I'm here. It's the end of the long chain of random choices. So, it all started with this that I have many, many interests. Some of them are very, very different and not really connecting well with each other. Just let me give you an example.

I have a diploma in law and animal psychology. So, that's why at the beginning of my studies I was really researching different fields looking for something that may speak to me. Especially I know that I don't want to be a classical lawyer like in the court and other stuff. So, I found a program and it was about intellectual property rights in the European Union. And I enrolled there and I went to EuroDIG which was the

European Internet Governance Forum event. And that's how I found out about the IGF and digital policies and I got engaged for a couple of years very deeply into this field. I have even co-founded a youth IGF organization in Poland in my country.

So, then I also learned about ICANN through the IGF and I thought about a couple of years of being in the IGF community that it's really nice but I would really like to get more engaged in a place where policies are formulated. So, IGF is a great forum for the discussion but it's different than ICANN. It's also multi-stakeholder but it's not that the policies or the policy paper are formulated during IGFs can really change the world itself. It's like there is no policy making power there. And about ICANN what I heard it was different, so that's why I decided to apply for a fellowship.

And I was in Puerto Rico with Kathleen, with Natalia and with many other great people who also were fellows. And when I was joining this event, ALAC for me it was just another acronym. Of course, I did ICANN courses as we were all supposed to, but still I haven't had much idea about what is this. And actually after listening to some sessions about talking with some friendly people from ALAC, I found out that actually it might be an interesting place to combine different fields of interest because it concentrates a lot of different issues.

End users are really a vulnerable group with many different perspectives that each person who uses Internet on their own behalf, for their own pleasure, entertainment or needs, they bring different perspectives. They are vulnerable to different forces that appear in this

ecosystem to different sources of dangers. So, that's really a place where you can combine very different perspectives and also you don't need to be a specific kind of a professional. You don't need to be an IP lawyer or representative for the particular company. You just need to be an individual end user and that's all of us.

And also, you can really get a very diverse range of perspectives and a range of issues. You can be in touch with them and also you can bring them yourselves. So yeah, so just getting to the point I started with that life is all about random choices. It started very randomly. The time here right now, it was my choice. It wasn't random. Nobody made me to apply for this position. But yeah, so don't worry if you don't know yet what would be a good place for you if you feel very lost at ICANN because we are all feeling this. I'm feeling this again, being at the ICANN meeting. But even if some of your moves are random, then you may see a way, you may find that okay, I came to this room just because I didn't know where to go. I lost myself. But yeah, maybe this way you can find what's really a good place for you. So, that would be my message.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Kathleen, you wanted to add something?

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN:

I just wanted to say that both of us are going to be at the social and we'll be here after if anyone has questions or wants to talk to us. And anyone online, I'm sure Natalie can answer some questions in the chat.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

To give a sort of opposite perspective, I've been involved in the ICANN community since 2005. So, it's getting to be 20 years in which I've been deeply involved and I will tell you that I still don't get all of it. There's a lot of complexity here, there's a lot of specialization and it's okay to choose an area that you're most interested in and pursue that area.

In the At-Large community we talk about issue shepherds, right? Who is the person that wants to take responsibility for staying up to date on a particular issue that we're involved in and sort of guide us through understanding that issue, guide us through discussing it, coming up with positions for it, helping us to draft what our correspondence and commentary might be about it, etc. You don't have to know everything about everything in order to be an effective participant within ICANN generally and in particular within the At-Large community.

At its core, the At-Large community is housed in a series of regional At-Large organizations, or RALOs, one for each of the ICANN regions, so NARALO for North America, EURALO for Europe, APRALO for Asia-Pacific, LACRALO for Latin America and Caribbean, and then AFRALO for Africa, for example. So, those are all of these areas, and each of them has a RALO, and then the RALO memberships are made up of both individuals and small organizations as well that can be participants, and that's a perfect example as well. You might be a security consulting firm and be a part of a RALO and be only focused on security-related issues and not interested at all in the other issues that are involved. And so, even organizationally, there's going to be specialization.

Amrita is not at the table, but since you're sort of our host RALO chair, you would talk a little bit about the RALOs and how people can get engaged at that level as a starting point for their entry into the ICANN community, the At-Large community.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you so much, Jonathan. Amrita for the record. And welcome everyone who are new to the fellowship and NextGen, I also started my journey in ICANN as a Fellow, and that was a long time ago, but that's how it is. So, if you're talking about the RALOs, and they are in every region, as Jonathan mentioned, and I am from APRALO, so let me take that example and share, but we all have the same kind of a thing. We may look bad, but we're not all that bad. We are pretty welcoming to all of you.

So, while we have At-Large structures, or we have individual members spread across the world, but if you just want to even be engaged, at least at APRALO, you can join the community. We have a WhatsApp group or a mailing list, and WhatsApp, for us, we see works more, at least in our region. So, you can join them. We have a few APIGA fellows out here who had been there, and the other fellows. So, you can join, you can participate in the discussions, and see if you are interested in some topic, and you can work on it. And later on, if you feel that, yes, you want to get into it as an At-Large structure or as an individual member, more you are welcome.

And I think most of the RALOs would agree that it's pretty open these days, though you may formally be inducted later. For example, in

APRALO, we have a small team. Whenever there is some things which needs to be done, we have small teams created. There is a process called continuous improvement process going on, and we have a small team. They comprise mostly, and I should not use this word, but a younger generation. We are the oldest out there, and they have been Fellows or NextGenners, and they help us to prepare what our position would be.

And for those from the Asia-Pacific region, I would, and others too, you can be there tomorrow. We have our annual general meeting. You can be there. We have a RALO coordination meeting tomorrow afternoon where a few of our small team members may also be presenting briefly. And you can catch us anywhere in the corridor if you want to know more about us. And we have community members also in this room. Since it's more of an Asia-Pacific, we have more community members. You can reach out to them and find out from them how you could engage.

And that happens with most of the RALOs. Sebastien is there. If you could raise your hand, Sebastien, or the EURALO leadership. Okay, you want to speak. Hadia is there from AFRALO, and there are others. We have LACRALO, and Sergio would be there. And we have Greg. Raise your hand, Greg, from NARALO. So, I put him to sleep right now, okay? So, I'm waking him up again. But there are more people from the community. Please reach out to them, and we'd be happy to help you. And I think I'll end it at that. Do you want me to speak anything else? No? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I just want to remind everyone that headsets are available there. This is truly multi-stakeholder model community, and they speak all the languages which we try to interpret also for you. So, please, I don't want you to catch on spot, because some people may take the mic and say, I will speak in Spanish, and you just need to do this. So, please, be ready for that. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: One of the things that the ICANN community is looking for the At-Large community to contribute to is the next round of new names and applications for new names that's coming up. So, that we talk about the first level domain, the part to the right of the period. Like .com, .net. In 2012, that was expanded and includes like .photographs and .gallery. And we're having a new round of allowing people to apply for new top-level domains.

And it's really the objective of this community, the At-Large community, to expand the universe of the people that have those strings, what we call registries, to be beyond the usual suspects, to bring in underserved communities that haven't been a part of this process before, different geographies, etc. The At-Large community, and the RALOs in particular, are going to play an essential role in helping to identify who some of those potential applicants might be, coordinate with ICANN to get them support, to help them through the application process.

So, getting engaged with RALOs, if you're interested in that, in bringing communities into this sphere, that's something the RALOs are going to be doing here over the next few years. And it's something very

important to get engaged in. It looks like we have a couple of folks that want to talk. I don't know what order it happened in. But I'll go to Sebastien first, who is currently the chair of EURALO.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If I may interrupt and say that we have another incoming ALAC member who is a fellow, Eunice, of whom I would like to give the floor first, and then continue with the rest.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Give her the floor? Yes, sure. Go ahead.

EUNICE PEREZ COELLO: Hello. I want to speak in Spanish. I am Eunice Alejandra Perez Coello. I'm a member of the Academia from Merida, Yucatan. I'm 44 years old. And I started to get involved with ICANN as a member of the Academia, looking for information, going beyond the books. And that's how I got involved with several organizations. And I remember when I saw a video when the internet turned 50, and the first image or logo I saw was ICANN's logo. I looked for info about this, and I applied for a fellowship position.

I was appointed as a Fellow. I was a Fellow at the 75th ICANN meeting in Kuala Lumpur, and last year at the 78th or 79th meeting in Hamburg, I was fortunate enough to receive the Tarek Amel Award for my work in the community. I'm also a member of an organization where we develop skills and capacities at universities. We train participants on

internet-related issues, especially related to the DNS system, security, and also on the areas of names and numbers.

I would like to welcome you. I can see many young people sitting around, and I'm very pleased and excited. When you start getting involved in an area, being very young, you will realize that this is a very large community. All the members are welcoming, and we'll be answering all your questions or doubts. So, if you have any questions, just approach us. If you see a group of people who struck you when you were taking the ICANN Learn courses, this is a wonderful part of the program.

You have to take some ICANN Learn courses before joining a meeting, because when you come to a meeting, you already have some knowledge you don't start from scratch. So, when you identify a place where you would like to participate, in my case, I wanted to participate in the security area. But for some reasons, I was transferred to At Large because they found something in me. And that's why, and I believe that what somebody found in me, well, was right. Thanks to the work of one of my mentors, my early mentors, my colleague here, Lilian, she gave me advice, I got increasingly involved. And my message is get involved, participate, ask questions, and welcome. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thank you. Sebastien, go ahead.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Everything has been said, but I wanted to speak French, so please reach for your headset. Those programs did not exist when I started with ICANN during the meeting number 08, not 80. So, that didn't exist. I wanted to add something to what my colleague already said. You don't need to know everything. ICANN is not a thing that you come in and you have to understand everything all the time, because then you would be a professional here in this situation. But if you can concentrate and focalize yourself on some themes, on some subject, on a certain part of the organization, you will know enough, and you'll be able to be useful for the final user if you participate with At-Large. Thank you for being here.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, Sebastien. Hadia?

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. My name is Hadia Elminiawi. I'm the AFRALO Chair, and I'm also a Fellow. I started as a Fellow some many years ago. And I took the mic, obviously, to invite you to be part of AFRALO and to point out also particularly the AFRALO Universal Acceptance Day activities. So, this year we are focusing on four themes. And before the Universal Acceptance Day, we have technical and awareness sessions. So, you are all more than welcome to take part in AFRALO Universal Acceptance Day 2025. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thank you, Hadia. I don't know if any other NARALO, any other, sorry, RALO, I thought there was a slip. If there are any other RALO chairs that want to say hello or quickly, please go ahead. Just so people know who you are, and you can, if you're from that region, come find those people.

GREG SHATAN:

Hi, I'm Greg Shatan. I'm the Chair of NARALO, and certainly would be happy to talk to any RALO folks, anyone from North America. Also, in terms of my personal journey, I started out as a trademark lawyer in the Intellectual Property Constituency. And to some extent, I'm still a trademark lawyer, but I'm no longer in the Intellectual Property Constituency, really not because that isn't a valid way to look at the issues of the internet, but because the At-Large perspective is just so much broader and so much more fundamental. And really, I think, helps just many more people.

And it's a far more interesting way, frankly, in the end, to look at the issues of the internet. And I'm glad to see that there are people here from all sorts of backgrounds. And I wouldn't necessarily send a young intellectual property lawyer over to the IPC. I would tell them to also take a look at At-Large, since, again, as has been said many times, we're all individual internet users at some point in our day, even if we're also fulfilling other roles in connection to the internet and to ICANN.

So, it's just been an endlessly interesting issue for me. I wish that the fellowship program had been around when I was starting. Then again, I wish the World Wide Web had been around when I was starting. But that's I was a baby lawyer in 1986. But I've been involved in ICANN

directly or indirectly since 2003. And I still don't have it right yet. So, I'll continue doing it. So, again, just welcome to all of you. Come find me. I'll come to the reception. You'll see me wandering around anytime. You can just say hi. Thanks.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Jonathan. I am Sergio Salinas-Porto. I am LACRALO's secretary. Let me welcome you and thank Siranush for your great work, what you've been doing on a yearly basis. We see new people joining At-Large, more fellows, and that is great. Actually, we have an ALAC member and vice secretary of our region, Sandra Rodriguez, who's there, and we were both graduates from this program. And we feel encouraged to continue so that an increasing number of Internet users have access to this.

So, a simple message from those from Latin America and the Caribbean, please approach us. There are several of us on this side. Roberto. Well, no. Roberto is EURALO, but the rest of us, we come from LACRALO, and there is Eunice and Lilian. Please raise your hand so you can see who from the Latin America and the Caribbean are here. So, it would be wonderful if anyone is interested in joining the region. You will be mostly welcome. Thank you all.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, folks. And so, one more sort of personal journey. Claire, do you want to share a little bit of your journey here? And then we'll open it up for questions.

CRAIRE CRAIG:

Hi, everyone. I am Claire Craig. I started as a fellow at ICANN58, I think. If you scroll through the slides, it's on there so that you can see it there. Yeah. Go back a couple of times. I started in ICANN as a fellow, as I said, in Copenhagen. And since then, I have had three mandatory fellowships. And then I was a mentor. So, that was my journey through ICANN. Went through the fellowship program. So, those are the three fellowship programs that I was part of. And then I became a mentor for the ICANN64 in Japan.

So, as everyone has said, what you really have to do once you've become a fellow is that you need to participate. So, Siranush always says, from the first ICANN meeting you go to, you need to make yourself known. You need to stand up and ask the Board questions. You need to engage. You need to talk to as many people as you can. So, in doing that, I became involved in the NCSG, and that was during the pandemic. And I actually participated for the NCSG, which is the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group, on a plenary session for ICANN71, and I participated virtually.

And if you could see, that's me in the little, somewhere at the top there, in kind of like purple, that color. Anyway, so that was part of my participation. And there were people in ALAC who were trying to tell me I should join ALAC. Well, join the At-Large. And one of the things that, even though I've been in this for a while, you will notice that we say ALAC and we say At-Large. And it's really very different. And so, you need to understand what they are. It's not interchangeable, but you need to really understand. So, I was involved, they wanted me to be involved in At-Large, right? And at that time, my RALO, I am from Latin

America and the Caribbean, my RALO did not have individual membership. And that's the reason I chose the route of the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group because I felt I could be involved as an individual.

Nonetheless, moving along quickly, I was asked by my RALO to be the secretary of the RALO, LACRALO, when a delegate became very ill and couldn't continue. But because I had been involved in the participating, it was easy for somebody to say to me and ask me to become involved. I did that, and you could scroll a couple of slides past, I then was elected as the secretary in May 2021. I was at an AGM in October 2021, I was installed in the position. Then I decided having served my two years as secretary, I decided to apply to the ALAC as some of you all did. And I was accepted to be part of the ALAC and joined the ALAC in October of 2023. And to my surprise, I was also asked to be one of the co-vice chairs of ALAC at that point.

So, it was because of my being involved and stuff like that. You don't know where this will take you. So, I think that's where I am. And I've served one year and I have one more year to serve. And I am looking forward to continuing to be part of this. And I hope that it helps you to understand that you just need to show up. You don't need to know everything because I certainly don't, I'm still learning. And there are many people here who are willing to help you, who are willing to support you and hold your hand.

And one other thing I want to say is that even as a pen holder, please become involved in writing public comments and stuff like that.

Because even if you don't, you're not the subject matter expert. We have many subject matter experts in At-Large and ALAC who will guide you along. And the first time you do it, you will find that it becomes easier to volunteer after that. So, thank you very much.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

So, I think we have a roving microphone somewhere that Silvia is going to be running around with. If any of you have questions about the At-Large community, about how RALOs work, how the ALAC works, what the difference is, we can keep talking forever, but we'd really like to know what your perspective is, your interests are, and if we can answer any questions. So, feel free to raise your hand and don't be shy. Uh oh, this is a shy group of fellows. Who? Oh yeah, go ahead.

LILY EDINAM BOTSJOE:

Hi everyone, my name is Lily Edinam Botsyoe for the record, and I'm an ICANN81 fellow, and formerly a NextGen. So, I love to hear that there are people who transitioned and currently in ALAC. So, thanks for sharing about all the work that you do. And my question goes to first Alejandra, and then to the whole group. Just out of curiosity, how many RALOs can people join? I'm Ghanaian, I live in North America right now. There is the African group, there is the North American one. What does it look like?

That's the first one. The second question is, I remember she mentioned how she wanted to, it was her, or somebody who spoke, wanted to work in the security space, but found her way in ALAC. And how is it going?

Are you still able to pursue your interests in security in ICANN here at ALAC? So just to make sure about that. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: You want to answer that question? Is that why you have your--?

HADIA ELMINIAWI: After. This is Hadia for the record. I would just note that I'm also an SSAC member. So, if your passion is with security, that does not mean that you need only to be there. So, I am the AFRALO chair, but at the same time an SSAC member as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So, for those who, we didn't have SSAC meeting yet, so this is the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, from whom we'll hear tomorrow.

JONATHAN ZUCK: And I would advise joining one RALO, potentially, if you're looking to make a choice. You can be engaged in a lot of ways within the At-Large community, even without joining a RALO. We have policy calls, we have calls that are related to finance and budget, and sort of how the multi-stakeholder model itself works. And both of those calls happen weekly and are open really to anyone. So, I mean, you don't need to have a formal joining of anything to sit in on calls, to be joined mailing lists, et cetera, within the At-Large. But I would recommend joining a particular

RALO rather than trying to join more than one. Yeah, but join something.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If I may ask, you share the process. So, there is an At-Large website, specific At-Large website for those who are not aware and would like to know more about At-Large. I will share this website in the chat space as well. But if you do a Google, definitely do ICANN At-Large, you will find it. There is a way of applying to become an At-Large structure. So, there is an application process. You may choose, like, for example, Lily, she's based in North America, but she's from Africa originally. She can become an individual member in North America or in Africa or in both. It doesn't keep her limited to integrate and invest her time in this. But there is a way of applications to apply if you decide to apply and be part of At-Large.

If you can help the newcomers to talk about a bit the process in At-Large, that would be much beneficial as well. So, the process of becoming a part of At-Large, to become a member of At-Large, to become a member of RALO. This is very key for them to understand because they hear the experience, but they don't understand how it comes that these people found themselves to be a part of At-Large. And what is actually At-Large doing? So, for the newcomer, for whom this is the first ICANN meeting, to find out, okay, I am end-user, but why At-Large? Why should I be At-Large?

PARI ESFANDIARI:

Before talking about At-Large, I will not share my experience. I joined At-Large directly, but I do believe that there are many routes to the same destination. So, what matters really, there's a lot of work here, huge amount of work. But if you really believe in open, free internet, stay around and you will find your way somehow. But the important thing is to really believe in something and then fight for it. And that's really I recommend it because you will find your own way. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Yes. So, that was a compound question there. I mean, and why At-Large? I hope we've covered that in terms of how it varies, but don't worry about having a membership card. You can just come start being on calls. You can start making your voice heard. I mean, there isn't a price of entry into At-Large discussions. So, you can start just by participating. What's your question?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

Can you hear me good? Okay. Thank you so much. This is [inaudible 00:50:36] for the record. So, I am technically an expired ICANN fellow. I know Siranush will kill me for saying that. So, I'm an ICANN73 and 77 fellow. So my question is, I'm curious to know is that if there has been any research by ICANN or the At-Large community on the diversity of engagement, especially in the public comment section.

We know how extensive is the work of At-Large in making sure that we're engaging new geographies, age, new age groups, new sectors. How do you make sure that we're not getting input from the same

individuals over and over again? And a follow-up question, I know this is a very broad one, but if you could briefly talk about how emerging technology, especially artificial intelligence, will impact the work of ALAC, especially when it comes to advice development. Thank you so much.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Those are pretty expansive questions. The question about diversity is one that we are always grappling with. And in fact, the session just before this was about diversity and inclusion. And I think that's something that we're continuously working on. And you hear terms like continuous improvement, et cetera. One of the central issues is always about making sure that we have a diversity of inputs into the work that we do and in the positions that we take, both in terms of gender, age, region, and community.

So, that's something we endeavor to do. And as we begin down the road of these continuous improvement projects, we'll start to assign metrics associated with some of those goals as well. So, everything takes time to do, but those are front and center of the conversations that we have, for sure, because we're definitely trying to reach consensus positions on end user interests that are as broadly scaled as possible.

As far as the role of AI, it isn't something that we've talked about very much. So, all you would get is a personal opinion on that. I think one of the interesting things is ICANN has gone through a recent effort to try and make their website better, to make it easier to search, to make it

possible to subscribe to different areas of interest, to get notifications about different things, the way that the EU, for example, operates. And the irony of that effort is that more and more websites are moving toward training chatbots on the content of the archive of a particular organization.

And the archives of ICANN are extensive, right? You're talking about 30 years' worth of materials and white papers and things like that. And so, the irony may be that the best way to organize the ICANN website will be via a chatbot that helps you find the documents you're interested in that helps to summarize them. And so, that's happening at an organizational level, but it's not something we've tackled yet. And we're certainly not going to turn advice development over to an AI just yet.

Although I will say that probably the person that uses AI the most creatively and consistently within the At-large community is Eduardo. And so, if you want to talk about how he's made use of it and experimented with it in different aspects of the work that we do, I think he'd be happy to talk to you about how he's done that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

There is an online question, if I may. So, the question is from Gloria [inaudible – 00:54:30]. And she's asking, what is the process for being assigned a mentor within ICANN? So, I will start explaining the process for assigning a mentor for the Fellowship and NextGen program, and then we'll give you the floor to talk about the At-Large mentoring process.

So, the Fellowship program and the NextGen program, we issue the call for nominations to the ICANN community. And advisory committees and supporting organizations are nominating the mentors for both programs, with whom the programs are continue working for the one consecutive year. So, for three meetings. And from At-Large, we have Shreedeeep serving as a fellowship mentor, who is nominated, who is assigned, elected, selected by At-Large. So, the fellowship program itself and the NextGen program itself, we are not nominating any mentors. We are receiving those people, names, from the communities, and we work with them.

But At-Large has a specific mentoring program, and I will refer to Jonathan to talk about this, or maybe, I know in APRALO, when I was in APRALO, you had the mentoring program there. So, if you have a specific program continued till now, and can talk about this, but other than that, I don't have any information related to the mentoring program. And I hope that I responded to the question, at least, as far as I understand that was related to the Fellowship and NextGen mentoring process. So, we do not assign mentors to any person. We assign mentors to those who are selected to be fellow or selected to be a NextGen. Just to be much more specific on this. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

And I will say that we do not have a mentoring program, per se, at the At-Large level. So, we don't assign a mentor to you when you become part of the At-Large community. At the same time, there are many people that play a role of mentor to many, many people within the

community, and sometimes that's because of an area of interest, sometimes it's because of a regional association. And one of the people that probably has the longest list of mentees in the At-Large community is Cheryl Langdon-Orr, you see her hand up over there.

And not only does she mentor a great number of people, but also recruits other people to mentor people that might be appropriate for them and things. So, she does some good arm-twisting in the mentorship arena as well. So, I recommend everybody, when you get the chance, say hello to Cheryl and talk about that process. You should have a lot of fun at drinks now.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think we don't have time. It's already like one minute left for the session. But if you can wrap up. Eunice wanted to wrap up the question coming from already.

EUNICE PEREZ COELLO: Yes, thank you, I'm going to share my example. I joined LACRALO, the Latin America RALO, as an observer. I asked them to let me participate as an observer. I started joining the meetings, and as somebody said, in any area we are working, whether it's technical or security, you start participating, carrying out activities in the region, and this is what gets you increasingly involved. So, you begin to participate in several groups they have.

And besides, once you are a formal member, you have to be part of an ALS. When we say ALS, it may be the ISOC, the society, for example. You

start to participate representing a given group. And you participate actively, and you get involved, increasingly involved, and you may apply. If there are elections, you may apply to become a member, but what is important here is what you may contribute, your contribution to the community through actions, activities, and it may be security, UA, as a member of the academia. Look at all those areas. So as somebody said, it's a very wide scope, so you find a place where you'd like to fit in your region.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think we need to go for the Fellowship networking hour. This is the opportunity for At-Large colleagues to join us and to talk more. I would like to thank Jonathan for hosting us today. The NextGen, Fellows and the newcomers, they all joined us for this session to learn more about At-Large, but you have the opportunity to reach out to these people and talk to them during the Fellowship networking hour and during the week ahead. Thank you very much. With that, the meeting is adjourned.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thank you all for coming.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]