
ICANN82 | CF – Meet and Greet: Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Programs
Saturday, March 08, 2025 – 9:00 to 10:00 PST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Everybody, please take your seats. We are going to start shortly.

FERNANDA IUNES The session will now begin. Please start the recording. Thank you.
Hello and welcome to the meet and greet session for the Fellowship and NextGen at ICANN programs. My name is Fernanda Iunes and I am a Participation Manager for this session. 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 or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish.

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 a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Remember to speak at a reasonable pace. I'll now hand the floor over to Siranush.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Fernanda. Thank you. My name is Siranush Vardanyan. I am the Fellowship Program Manager at ICANN and I warmly welcome all Fellows and NextGeners who are here for their first ever ICANN meeting. And I also welcome back our returning Fellows who had been here before, but we have also some returning Alums who had never been in in-person ICANN meetings. So, some of them took virtual Fellowship as well.

So, for many of you, it's indeed the first ICANN meeting in person and I'm sure you will enjoy it. You will try to get as a lot of information as you can, as your mind can digest. But we, as we have discussed this also, we will have a very fruitful week here and today and tomorrow we'll be having a lot of information and a lot of people coming and talking to us. So, get ready for this. But before we go to some logistics and some discussions, I would like to introduce my team.

So, you all know where I am working, where the Fellowship Program fits in ICANN and the NextGen Program fits in ICANN. So, we are Public Responsibility Support Team and the Fellowship and NextGen, ICANN Learn are all on the Public Responsibility Support Team. And it's my pleasure to introduce my colleague, Fernanda Iunes, who is managing the NextGen Program and we are working hand to hand to make these both programs as productive as possible. And I also would like to introduce our boss, the person who is managing me and Fernanda here and guiding us, Ergys Ramaj. Can you say a couple of words to our participants?

ERGYS RAMAJ

Thanks, Siranush. Good morning, everyone. If anyone has ever dealt with Siranush and Fernanda, you know that no one manages them. So, they manage me. Welcome to ICANN. Good morning, or maybe it's good afternoon or good evening for some of you, depending on the time zone in which your body's in. One of the first transitions that or adjustments that we make at an ICANN meeting is actually the time zone. We're all in this together. So, hang in there just a couple more days. You'll feel better. Congratulations.

All of you know that these programs are highly competitive and you have absolutely deserved the right to be here. You've earned that privilege. So, the question then becomes what's next? I understand that most of you are newcomers and that is a big question to consider. Now you have your mentors. You work with them. You've had a few weeks to figure some things out, but now you're at an ICANN meeting. So, what is in here for you? Each journey is different, right?

Each one of you are going to have your own individual journeys, and there's no one that can tell you how to do that. You're the best person suited to understand everything that you need to know or how you need to know to ask the right questions. But what you all have in common is that you have a support cast in us as an organization, not just Fernanda and Siranush and myself, but everybody else. You're going to hear from the regional teams as well. They are all here to support you.

You have your badges that say newcomers, please use that wisely. That gives you access to everyone and anyone at an ICANN meeting. For those of you who are not aware, ICANN is a relatively flat structure. So, you could absolutely just reach out to anybody, whether it's the CEO in the hallway or Board members. That's something unlike most places I've ever been involved in, and that's a major power that I suggest and I encourage you to actually utilize. So, as you think over the course of the next few days, what's in it for you? How do you fit? Please reach out, ask questions. Everybody is available.

Again, newcomers, everybody loves to talk to a newcomer. So, with that, I am just going to hand it back, but I wish you a wonderful week. And if you have any questions, please do let us know. Thank you. And welcome to Seattle again.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Ergys. And yes, thank you. And trust me, what Ergys said about newcomers, I myself came to ICANN world as a fellow. It was like about 18 years ago, and I still feel myself as a newcomer because every single time you are coming to ICANN meeting, you learn something. And if you close here, you will not go further. We need to open our brain and start getting into as much as possible and definitely keep the time to digest everything.

So, as a newcomer, my point will be, don't feel frustrated if you see 1,700 participants who registered in person running on these three floors, three, five, and seven. Don't get frustrated. If you want to ask something, stop someone and ask your question. Don't feel

like ashamed or don't feel uncomfortable asking any question. Here, we are for learning. And if we don't ask, nobody will respond, right? And we will not learn. So, ask your questions. And we are definitely, me and Fernanda, are here for all of you.

And today's meeting, meet and greet session, is that the main purpose is to get to know the guys whom you will be working in your respective regions. So, I wanted you, everybody, know these people in person and take the opportunity of this one week of interaction, get to know them, talk to them, find out your regional people, the regional strategies, the priorities, and the ways how you can contribute to those strategies, okay? And we are in North America. We are in Seattle. And from whom I should start, definitely from the host.

So, I would like to introduce our team from North America, Vice President from North America, Naela Sarras. And I will give the floor to Naela to introduce her team and the rest.

NAELA SARRAS

Thank you, Siranush. And welcome, everybody. Every time I come to the ICANN meeting and I get to be a part of this meet and greet, and I see the program that Siranush and her team prepared for you, I honestly wish that staff that start work at ICANN actually go through this program. Because you guys get a wealth of information that takes us sometimes months, if not years, to find out being staff.

So, you're in a great position here, as Ergys and Siranush said. You have an excellent environment to meet the right people, be introduced to the right topics very, very quickly. And so, you're in a very excellent position here. People are jealous of you. And I'm really happy that you're here. This is wonderful. What you should know is that a lot of people talk a lot about newcomers. They talk about the NextGen. They talk about the fellows. And they say, how can we use these people? How can we integrate them into this? We don't want them to just come here and then forget about ICANN. And that's exactly the mission of what this team, the Global Stakeholder Engagement, is.

So I sit in the North America region. My name is Naela Sarras, which you'll see on the next slide when I introduce the team. And we're really a regional team, a global team distributed into regions. And I know you will meet the rest of the team a little bit later. I do want you to know the team. We will give you our email addresses. We'll show pictures here so that you do know who they are. And I want you to feel free to just email us, reach out to us. We have mailing lists. Please subscribe to our mailing lists.

And I'm specifically speaking to the NextGen because you guys are all from this being a North America region. You're in our region. We'll do as much as we can to try and meet you personally. The team will. And we'll come to your social this evening. We want you to come to our sessions that we point out to you through Fernanda and Siranush. So, please let us interact. Let us hear from you. Ask us questions. That's our job. That's what's here to do.

So, a little bit about the team. I said I was the vice president for the region. Then we also have, if it's okay, I'm going to ask my team to stand up, Joe Catapano. He's the Stakeholder Engagement Director for the North America region. And Joe also looks after Global Academia for ICANN, which is a really important region. And I know a lot of you come from academic backgrounds. So, get to know Joe. Joe has a lot of programs and a lot of plans, and he needs people for them.

We also have David Huberman. Yes, he's here. Hi, David. David works in the office of the CTO and as a Technical Engagement Director for the North America region. And David is a wealth of information on the technical engagement side. You'll see us do a lot of sessions, a lot of meetings, with David. So, get to know David. David will give you a lot of information and put you in the right direction on a number of things that go on inside ICANN.

Alex Dans is my colleague here. Alex is the Communications Director for The Americas. So, she's covering one big, huge reason. She's ever so present for North America, though. Alex will speak a little bit about what her team does, but we work very, very closely with Alex and her team to get all of our work done and communicated.

Giose McGinty is the Stakeholder Engagement Senior Specialist for North America and the LAC region as well. So, she's covering a big region. And Alex is doing a lot of the engagement work that we do. I'm sorry, Alex. Giose does a lot of the engagement work that we do. So, whenever we're putting together events, organizing things,

you'll hear a lot from Giose. And last but not least is Felipe Berhau. Felipe is the Communications Coordinator for The Americas. As you can see, the Americas work really well together in the context of ICANN. And Felipe is our very creative, very awesome communications person that we all love working with.

So, that's the team. Please, we're really looking forward to knowing you this week. So, stay up with us, meet us, talk to us, flag us, whatever you need to do. Before I end this, I do want to take a minute to acknowledge that it's Saturday. Most people are having a weekend, at least in our part of the world. But it's also International Women's Day. It's March 8th. So, I want to say happy International Women's Day to everybody here, really the men and the women.

And I want to acknowledge that you're taking personal time to be here. It's a great feat for some of us to even be here. So, let's remember that. Let's make sure we count. Our voices are heard. And I'm just so happy to see all of us here, men, women, whatever, however we identify as making this cause go further and work together. Thank you, everybody. So, I'll pass it on to Alex from here.

ALEX DANS

Thank you, Naela. So, as Naela said, we're the communication team for the entire continent. So, North America, but also Latin America and the Caribbean, Felipe and myself. You have there our emails if you want to get in touch with us. Felipe will be, you will see Felipe in many sessions because he's handling all our social

media. So, if you see him taking pictures, it's for social media. If you don't want to be in a picture, let him know. Because he will be in, I mean, the entire week in multiple sessions. So, ICANN is present in Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube. And on X, we have also different languages.

So, you can follow us in English, obviously, but in Spanish, we're very active, Portuguese, French, Arabic, Russian, Chinese. Facebook is a multilingual platform. So, we share in multiple languages there. And you have here a QR code that you can scan. This is also in the schedule, these slides, to register to the regional newsletter. So, every month we publish regional newsletters for every region. So, we have one for LAC, one for North America, one for Europe, Middle East, and Africa, and one for APAC.

So in that link, you can subscribe to your regional newsletter and the language that you prefer. And we also have a North America regional mailing list where we share announcements, alert activities that were involved. So, again, I encourage you to scan this QR code and register to that mailing list. So, we have other QR codes in the previous slide. So, we have the engagement calendar. Anyway, I know what we have there.

We have the engagement calendar on ICANN Org where you can follow all the events. You can search by your region, all the events that ICANN is participating or organizing. We also have there a link to ICANN for Beginners. This is a dedicated page with many resources for newcomers. And the other one that I suggest strongly is the acronyms and terms, because as you know, or you will know,

we have a lot of acronyms in ICANN. So this page is very useful, again, available in all ICANN languages.

This is, again, English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Chinese. During this meeting, it's always only to remind the hashtag that we use. It's hashtag ICANN82. So if you share your content there, we can feature that in our accounts. We can reshare. So I encourage you, again, to be active there and share anything you want in that, about the meeting with that hashtag. And I think that's it, really. And again, you have all these slides in the schedule, so you can scan the QR codes. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Alex. And thank you, Naela. Thank you, North America team, for your wonderful welcome. And looking forward to seeing you around during this week as well. And yes, indeed, Naela reminded me I was really busy with planning of the sessions. Happy Women's Day. This is an important day for all men, but not to show your love only for this day, but for the entire year ahead. So, Happy Women's Day.

I wanted to welcome special, give a special welcome to four fellows who are joining us virtually. They were facing some issues with visa. They were not able to come, but they are joining us virtually. So, it's much harder for them. We see each other here, but they are following us virtually. Let's welcome them. Let them feel as part of this group as well, because they will be joining to all of our sessions virtually. But at the same time, they will not have opportunity to

network here in person during social gatherings, during the break. So, much harder for them. So, a big welcome to them as well.

And just to give us statistics, a bit of statistics for all people here, we will have a group of 34 fellows, and four of them are virtual fellows. So, they will join us virtually, but we have 30 here in person. And we have out of this 34, we have 28 who had never been in ICANN. So, this is their first fellowship. 28 is a first-time fellow out of them, 22 had never been in ICANN before. So this is, they are completely new to this environment. And we have six alumni, six returning fellows who also are here to some kind of support the newcomers as well, because like recently they were newcomers themselves as well. And we have 11 NextGeners joining us. I would like NextGeners, where are you? Can you raise your hands? Yes, they are here. This line.

A special welcome to you, guys. We have six female and five males joining the students, the young generation who is joining us here. And it's a privilege for us and honor for us to welcome you here at ICANN82. So, please come here, learn, talk to us, introduce yourself. And I'm looking forward to the week of engagement with your group as well.

Now, let's move to our regional global stakeholder engagement teams. But before we move to them, there is one special group, two ladies, two beautiful ladies whom I would like to introduce to you. I would like to welcome our new Ombuds, Elizabeth Field. And she is here with her colleague. I would like you to say a couple of words

to our group and introduce also your team here. So, everybody knows whom to come and talk to in case of any questions, please.

ELIZABETH FIELD

Thanks, Siranush. This is Elizabeth Field or Liz, but you had me confused when you mentioned two beautiful ladies. So, I was really-- Anyway, now I know. So, I'm Liz. I'm the ICANN Ombuds. I'm joined by Linda Mainville, who is the adjunct Ombuds. So, we work together. I want to say welcome and echo kind of what everyone else is saying about what an amazing group this is. And it's so wonderful to see such dynamic participation and such a vibrant group in ICANN.

So my job as the ICANN Ombuds is to make sure that members of the community, you are treated fairly. And I report directly to the ICANN Board. I am independent, which means I work outside of the Board and outside of ICANN Org. I work on behalf of everyone. I think in addition to saying welcome, I also wanted to let you know that here in ICANN, you can expect to be treated fairly and with respect. And that is really critical for the learning that is really the emphasis of your time in the community. If you are not treated fairly with respect, I'm here to help.

So if you would like to come with a question or get advice or you have a concern or even a complaint, there is, I'm sure you're all familiar, there's the Anti-Harassment Policy and The Expected Standards of Behavior. And these are binding to everyone. They apply to everyone. And my job is to help make sure that everyone is treated fairly and well. So, if you would like to get in touch for

any reason, it does not have to be serious or a complaint. You may have a question or a concern, please come find me, come find Linda. We have an office here, which is room 704, or you can get in touch Ombuds@ICANN.org.

And if you would like to get in touch in French or Spanish, that's absolutely fine. We can work in those languages as well. So, this is a great community. Have a great meeting. And thank you so much. Okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Liz. And thank you for being here together with Linda. And yes, if you are not treated properly, you know whom to go and see.

ELIZABETH FIELD

Sorry, one other thing I think to mention, it's important. If you do come talk to me, it's confidential. So, I think that's very important to know that your identity is protected. Okay, thank you so much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

So, you don't need to tell me that you are going to talk to Ombuds. Okay, thank you. Thank you for being here, Liz and Linda. And I see the group of people who are next to North America and my favorite team here from Latin America and Caribbean. And I would like to introduce this group to you and give the floor to Vice President for LAC region, which is Latin America and Caribbean. A very favorite

fellow, who is now Vice President for the region, Rodrigo de la Parra.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Thank you, Siranush. And good morning, everybody. Yes. So, first of all, congratulations. And just making, doing some numbers. It's been 18 years already this year for this program. The first generation started as a Pilot back in 2007 in San Juan, in Puerto Rico. And I was one of the guinea pigs that started there. So, it's working, I think, yes. So, another thing that I wanted to highlight, and Siranush and Ergys mentioned this, ICANN meetings are very important for the work of the fellows. But this is not the only opportunity that you have to engage and do work for ICANN.

Now, they also mentioned you are starting a journey and you're starting it for the best place you can do. Because of all the privileges that they have highlighted, people will be coming to you. And this is kind of a complicated organization and the ecosystem. It can be really overwhelming. But this is a soft landing for you. So, we were all very lucky to start from here. But there is another set of activities that happen between ICANN meetings. And that's the work that we do in the different regions. And we have so many different good examples of engagements in the Latin American Caribbean regions.

Just wanted to highlight perhaps three of them. And since today is International Women's Day, I would like to highlight three amazing examples of women fellows from the Latin American Caribbean region. The first one, she was a fellow. She's still a fellow, but I'm

not sure if she's going to come now. Her name is Shanelle McPherson. She's from Jamaica. And she started listening about ICANN and participating in one of the regional events in the Caribbean. And she presented a slide deck on DNSSEC.

You will be learning about all these things soon enough. And then she realized, well, Jamaica hasn't deployed DNSSEC. I want to lead this. She was very young. She's still very young. And she helped us to get together an event in Jamaica. We have a series of events that we call road shows. Now it's called ICANN Near You. And we make four or five stops in different countries of the Latin American Caribbean region. And she helped us to lead this in Kingston in Jamaica. And it was an amazing event.

You should see in the newsletters that Alex just showed, we have some excellent stories. And she actually helped us a lot. She got the four main ISPs in Jamaica, sitting on the same table. She was leading all these efforts and said, well, I wanted this to happen. And after a year of preparations, we finally landed on that. So, Shanelle, amazing.

The other one I wanted to share is our friend Eunice from Mexico. Eunice, she's now an ALAC member. She started as a fellow. But we've been lacing with her for activities and then a fellow. She's now in ALAC, another acronym. Sorry about that. You will get used to them. But it's the ALAC Advisory Committee, where the interest of end users is being taken care of.

And with all of this, she managed also, because she's also a teacher in Merida, in Mexico, in a university. And with her, we managed to

get students about 30 or 40 students from Merida to Cancun to go to the Cancun meeting. And now she's leading our efforts in Mexico for Universal Acceptance in that university. So, amazing, Eunice, as well. And we have so many. Sorry if I'm forgetting some of them. But the other one we can mention is Tamara.

Tamara, a fellow and probably a NextGen as well. I cannot remember. But only remember her as a fellow. And with Tamara Silverstein, she works for the ccTLD in Argentina, the OTR. And we managed to get a full program, a full year program of Capacity Development training for the ccTLD. And we concluded happily last year. And so, so many good examples. Of course, we have people from, I recognize in this room, Federica from LACTLD. And of course, Jenifer for the .PA. She's a mentor. And for LACTLD, she's one of our greatest partners. Rocio, the general manager of LACTLD. She's also here. Many others.

So congratulations to all of the women that are here and those that have been very helpful to our activities and engagement in the Latin American Caribbean region. Sorry for taking so much more of your time. And I can introduce my team here. We have Daniel Fink, who is our Director for Stakeholder Engagement. And he lives in Brazil. And Rodrigo Saucedo in Bolivia, taking care of the Andean region. You want them to?

DANIEL FINK

Yeah.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Okay.

DANIEL FINK

Thank you, Rodrigo. So, my name is Daniel. I work from Brazil. I am one of the few ICANN staff who are based and should be in charge of one country. So, this is my role. I also help around Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, whenever is necessary. So, it's a pleasure to meet you all. Can I do my old joke? Yeah. It's getting old, yeah. I'm sorry for those who listen. But everybody I call boss in ICANN; they were fellow before. And I didn't have this privilege. So, I have a lot of respect. And you have a big responsibility. Congratulations for all of your fellows. Thank you. Welcome to ICANN.

RODRIGO SAUCEDO

Hello. Good morning, everyone. My name is Rodrigo. I am the Director for the Andean region. I am based in La Paz, Bolivia. I've been with ICANN for 12 years now. And something that I think I'm going to repeat and you're going to hear a lot of this week is that this program, it is amazing. I was a three-time fellow. And after that, I was able to join ICANN. And it's a great, like Rodrigo said, it's a soft landing. It's an opportunity where you not only understand the ecosystem, how ICANN works, but to meet people. I think that's the most important thing that you are given to come here at an ICANN meeting. So, anyone interested in learning a little bit more on our activities in the LAC region, you can stop us and we will be more than happy to talk. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

And we also have Albert Daniels, who is managing the Caribbean part from ICANN. And he was my mentor. We were together fellows by the time it was ICANN 30th. So, he was my mentor. And now he's managing the LAC region. So, thank you, Latin America and Caribbean. And actually, when we are talking about the people who are coming through the program, I just want to bring this to attention of our NextGeners. So, fellowship is your next natural step to get engaged. So, we have more than 60 NextGeners who came here for their first ever ICANN meeting, but they were passionate to continue their learning.

So, they applied to the fellowship program or even do not go through the fellowship program itself, but directly became well-established community members. So, you are here also. We're looking at you as our future potential community leaders here. So, just keep in mind that this is coming to you as well. Okay. Let me go to my Asia-Pacific colleagues. I see them there. Yien?

YIEN CHYN TAN

Okay, I'm going to go to the front so that your necks are not like constantly turned. Sorry. And by the way, I don't usually sound like that. I'm still down with a little bit of a cold. So, anyway, my name is Yien Chyn. I'm from the APAC regional office. So for APAC, unfortunately, both our regional VPs are not here today. The Asia regional VP, Samiran Gupta, has some visa delays, so he can't be

here this time. But me and my colleague, Jian-Chuan, sitting back there, will be representing the APAC office.

And then, for Save Vocea, he is the Oceania regional VP. His flight was delayed a little bit due to the cyclone, but he will be here, I think, Monday onwards. So, for those Oceania folks, you'll be able to touch base with him. Yes, sorry, yeah. So, congratulations again to all fellows. And then, for the APAC folks, especially, please feel free to reach out to me and Jian-Chuan.

Again, as mentioned, our team is split to cover the very big region by sub-regions. So, me and Jian-Chuan, we both predominantly cover Southeast Asia and East Asia. We have another colleague called Yash, who covers South Asia. And then, we have another colleague, Athena, who's also covering Southeast Asia and East Asia. So, you don't need to remember the split because it's complex.

So, just come to any of us and we'll direct you to the correct colleague to help you. But of course, at the regional level, we do have a lot of activities and initiatives to try to bring you on board as well because this is really just your first step into the ICANN world. After this amazing program, you'll be like, okay, how do I join? Where do I join? Some events are like so far global somewhere else. So, it's difficult, right?

So, maybe you might want to start with in case, I mean, if there's no conflict in your scheduling, we do have the APAC space on Tuesday morning at 9:00. So, if you do not have any mandatory sessions for fellows or NextGen, please feel free to join us there.

And then also, we do try to, as a team, try to help fellows and NextGen to integrate better. So, for instance, at the APAC DNS Forum happening in May in Hanoi, if you can join us on site, of course, we welcome you. But if you can't, do join us virtually as well. But we do try to do sessions.

So, we do have a session for just building next generation leaders. So, we do have like a few fellows and NextGen on the panel speaking as well. So, we are hoping to really build the next generation leaders into the stage, onto the stage, taking up community leaders' position as well. So, that's about it. In case you have any questions or comments, please feel free to raise your hand. But sorry, I just wanted to check, Jenifer, do you have anything to add?

JENIFER LÓPEZ

No?

YIEN CHYN TAN

All right. So, thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Yien. And when Yien was speaking, she reminded me that we have interpretation here. So, I came here and I saw the signs here. So, all our sessions, which we will be holding today and tomorrow, will have interpretation in English, French, and Spanish. Today, the entire day, we will be here in this room, except the last

session with At-Large, we will be going to seven floors. But all the rooms, when you enter, there are headsets.

So if you want to speak in language other than English, in particular French or Spanish, feel free to do it. We are multicultural, multi-language environment. So, please feel free to use your own language as well. Okay. And I would like to give the floor to continue with Asia-Pacific. I'm coming to Middle East part and introduce Vice President for Middle East region and the head of our Istanbul office, Baher Esmat.

BAHER ESMAT

Thank you. Thank you, Siranush. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to ICANN. I'm Baher Esmat. I'm with the Middle East Engagement Team and I also head the Regional Office for Middle East and Africa based in Istanbul. So like, or maybe unlike most of you, I was not privileged to be part of the fellowship program. I joined ICANN before the program was introduced, but I never missed the chance to engage and connect with the fellows, whether at ICANN meetings or the fellows from my region. We do a lot of engagement activities and we've done a lot of activities together over the years. And like my colleagues said, I think the ICANN meeting for you offers a great opportunity to learn about new topics and new issues that sort of shape the evolution of the internet.

It also offers an opportunity for networking with many different people coming from different fields and disciplines. One way or the other related to the internet, related to the naming and numbering

systems. So, try to grasp this opportunity and make the most out of it this week. Connect, ask questions. Do not try to ask questions. Also, feel free to reach out to us. Siranush knows how to get a hold of us and we're here to help you, to support you and to answer any questions you may have. So, welcome again and hope to see you again during the week. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Baher. I don't see my colleagues here from Africa because Pierre was planning to be here, but seems like he is late. His flight is late, but you will be able to see him during the week. I would like to go to the region which will be our next host. So, Europe and Adam Peake, is here.

ADAM PEAKE

Thank you. Thank you, Siranush, Adam Peake. I work in the GSE Europe region and, yes, we'll be welcoming you in June to Prague for ICANN83. At least, I hope, welcoming some or many of you. Much the same as the other regions, similar structures. VP for Europe and Managing Director of the Brussels region or the European region, Chris Mondini is here in Seattle, but I don't see him in the room. He's probably working on the Applicant Support Program and Next Round. He's leading the engagement on that. So, you will see Chris at those meetings.

I guess at the beginning said that you really have earned your place here and I have. It's quite fun occasionally looking through all the applications for fellowships and there are many, many of them. It's

very, very competitive and it's great to start seeing faces of people that you saw on paper and thought, yeah, that's an interesting person. I hope they get on in ICANN. So, I hope you get on in ICANN. If we can help you, that's what we're to do. Guide you around the meetings or guide you after your experience at the meeting.

We have a sort of thing in Europe where if one of you, and it doesn't have to be from the European Union, but European region, sorry. But if one of you would like to hold a webinar or a seminar of some kind on a topic, if you deliver us 15 or 20 people, then we will try to give you that webinar, that instruction. And it could be on something like DNSSEC, as Rodrigo mentioned, or Applicant Support Programs or any topic that's related to ICANN. If you give us the audience, we will try and deliver the content for you and your colleagues and friends to enjoy. So, thank you.

As I should just say that Europe is more than the European Union. If you want to understand the membership of it, have a look at the Council of Europe. We're beyond the Union itself. We spread quite broadly. So, thank you very much. Welcome.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Adam. Thank you very much. We have several colleagues here, but you will hear them during today or tomorrow for different presentations. So, I will introduce them later during the sessions. But for now, I would like to name a special group of people whom I would like to thank. This is our NextGen and Fellowship Program mentors. If you can stand up, please. Mentors? Yes. And we have several fellow mentors who are on their

way to come here. I would like to give a special thank you to you guys.

For two months after we announced the names of those selected, you are the people who worked with this group of newcomers. You took the hardest part to explain why they are coming to ICANN. And due to your hard work, these people are coming to their first meeting, first ever meeting, ready to learn and ready to know what to learn. So, thank you very much. And I'm looking forward to the week of work with your teams. Your work is not done yet. But I would like to mention that these guys are nominated or selected by their respective communities here.

So, this is not the Fellowship or NextGen Program who are selecting them. They are nominated by their respective communities. They represent their communities. But they are our, as I said, not generalized people who know everything here. And if they don't know everything, they know someone who knows whatever you need. So, use their capacity. Yes, Oloyede is here as well. So, use their capacity. They are unique, capable people whom you're lucky to have as mentors. At my time, we didn't have mentors.

So, when I went to Albert, it was my own just initiative to go and find out someone to help me. But yes, use their capacity. And I also would like to mention Alfredo, who was, who actually together with Naveed, who is now a NextGen mentor, these two guys initiated these mentoring guidelines. This guy was the one who drafted the first one, the first draft of this mentoring. So based on these guidelines, we now follow the way how to work, how to learn. And

we need also your feedback, how we can improve. Both programs are evolving programs. And we are seeking your feedback, how we can improve, how we can do it better next time.

What if the next time another newcomer come, based on your experience, what we have to change that that newcomer feels much better than you felt, maybe. So give us your feedback and you will have the opportunity to give your feedback in your reports, in your post-meeting reports, which we will be talking about during our last wrap-up session.

So for now, just giving ahead what to expect during this coming week. Today and tomorrow, we are going to find out what is ICANN. So, get to know ICANN community and how it works. We will learn about technical way of how ICANN works and policy processes here. We will also learn about this multi-stakeholder model. So, who this like At-Large community, business community, security and stability community, what is this IPC, ISPCP, GNSO, this all the words these people are talking about, which is nonsense for you for now, but I hope and I'm sure by the end of tomorrow you will start using those acronyms as if you were here like a couple of times.

So, I think you will not feel tired and I will make all the efforts you do not feel tired during the day. Try to use coffee breaks here. Definitely go there, take some coffee. Coffee might not help, but take the coffee, take some food and be here on time. I love being people on time because with that we will respect also our presenters. They will be coming here for 30 minutes each and some

of them for one hour slot, but we need to be here and we will be like doing like this, changing one group to another.

So we are looking for your interaction, ask questions. If you don't understand anything, raise your hand, take the mic, say your name because when you say your name and you start saying your name every single time when you use the microphone, people are starting to learn your name. So, they start to identify you as a part of this community and by the time whenever someone says a name, everybody already knows, oh okay, I knew this name, I heard this name.

So every time you take the mic, state your name, try to speak at a reasonable pace because our interpreters always have trouble to properly interpret if you speak very quickly. All of us, English is for many of us is not a native language, so we all speak in our own languages, but English is some kind of connecting us to some way, but everybody speaks with some accent, with some words we use. So try to pronounce the words clearly, state your name clearly because we don't want that there is some inaudible something. We don't want this, right?

So start to get used to this and these two days will be really very intensive sessions, six hours for six full sessions, like blocks as we say, but today in the evening, we also have the Fellowship Networking Social, Fellowship and NextGen Social. This is the opportunity for the community come to you and have like drink, have fun and the opportunity for you to introduce yourselves.

I hope you have your business cards or you have your name tags. All of you will get this type of thing saying, I can fellow and I can NextGen. We still are waiting for some of them to come, but you will get it. So, whenever you go, you just show I can NextGen, I can fellow and feel free to ask whatever question you want. This community is very welcoming and you will see this during this one week of interaction. People love talking, especially talking to newcomers.

So, trying to and if you want, but during this week, if you want to meet someone whom you think that might be helpful for your network expansion, talk to your mentor, talk to me, talk to Fernanda. We are here to give as much as possible during this week when you are here and those who joining us virtually, you can definitely do all of this thing virtually. So, send us email, join the sessions, ask the questions. We will make sure that all the questions from remote participants will be said loudly here as well.

So, let's open our minds for the learning. For these two days, it will be a bit harder, but then it will help you for the rest four days to see this community in action. So, these people will be coming from the community explaining what they are doing, how you can get engaged, what they do actually, how they behave, how they work, but then you will have the opportunity to go actually to them and see how they work in reality.

So, you can go open the door, go to the sessions and my recommendation here, don't get stuck with one sector, like as if you are an End-User and you just want to learn about At-Large,

don't stuck with At-Large only. Go to GAC sessions, which is the Government Advisory Committee, go to the business community, go to the GNSO, which is the Generic Name Supporting Organization who is dealing with the policy work here. So, try to learn as much as possible.

Tuesday is the constituency day. This is the day where each community holds their sessions. So ccNSO, which is the Country Code Name Supporting Organization is doing their own sessions At-Large/GAC. So, everybody is holding their own procedural sessions. Go and find out more about the communities you want to learn more or get engaged and ask questions, get engaged, okay?

So we usually say this way, you can be selected, you can attend a meeting, but you may not participate. So, please participate because your participation matters to ICANN community, your voice matters to ICANN community and that's why these programs, fellowship and NextGen are very important for us to bring new friends, new blood, new voices, new faces to this community. And you should feel proud as you are becoming a part of Global Internet Ecosystem. So, make your voice heard, participate and let's enjoy this week together. And our team again will be here to help you with. With that, I wish all of us a good luck for the week ahead and enjoy some break and see you at 10:30 back here in this room. Thank you. This meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]