
ICANN82 | CF – How it Works: ICANN Policy
Saturday, March 08, 2025 – 13:15 to 14:30 PST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Okay, welcome back to our next session, during which we will cover the policy aspect of how ICANN works and how ICANN community develop the policies, provide recommendations, who is doing what, and this is an important component for ICANN activities. And I'm happy to introduce you our colleagues from policy team, Carlos Reyes and Ozan Sahin. And they know almost everything about how it works. So I will, without further ado, give the floor to Carlos to start. Carlos.

CARLOS REYES

Thanks, Siranush. Keyword was almost, almost everything. It's good to see you all. Thanks for having us. Ozan and I always enjoy speaking with this group at every meeting, so we look forward to it. What we'll do to start off, just to give you an overview of how we plan to approach our time together, I'll ask you questions first. So like, what questions do you already have on your mind about policy, so that we can get sort of the raw, unfiltered perspectives before we dive into the content of our slides.

So we'll start off with your questions, maybe what you know already, what you don't know already, things you've read, things you've heard, things you've observed here so far since we started the meeting. And then Ozan will walk us through the policy

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development process for one of our supporting organizations. And then I'll talk a little bit more about the advice side of the advisory committees. But throughout our speaking points, feel free to ask questions. So like I said, we'll take initial questions just so that we know to address those points in our remarks, but then if something comes up, feel free to ask.

So why don't we get started? What early questions do you have? Obviously, you had orientation materials before you arrived here, ICANN-learn courses, etc., but are there any points now that you would like us to note so that we can highlight those in our remarks? So yes, please introduce yourself with your name, and let's get started.

WYATT JEROME

All right, thank you guys for joining us today. My name is Wyatt, and my question was, how do you go about incorporating ICANN's research into policy development, and what are some of the challenges in incorporating research into policy? Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

Thanks. Yes, go ahead.

IULIA-MELISSA GIT

Hi, my name is Iulia Git, I'm a first-time fellow. And I was wondering how newcomers can get involved in policy development. I mean, I know the general ways of working of the policy development

process at ICANN, but I just want to know how can we, I mean, what is our role as newcomers? Thanks.

CARLOS REYES

Excellent. Yes.

SAIMA NISAR

Hi, this is Saima, and I'm an ICANN fellow, first time here. Actually, I want to know about the ICANN policy. Like, I was a part of the CPWG, but it was so complicated, I'm not able to understand anything, so excuse me.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Can you tell us what is CPWG for others to know as well?

SAIMA NISAR

It's a working group on the policies related to, like, when we have a policy in some year, like the government agencies to go there, and somebody who's representing their government. And whatever they have discussed, they come back to the CPWG and give their perspective, what they have discussed. So, as an end user, what is your point of view? Are you going to agree on that or not? This is what my understanding, and that's my question.

I have joined in between, like, it's been one year since I'm following these meetings, but due to time zone, it's very difficult to attend all meetings. So, if somebody who wants to join some policy, so first thing is to understand how it works, and it's going on in a very deep

discussion as a newcomer or somebody who just joined, not able to understand everything. So, it's not privileged for everybody to attend the meetings to get this information. Online, it's very difficult to communicate and understand. So, I really want to know how to be more flexible and more understandable, these kind of things. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

Thank you.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

All right. Thank you very much. My name is Miracle. I'm a Next-Genner. I mean, I have a couple of questions. I mean, I remember going through the materials, and I know that there are, like, five different bodies. There's the ASO, there's the GNSO, there are all of these bodies that make recommendations, and I love the way it's cascaded all the way to the top, and you guys spent some time in designing the diagrams and all of that, but I sort of felt like the materials were also too-- I'm sure it's not as perfect as it was portrayed there. There are rancors, there are problems.

I've joined a couple sessions. People have different opinions, and I'm curious to know how you are able to sidestep all of that to come up with a concretized policy at the end of the day. So, how do you really manage stakeholders, different interests, different levels of exposure across all of these different bodies? It just feels like a lot

going on at the same time, and I'm curious to see how it's not a madhouse. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

Thank you. There's a question over here.

SHREYA SHIVAKUMAR

Hi, my name is Shreya Shivakumar. I'm in the NextGen program as well. My question was very similar. I was wondering what are the challenges and opportunities of incorporating the interests of multiple stakeholders in ICANN's policy development process?

CARLOS REYES

Thanks. Go ahead.

MOHAMMAD ATIF

Okay, hello. My name is Mohammad Atif, and I'm an ICANN fellow. So, my question was that how does ICANN policy take into consideration the inputs from other groups? So, for example, in the previous research group or the committee that had, so they were briefing us about the research artifacts they have. So, I was curious whether those artifacts are being leveraged by ICANN policy working group as well, and in what capacity do you cross-train different constituencies like business interest groups or other groups that are there? Do you have monthly or scheduled cadence meetings with them, or how does that process go through? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

There is one more question from remote participants. Seth, who is ICANN82 fellow participating virtually, why is GNSO the only supporting organization responsible for the policy development? So, we will cover this. But before we go to Carlos to start talking about policy, I would like to give the floor to John Crane, who will cover CPWG working group aspect of it.

JOHN CRANE

Thank you, I think. So, apart from being an engineer, how many people in here are-- I'll go and sit at the front. So, apart from being an engineer, I spend a lot of time in the policy realm. How many people in here are engineers? All right, you are the righteous people. You are my people. The rest of you are cool too, but the engineers are my people.

So, CPWG, if that was the first working group you were trying to follow, you were very brave. Because the CPWG is actually an amalgamation of a whole bunch of different working groups within what we call the At-Large community, which is the community that represents end-user views. So, to actually explain all the elements of it would take me all day. So if you're actually interested in that specific working group, come talk to me. We can introduce you to the At-Large folks, and they can help you through it. But it is probably one of the most complex working groups we have because it's merged so many different issues all together. And you picked a really interesting place to start. And for those who don't

know me, I'm ICANN's Chief Technical Officer, so don't ask me about policy stuff.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, John. Carlos, back to you.

CARLOS REYES

Thanks, John. Thanks, Siranush. Final call for questions to get us started? All right. These are great questions. We'll cover most of them in what we have outlined just to present to you. Everything from research, newcomers, actually defining what policy is, and then how to manage interests and stakeholders. So, feel free to ask any clarifying questions. But for now, let's go ahead and get started. I think Ozan will kick us off.

OZAN SAHIN

Thanks, Carlos. Hello, everyone. My name is Ozan. I've been with the ICANN Policy Team for over 10 years, and I'm based in Izmir, Turkey. Today, we will present these slides and try to address your questions and talk about the policy and advice development.

So, starting with this, with the overview of ICANN, you may be familiar with this diagram. There are three components. We have the ICANN community, which develops the policies and provides advice. And then we have the ICANN Board, which reviews these policies or recommendations submitted and then considers them. And then if they are adopted by the ICANN Board, we have the ICANN organization to implement these recommendations. And

there is also a connection between the organization and community. The ICANN organization also supports these policy and advice development activities of the ICANN community.

So, that's what we do in the policy development support team. We schedule meetings, facilitate these meetings, take action items, draft papers in the community's policy development and advice development work, and basically support their policy and advice development work.

And then there was a question about the supporting organizations and development of policies. So, we have three supporting organizations. One is the address supporting organization that handles the global policy development for IP addresses. And then we have generic name supporting organization, which deals with the policy development for generic top-level domains. And the country code name supporting organization is interested in country code top-level domains.

On the other hand, we have four advisory committees that provide advice to the ICANN Board and the ICANN community. And we have the governmental advisory committee, which has representatives from the governments and international organizations. We have root server operators in the root server system advisory committee. And we have in the security and stability advisory committee, we have the internet security experts. And the place for the internet end users is the At-Large advisory committee.

So, going back to the supporting organizations, GNSO is actually not the only supporting organization that develops policies. We

have three of them. And the address supporting organization has an address Council, which oversees the global policy development process for the number resources. And the address Council is composed of 15 members. So, there are five regional internet registries, and there are three members from each of these regional internet registries or RIRs in the ASO address Council. And then in the ccNSO, we have the ccNSO Council and the ccNSO members that work on the global policies relating to top-level domain name, just like .br for Brazil, .uk for United Kingdom.

And the GNSO may be the busiest of these three with the policy development processes that are going on. And the GNSO Council is composed of 21 members. So, there are actually two houses in the Council. One is the contracted parties, like the registries or registrars, and we have also non-contracted parties. And they are further divided into several groups within the non-contracted parties. And these groups all work on the generic top-level domain name policies.

CARLOS REYES

So just to pause here, hopefully this helps address your question about what is ICANN policy, right? So, there are three different distinct areas where ICANN has a policy mission. Number of resources, country code top-level domains, and generic top-level domains. So, any sort of policy that the ICANN community is formulating would be related to those areas. And then there was the other question that Ozan addressed about the GNSO being the only supporting organization that develops policy. So, that's not

accurate. There's three supporting organizations, and they each have their own policy mission. Yes, go ahead.

SAIMA NISAR

Thank you. I have a question regarding ASO. As you mentioned, they have 15 volunteers from three different RIs. So, anybody can join this? I mean, all these three groups?

CARLOS REYES

Good question. So, each supporting organization has different membership requirements. In the case of the ASO, two of the three are elected by the communities of the regional internet registries. So, you would have to announce yourself as a candidate within the regional internet registry, and then that community would vote. So, that's how the elections happen to the address Council. The third seat is appointed by the Board of every RIR. Go ahead.

SAIMA NISAR

Thank you. So, as a first timer, or the new user, I mean, the person who just introduced to the policy, what do you suggest? How we can interact, or how we can join this?

CARLOS REYES

I think ultimately, it should be driven by what you're interested in, right? If you're interested in ccTLD policy, then you'd probably want to get involved in ccNSO working groups, where you interact with the ccTLD members who are part of the ccNSO. So, I think

orienting your participation based on where you have interest, and where you want to have impact is the best way to go about it.

We could spend a whole session talking about the membership process for every group. That's not what we're going to do today, but at the end, after you listen to what Ozan, John, and I will be presenting, and if you have a better understanding of where you might want to get involved, we can help direct you to the right team. Thanks for that.

OZAN SAHIN

So, let's now look at the GNSO policy development process closer and review the-- well, I think I double-clicked. As I said, GNSO Council is composed of 21 members, and they have two houses. So, we already covered this. And in the GNSO policy development process, we have several steps that the process follows.

So, the first step in this would be identification of the issue. And on this slide and on the following slide, you see some speaker icons on the side of the slide. So, this indicates where ICANN community outside of the GNSO community can be involved in the process. So, it's not only limited to the GNSO community in developing this process, policy development process. And in the first step, as you can see, it's the GNSO Council, ICANN Board. or an advisory committee that identifies the issue. So, it's not only the GNSO Council there. And then after that identification of the issue, it comes to the attention of the GNSO Council and the Council if the

issue will result in a consensus policy. And we will talk about consensus policy in a few minutes.

In the second step, you see the scoping of the issue. And if the GNSO Council thinks that the issue will result in a consensus policy, then the Council requests a preliminary issue report. And the support staff publishes this preliminary issue report. And you have another speaker icon there because we have a public comment period about this issue report. And the public comment process is where you can speak and submit your comments about the report and bring it to the attention of the GNSO Council. And after the public comments are received, the GNSO Council reviews them and a final issue report is submitted for the GNSO Council's consideration.

In the third step, we see the initiation of the policy development process. So, if the final issue report is considered by the GNSO Council and the Council decides to initiate a policy development process, then a charter is developed. And then, there will be a call for volunteers to form the policy development process working group. So, based on the issue, the GNSO Council may decide to open it up to groups that are outside of GNSO and may decide to form this working group in this way.

CARLOS REYES

So, I'll pause here because I think this is an opportunity for us to address the research question. And Ozan talked a little bit about the scoping phase. And this is important because you don't want to allocate volunteer resources, community resources, staff

resources to an issue that isn't really within scope. And I always like to use the sort of analogy of like a restaurant. If you think of each supporting organization as a type of restaurant, let's say the GNSO is an Italian restaurant. You're not going to go to the GNSO and order sushi. I mean, you can try. It probably won't be very good. Same here. If you went to the GNSO and tried to propose internet number resource policy or country code top-level domain policy, the GNSO would say, no, that's not within scope. Go to the right venue for that policy.

So, the scoping phase is important. And one of the steps in that phase is scanning the community, scanning the industry to find out what already exists. What are the questions out there about this particular issue? Have there been previous attempts to fix this through policy?

And the policy staff will be part of that in terms of the issue report. And some of the research the policy team may identify could be written by John's team. So, I'll let John talk a little bit about some of the research that his team leads. John.

JOHN CRANE

So, let's see if that's working. Okay. So, I'll couple this with another question that was asked. And that was, why is it so messy? Why is policy development so messy? It's kind of by design in some ways.

Now, ICANN's policy processes didn't appear overnight. The policy process you see today is not the same policy process we had 25 years ago. One of the things we need to do to cut down on the

messiness is having informed discussion. So, if you are dealing with policy, you need to know, what's the scope of the policy? Are we in the right place? Are we having the conversation in the right room? Did things happen in the past that will inform this discussion? And do we actually understand the topic?

So, a lot of the things that we deal with at ICANN are very complex. Now, my group, who you saw earlier today, we're technologists. So, the kind of research that we may do may be around something happening in the technology sphere or maybe in the data science sphere. So, if we think about a, I'd call it a topic du jour, but it's more like a topic for the last 30 years. Something we call DNS abuse. How the DNS is misused by bad people to affect end users. You actually need to understand how they do that. You need to understand what kind of uses and misuses of DNS abuse are possible and can they be affected by policy? And then you need to be able to measure when you change your policy whether it is actually effective.

So, we do a lot of research around things like that, actually trying to measure the reputation of the domain name system and the names within it. We recently had a third-party release, a piece of research on a project we called InThermal, which is basically using inferential data to decide what drives the behaviors of criminals. And how they then use the identifier systems, which are in scope for ICANN. So, we're talking about the identifier systems. We're talking about domain names. So, we've got the scope.

And then we can talk about all the different policies we've done over time and how they've affected the behaviors. And we can do research using data science to figure out what kind of things drive people and see whether we can do policy changes, we being the community, to affect that. And we do a lot of research in this area, not just DNS abuse.

Other interesting questions are not a deep policy discussion, but more of an operational discussion about what kind of cryptographic algorithms will we be using for the ecosystem to keep it secure. We have a couple of papers out there on quantum cryptography and the status of quantum cryptography. And you might think, well, what's that got to do with ICANN? And the answer is, well, if we don't understand the technology, how can we set an operational or a policy decision about how we're going to do signing of the DNS, DNSSEC?

So the question was really about how do we interplay with the policy when we do this? We don't do monthly meetings where the policy folks and the technologists get together. What we do is we do things like publish white papers, hold seminars, gather the related people from both the policy and the technology side together to have discussions and come to places like this and let you ask questions so we can see if we can answer the question.

So the research elements, the whole purpose, if you like, of my group, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, is to use research and data to inform policy so that we can have informed policy and hopefully less messy policy. But policymaking in a multi-

stakeholder environment will always be messy. It's an undocumented feature. It is not a bug.

CARLOS REYES

Thanks, John. Oh, sure.

ROLLA HAMZA

I have a question. Thank you. How long it takes to develop the GNSO PDP phase, how it takes, the process, how long it takes? Is this a timeline or something? Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

Oh, this is where we get some criticism about the feature of policy being messy. So, because it's deliberately designed to include all of these interests and stakeholders and voices, these steps don't really take that long. But when you get everyone around the table discussing an issue and thinking about the consequences of a policy, that can take some time, especially to reach consensus on something.

So, I think average GNSO PDP, two to three years. Yeah, and I saw your eyebrows raised. And sometimes they take longer because the issues can be complex. And when you think about how you bring people together, making sure that everyone's heard, and then there's usually a chair who is trying to ensure that all those perspectives are captured and that the document reflects the diversity of views, but also that gives some sort of recommendation to the Board and to the community. So, it's a lot of work, yes.

ROLLA HAMZA

So my question, how do you make, even if after three years, maybe the issue will be dynamic. So, it will be many factors and the technology is very advanced. So, when they come to third year, maybe the technology itself, it's obsolete. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

Yeah. I mean, that's always a risk, right? An issue can continue to evolve as ICANN is developing a policy. So, sometimes a working group may come back and say, we need to revisit our charter. We need to revisit our questions that the Council asked us to consider, or we need to revisit the scope. So, there are processes within the GNSO charter that allow for working groups to reframe their work.

But it is a challenge. Think about legislation in your home, right, in your country, your national parliament, your national congress, or even your local city Council. Policy development takes time and it may not always be the right outcome for someone. So the fact that ICANN and our work takes time from the outside, we're also dealing with a global resource. You know, we cannot get it wrong. John talked about the unique identifiers. If a policy that our community develops somehow impacts the security, stability, or resilience of the unique identifiers, that threatens our legitimacy. So we can't get it, we can't break something.

And I think that's one of the reasons why these policy development processes deliberately include opportunities for not only the stakeholders of a specific supporting organization and the working

group members, but there's an opportunity for the public to provide input too. So, it's deliberately and methodically inclusive without sacrificing the overall mission of securing the unique identifiers of the internet.

JOHN CRANE

If I may, Carlos, with that said, it doesn't mean that we cannot move swiftly to develop a well-scoped policy in shorter time periods. It's very rare that a sense of urgency comes that you need a policy in such a short time. But we can do things like form a small group or another format so that we can go and do very succinct tweaks to policies or very small changes. But big P policy, the large policies, they just take time to get it right.

CARLOS REYES

John, that's a perfect segue to Ozan's next slide, I think. Okay. Let's take the questions.

EINAS AL SHAIKH

Just a follow-up question. Einas Al Shaikh from Oman. There are a lot of issues that are probably raised by the community. At what point do you say that a policy is not required? I mean, do you accommodate all the issues that are raised? Do all the issues have to be-- This is my question.

JOHN CRANE

In life, you have to prioritize things. So, there are lots of discussions that come up that are just out of scope. So, we don't do policy work

on things like that. I mean, the community chooses what they work on, but they tend to find things that are in scope, and they try and find things that are achievable. And then there are priorities that I think certain things have urgency, certain things may be more desired than others, because there may be parts of the community that have a perception that they want to change something or do something. So, we absolutely do not boil the ocean with the thousands of policy questions that are out there.

But over the last quarter of a century, which is about how long ICANN's been here and about how long I've worked there, the community's become very good at prioritizing and identifying the topics that are the most important. It's probably not the right word, but the key topics for them to take on at a time. In all policy forums and also in protocol design forums, there is always a tendency to try and fix everything and boil the ocean. But we've become very good over the last decades at not doing that and making each other focus on working on the things that actually matter. Because it is a real risk that you go down this long path.

VINNY ADJIBI

Thank you. My name is Vinny Adjibi. I'm a Next-Gen participant. So, John mentioned domain name abuse. And I think one of the ways ICANN deals with that is UDRP. And even though I think it's fallen under the GNSO responsibility, some ccTLDs also applied UDRP. So, in those cases where the policy affects two supporting organizations, how do you deal with that? And my second question

is, can external people give, I don't know, identify issue and present them to ICANN?

CARLOS REYES

Which one do you want to take, John?

JOHN CRANE

I'll take the first one, you take the second. How about that? That seems like a fair deal. So, definitions matter in the policy world. So, the uniform dispute resolution policy that you're talking about is actually not for what we define as DNS abuse. So, uniform dispute resolution policy is actually quite an old policy at ICANN, which allows you to have a dispute which is mostly about ownership of intellectual property and the rights to a name. It's not about whether or not that name is being abusive.

Now, there is an element in that policy, and if you're not a policy wonk, you're probably going to go to sleep now, about if somebody is using a name with misleading or malintent. So they're using a name that is similar to your name and they are deliberately using it for like misleading about your brand or something like that. That's what UDRP is about.

DNS abuse in the ICANN context really refers to things like phishing, names that are used for phishing, either for distributing phish or as the lure or the bait, if you like, within a phish, for the command and control of robotic networks or botnets, as they're known in the short form. Malware droppers, the spreading of malicious software, things like that. That is what we mean when we talk

about DNS abuse in an ICANN context. So, they're slightly different. They're both very important aspects of protecting either a business in the sense of UDRP or the end users in the sense of DNS abuse, but they're actually different topics with different definitions. And I'm happy to have a long discussion with you about all of that. And I think the second question is for you, Carlos.

CARLOS REYES

Thanks, John. Could you repeat the second question, please?

VINNY ADJIBI

I was asking how external people can give ideas or issues that the SOs can work on, like raise some issues for the SOs.

CARLOS REYES

Yeah, good question. So, basically someone who's not part of an SO. Yeah. So, because the SOs have the policy remit, a lot of the supporting organizations, most of their proceedings are, especially here at an ICANN meeting, they usually include an opportunity for public input. So, that's one option. But the advisory committees can actually ask the supporting organizations to look at specific issues. So, that's another avenue where you could engage with one of the advisory committees, too.

And then if there's just an open question on your mind or some sort of broader policy topic, that's where Ozan and I, in our support of the community and our relationship with their leadership teams, you can approach us and we will work with those chairs and say,

there are people out there who have this issue or have this concern, and we can try to prioritize it on their work plan. So, I think it's good for you to keep in mind that the staff can help facilitate those engagements with you if you're not part of the supporting organization or advisory committee. Siranush?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

There are two questions online, so I wanted to bring it to your attention. So, one is from Seth. What measures are in place to ensure that underrepresented communities like those from Africa have a strong voice in the ICANN policy development process? And there is another one from Doreen. Under what circumstances are policies ignored or passed due to lingering approval from ICANN Board? How does ICANN ensure that a policy is adopted by countries, and how is the impact of particular policy is measured?

CARLOS REYES

Thank you. Okay. So, the second speaker of those two, I think, had several questions, so we can probably break that down. Within ICANN, the staff, we have various ways to track what the Board is working on. We also have an advice tracker that sort of manages all the different advice recommendations that the Board has. So, if you look at the bylaws, there are certain requirements for when the Board should be responding to an issue and ensure that the Board remains proactive, etc. So, as staff, we monitor all of that. We track all of that so that the Board is responsive to the community. So, I

don't think we would be in a situation where the Board is not responding to something.

It may seek clarifying questions, either from the GNSO Council about a recommendation or from an advisory committee for some of its advice, but there's always some kind of dialogue between the Board and that community group before the Board takes any sort of action or makes any decision on recommendations. When the Board rejects a recommendation, it provides rationale, and that supporting organization Council or that advisory committee can resubmit it after addressing those concerns from the Board. So, there's always some sort of dialogue that the staff is managing between the Board and the community on this.

And what was the first question that you read, Siranush?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

The first one was how to make sure that underrepresented communities are part of this development processes.

CARLOS REYES

Why don't we table that for now, because I think we'll address that when we talk about other groups. So, Ozan, want to continue?

OZAN SAHIN

Okay. We have covered the first three steps in the GNSO policy development process, identification of the issue, scoping of the issue, and initiation of the policy development process. And the

last step here was the call for volunteers to form a policy development process working group.

And this first two areas are highlighted here on the slide, because of various issues. This can be pressing deadline. The GNSO Council may start an expedited policy development process instead of a regular policy development process, in which case these first two steps would be removed, and you would directly start the policy development process from the initiation phase.

And then when we look at the remaining steps, with the formation of a working group, the working group starts its work, consults with the ICANN community, and develops a report, which is an initial report, and publishes it for public comment. This is another opportunity for community members, individuals to speak up and provide their input to the process, even if they are not a member of the working group or within the GNSO community, they can submit their comments to this public consultation. And then, having received the input from the community, the working group reviews these comments and then finalizes its report and submits the final report to the GNSO Council.

In the fifth phase, the deliberation on the final report, the GNSO Council reviews the final report and considers whether to adopt the final report, and if adopted by the GNSO Council, the Council then submits the final report to the ICANN Board for its consideration.

And in the final phase, the ICANN Board, of course, reviews the final report and consults the ICANN community and the Governmental Advisory Committee. And this is another step, actually, where the

ICANN community can look at the final report and provide its input again to the Board. And finally, having consulted the community, the Board takes a vote on the final report and decides whether to adopt this final report.

And then, if adopted, it becomes a consensus policy. So, what is a consensus policy? It is the result of the GNSO policy development process that we've just reviewed. And it requires to fulfill a specific voting threshold for approval. And this is both in the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board. And the consensus policy is binding on the ICANN's contracted parties that are registries and registrars, because they have contracts with the ICANN. And we see some examples of the consensus policies here. Uniform domain name dispute resolution policy, domain name transfer policies, and the generic top-level domain registration data policy.

So, with that, I'll turn it over to Carlos to continue this presentation.

CARLOS REYES

So, I think Ozan did a good job of just giving you an overview of the policy development process. And for all of you here in the room and following remotely, when you look at the schedule and you're trying to decide what sessions to observe and what sessions to join, I highlighted some current policy development processes in the GNSO and where they stand in the process.

So, recently, there's a new working group that started that's looking at Latin script diacritics. So, it made it through phases one through three, essentially. And that working group is starting its

work. So, earlier, there was a question about how you can get involved or how you can participate. The working group is formed, but you can observe. And then if, as you, let's say you start observing some of those work sessions and it's interesting to you, you can join one of the different constituencies and maybe be their representative to that working group. But that working group is starting. You'll see sessions dedicated to Latin script diacritics.

The transfer policy, Ozan mentioned that's an example of a consensus policy. It's one of the oldest consensus policies that ICANN. Periodically, that policy is reviewed just to ensure that it's still meeting the needs for consumers and end users, etc. So, the most recent review, that working group finished its report, and the Council is about to consider it for adoption. So, if you attend a GNSO Council meeting later in the meeting, I think Wednesday, you'll see the Council voting on those recommendations. And then the expedited policy development process that was looking at internationalized domain names, that's even further along, and that's on the Board's docket right now.

So, the Council has-- well, let me back up. The working group has approved their recommendations. The Council approved those recommendations as well, and it's now with the Board. And the Board has already conducted public comment, etc., and it's consulted people. It's consulted the community on its own to ensure that it's reflective of the ICANN community. So the Board will be voting on that soon. So, that's what you'll see at this meeting. Next slide, please.

These infographics are always intimidating, and you can find it in multiple languages on our website. But we just reviewed the policy development process for the GNSO. The other two supporting organizations also have policy development processes. Broadly the same, right? There's always some sort of identification phase, a scoping phase, a working group phase, and then different steps in approval. So, don't strain your eyes too much, but we just wanted, this is really just to indicate that there is methodology behind the work, and there's structure to it, and how it moves forward. And as I mentioned, you can find this on our website in multiple languages. Next slide.

So, there was that question about underrepresented communities. The supporting organizations all have different constituent groups, and they're organized differently. So, for example, the ccNSO and the ASO are organized regionally. So, you have representation from Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia Pacific, North America, the five regions. The GNSO is organized largely through stakeholder groups and constituencies. So, that's more interest-based. So, depending on how you defined underrepresented, you would work with the structures within the supporting organization to make sure that they are considering those underrepresented voices. The advisory committees also have that.

So, as I mentioned, we have four. They all provide advice from different functional perspectives. You have end users within the At-Large Advisory Committee, government views from the Governmental Advisory Committee. The Root Server System Advisory Committee is comprised of root server operators. So,

they're providing advice about the root server system to the ICANN Board.

And then the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, those are security experts, technologists, etc., that are looking at the overall stability and security of the unique identifiers. And they are members based on their own individual capacity. So, their own individual merits, etc. And they have a membership process as well.

So, again, for underrepresented communities, however you define that, you can work with each group to ensure that they're doing something, whether it's representing, let's say, the one billion or so that are not connected yet, or maybe you're thinking about specific scripts and communities that use different scripts. There are different ways that you can define underrepresented. The GAC itself actually has a working group dedicated to this that looks at geographic underrepresentation within ICANN policy development work. But every group defines underrepresented a little differently. And those are healthy conversations that happen within those groups. But they're all committed to it in one way or another. Next slide.

We won't spend time reviewing the advice development process. But, again, all of them have some sort of process, documented process. Largely follows the same framework of the supporting organizations. An advisory committee will identify an issue. They scope the issue to make sure that's within their mission. And then they try to achieve consensus in developing some sort of advice.

And that goes to the Board at some point. So, again, largely moving in the same fashion. And, again, this is available on our website in multiple languages. Next slide, please.

So, we're coming up on end time. So, we'll open it up again to questions. And a few of you asked about how can you get started? How can you contribute? Some options for you here. Joining an open community group. I think there are some groups that have very defined memberships, right?

So for example, if you wanted to be part of RSSAC, you'd have to be part of a root server operator. So, you'd have to work with a root server operator. However, the RSSAC has a caucus where technical minded or experienced community members can contribute to the work of RSSAC. If you want to be part of the GAC, you have to work for a government. So I think it's important to think about how you want to contribute and what group can best accommodate that.

So, even though the ICANN community is open, meaning our proceedings are open, there's opportunities for public input. There are membership requirements for the groups and they have membership approval processes. So, if you'd like to join, start by joining one of the more open groups like At-Large or GNSO and all the constituencies, etc. So, that's one pathway for getting involved. You can always observe a working group. A meeting is a great opportunity for that because most of the, especially on the weekends, Saturday and Sunday, that's when a lot of working groups are active because they're preparing for the Council or advisory committee meeting later in the week.

And you can always write a public comment submission. Public comment is a feature of ICANN's policy work in that the Board or a supporting organization, an advisory committee, they can publish what they're working on for public input. In fact, a lot of governments also do this too. In the United States, a lot of agencies have public comment requirements. Town Councils in the UK have public comment requirements. So, it's something that's not totally unique to ICANN, but it's an important facet of ICANN policy development because a lot of the, well, the bylaws stipulate that there are certain requirements for public comment, but a lot of the operational procedures of the ICANN community groups also require public comment.

And that's intentional to provide another avenue for input to the question about underrepresented voices. If for some reason there's just no way for you to have membership in any group, there's still public comment as an option. And that's a principle that we uphold. So, let's pause here and address questions.

OZAN SAHIN

Can I add one thing?

CARLOS REYES

Oh yeah, of course.

OZAN SAHIN

So, one thing about writing public comment is that you don't have to actually write it individually. If you are part of a community

group already, these groups that we mentioned, supporting organizations, advisory committees, stakeholder groups, constituencies, regional At-Large organizations, they may want to submit collective public comment on behalf of their group. So, what you can do is if you are part of these groups, you can contribute to the drafting of the public comment. And that's also another good way of getting involved.

CARLOS REYES

Great, we have a queue. Let's go there and then here.

GEORGIA OSBORN

Hi, Georgia Osborn. Just a question. So first of all, the multi-stakeholder policy infographic looks really good. And I was wondering what other work was going on to support multi-stakeholder policy engagement as WSIS+25 is coming up, which is the World Summit on Information Society, if I have that right. I mean, I noticed there's a few sessions to support it, but I'd be interested to know what other work was going on. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

Good question. So, yes, this year is the 20th year review of WSIS. The event is later on this year, but it's a process. It's a UN process that has been underway. And internet governance work is not ICANN policy. So, the way the community engages in internet governance, a lot of them have set up internet governance working groups where they can facilitate discussions within their groups about internet governance. So, you'll see GAC sessions, At-Large

sessions, ccNSO sessions, etc. So, they're all tracking this issue and they're bringing their members together to discuss their views. And then the members then take those views back and inform their governments and the members of their delegations to the WSIS event.

Because WSIS, it's a multilateral process, right? It's government-led. So, ICANN community groups, ICANN as an institution doesn't have an official role in it, but we do participate through the members of the ICANN community. We have a team that's tracking WSIS+20 very closely. We also have set up a lot of resources for the ICANN community. We have a WSIS+20 outreach network. We have a discussion group. And we're really just trying to facilitate those connections because obviously there are important issues that are coming up in the context of WSIS.

So, even though it's not policy as narrowly defined by the missions of all of these supporting organizations, it's still something that's relevant and that you'll see live here, but also through mailing lists. There's a lot of activity related to WSIS in the next four or five months. So, I think you'll definitely hear about it in the hallway and you'll definitely see it in session rooms. Any other questions about WSIS? Oh, Roberto, you've been at previous WSIS events.

ROBERTO GAETANO

It's actually a comment. I just want to say that if you don't fit in any group, you can still join as an individual user in your regional At-

Large organization. That could be an entry point for somebody who doesn't have any other home. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

That's a good point. Thanks, Roberto. Question here.

MABDA HAERUNNISA FAJRILLA
SIDIQ

Thank you for your presentation. This is Mabda for the record. I just wish to circle back to your points on GNSO PDP processes. It was mentioned that for the working groups, the call for members for the working group is basically a voluntary process, because you do call for volunteers. But I was just wondering if in terms of the composition of the members, is there any specific requirements and a proportion of which members come from which, for example, contracted parties versus non-contracted parties? Because when we look into the implementation process, a lot of the responsibilities will logically fall into the contracted parties because it is contractually binding for them.

But at the same time, when we think about the consequences, in a lot of ways, those who are not within the contracted parties might probably be impacted as well. So I was just wondering if there's any specific requirement on that first. And then on the second hand, if we think about how, for example, discussions about standardization within the ITU, for example, there are a lot of discussions on how the representation within the working groups can be politicized. For example, you have specific states

deliberately trying to increase their representation in specific working groups so that their interests can be heard better.

So I was just wondering if that logic extends to how it works within the GNSO PDP as well, because those within the contracted parties might have more resources to send people to volunteer within the working group. So that's my question. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES

So perceptive. The GNSO has different membership models for its working groups, and I don't know all of them. But I think what your question gets at is important in the sense that there may not be specific quotas for how each or how each constituency or stakeholder group is represented, but the aim is to ensure they're all there. So sometimes there is a balancing act in terms of how many seats are allocated to which side of the house, or to which side of the Council, because there are two houses. So the intent there is to balance it.

And sometimes there may be a more open model of membership where the GNSO Council can say that volunteers that are outside of the Council can join. Sometimes they invite specific experts to join. So it just sort of depends on how the Council scopes the charter for a working group and what kind of input they want into the working group. But yeah, we can follow up and get those different membership models to you.

What's interesting about the Council is as the issues have evolved over the years and become more complex, they've also evolved the

different membership models that are available for groups, because not every representative model may fit the issue. So they want to be flexible, and they want to ensure that the working group is not questioned based on its composition. So how a policy is developed is inclusive, and it includes not only the structures of the GNSO, but by invitation it could include a liaison from the GAC, a liaison from the Board, and they'll reach out to RSSAC, they'll reach out to SSAC, etc.

Now those groups may decline to participate, but that's their decision. And sometimes groups do that, either because of limited resources or something that's frankly out of scope. So even though the Council does its work in extending the invitation, another group can say, no, that's okay, we'll just contribute through public comment, or yes, we'll appoint someone to this working group. So it all varies, but there is a requirement for the GNSO to have a membership model in place for every working group that is specific to that particular issue.

JOHN CRANE

And if I may.

CARLOS REYES

Yeah, go ahead.

JOHN CRANE

You can build models for giving equity as much as you want, but the biggest and best disinfectant is light. So transparency is

probably one of the biggest and best tools that we have. So pretty much all the meetings are open, they are recorded, you can go and watch them. They have public comments, they have capability to bring in comments from other directions, often even before the public comments. So ever since ICANN was formed, transparency was one of our key sort of, it's just part of our DNA that as a community, we're very transparent about what everybody's doing.

So even if a small group was to go off and develop a policy proposal, because you can, it's not a policy until it actually gets accepted by the Board, there is going to be a lot of light shone upon that policy. And it seems to work pretty well. I mean I'm biased. If anybody has not been to an ICANN meeting, one of the most fascinating things that you will see, and you probably won't see anywhere else, is that when that Board assembles in the public in a few days' time, you can literally walk up to the microphone and ask them any question you want. And it doesn't matter who you are, where you come from, what your standing is, that is just part of our transparent process. So, yes, we have lots of safeguards, we have lots of models, but the transparency really matters.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, John. Thank you, Carlos. And thank you, Ozan. I know there might be more questions to these guys, but they might stay here a bit longer, like five, ten minutes, so you can talk to them directly. But we need to stop here for this session. And I think that the most important message here as well is ICANN community not only works during a year three times, just one week. It's nonstop

work. A lot of work is being done remotely, so not many people are coming in person to every ICANN meeting. And as you may see, one policy can last like three years for adoption. And it doesn't mean that all the members are here in person at the meetings for all three years. But to give your time to participate, you should also understand that the work is done remotely. So, you can envisage this as well, that it's nonstop work.

So, when you are back home, try to think about this and try to find the best place where you can devote your time and devote your expertise and be part of any working group, because they meet like on monthly basis, on weekly basis, and you need to be part of this actively engaged.

That said, we will move from the next session to start learning about the community itself. So, what is ICANN multi-stakeholder model? And what are these advisory committees and supporting organizations? Each of them, who is doing what, and how they have their own compositions and models of working. So, we will start learning about them.

And today we'll have the session, the next one will be about Commercial Stakeholder Group, which is part of GNSO. And we will learn about BC, which is Business Constituency. And we will learn about the country code name supporting organization, ccNSO. And the last session for today, we'll be learning about At-Large, and we will be going to the seventh floor for that session, after which we will have fellowship social gathering. And all these presenters

are also invited to share the fellowship evening and NextGen evening with you to interact more and to know each other better.

With that, I would like to thank Carlos and Ozan and John. Thank you very much also for being here. Thank you, guys. This always very helpful, very complicated, but thank you for explaining it in a way that we all understand. Thank you very much. And with that, our meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]