
ICANN82 | CF – Get to Know ICANN Community: At-Large Advisory Committee
Saturday, March 08, 2025 – 16:30 to 17:30 PST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

For virtual Fellows participating. Unfortunately, we had several Fellows who didn't get their visas to U.S. We also have 11 NextGeners joining us here. Out of this group, all NextGeners, it is their first time to be here at the ICANN meeting. And out of 34, 22 Fellows are in their first ICANN meeting ever. So please welcome them.

And it's my pleasure also to introduce that I had been part of At-Large so I know this group pretty well. This is my home community where I later moved to Org part. But I have friends here, colleagues here. I love this community, and we have a lot of Fellows and NextGeners being part of this community. So they are playing an important role in this community.

And I would like to give the floor to the chair of At-Large, Jonathan Zuck, who will introduce you this big community and how you as newcomers can be part of this group. Jonathan, the floor is yours.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Thanks, Siranush. Welcome, everyone. Thanks for coming to this session. We always enjoy having these sessions with the Fellows and NextGen because there's a lot of synergy and camaraderie between the Fellows and NextGen and the objectives of the At-Large, because it's very much focused on end user activities and

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people that are just using the Internet as opposed to businesses or others that are covered elsewhere inside of ICANN. And so I think there's a lot of overlap of interests, and Fellows have found their way into the At-Large community in many instances, and in fact, have made it all the way to the ALAC and made it all the way to the Board, and so it's a pretty good part of the community to join.

The singer Pink has a song called What About Us. Sometimes I think of that when I think about the At-Large community. Because if you think about the essential friction inside ICANN, the essential conflict, it's really between the people whose business is the Internet and the other businesses that need to use the Internet, right? That's really the big division that's going on inside of ICANN, the people that are selling, maintaining domain names, selling Internet infrastructure, and then the people that just rely on that infrastructure. And so that's where the sort of central friction is.

So when you see discussions taking place inside of ICANN, it's often between those forces, but we're sort of like a third party where we kind of raise our hand say, "Yeah, but what about end users?" The outcome you're approaching here, the compromise you're making, what effect will it have on day-to-day use of the Internet? And when I try to go to a particular website, will I end up where I wanted to end up? When I log into my bank, is it my really my bank that I'm logging into? These kinds of questions are the ones that we ask on behalf of end users as this sort of two business communities within ICANN kind of duke it out. We're often this third party, we raise our hand and we say, "What about us?"

So I think it's a good place to be. It's a dynamic part of the community, and we're really happy to have the opportunity to talk to you about it and introduce you to it. And with that, I'm going to hand the microphone to Claire Craig to talk a little bit about who we are and what we do.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Hello, everyone. I am Claire Craig and I am one of the co-vice chairs of the ALAC. Can you put my slides up please? Thank you. Right.

So we're talking about today, you're thinking about joining the ALAC. Who are we? Next slide, please. The At-Large. Well, At-Large and ALAC, they'll find out, because sometimes we do use the words interchangeably, but we shouldn't. So who is the ALAC? Who are we? And how can you participate in the At-Large? Next slide.

The ALAC is the At-Large Advisory Committee, and we are created by a set of rules and procedures. So there are standard set of rules that govern how we operate and how we behave and what we do. Next slide, please.

I'm going to talk to you a little bit about the ALAC, the At-Large, and my journey here, as well as how you can participate in the At-Large community. As I said, we were based on certain rules, of procedures and principles. The At-Large Advisory Committee is the primary organizational home for individual Internet users within the Internet Cooperation of Assigned Names and Numbers. And that's what Jonathan was telling you a little while ago in his introduction, that we represent or we try to advocate for the interests of the end

user community. The end user community, as I heard him say yesterday, which again, as you continue to be part of this community, you learn things every day. We don't represent the end user community because they did not vote us in in any way, but we do advocate for their interests, and which is, for most of us, it's our interest as well. Next slide.

The At-Large community consists of about 267 At-Large Structures, and that's at the grassroots. We will go into that in a little bit. We also have approximately 230 individual members. We have 17 unaffiliated observers, so they are neither part of an ALS, nor are they considered individual members, and roughly, they exist in over 113 countries. Next slide, please.

The statistics that I gave you just now, these numbers are spread over the globe, in regional, let's say, communities. So they are RALOs or Regional At-Large Organizations. There are five of them: the Asia Pacific, which is APRALO; the AFRALO, Africa; EURALO, Europe; LACRALO, Latin America and the Caribbean; and NARALO, North America. So, basically, this is how the At-Large community is spread out.

Now, how does the At-Large community relate to the ALAC? From the At-Large community, they elect two members to be part of the ALAC. So, on the ALAC, the ALAC is a 15-member, consists of 15 voting members on procedures and public comments and different things, policies that go to the Board, and those members, some of them come from the RALOs. Okay. Next slide, please.

There are also five members. So I told you, two from each RALO, so that's 10. Five members are also selected from the NomCom or Nomination Committee. And they are all from one from each region.

So at the end of the day—next slide, please—this is what it looks like. There are three members from each region, you'd see two from each RALO and one from the NomCom. In addition, there are liaisons. So there are four. One from the GNSO, which is the Generic Name Supporting Organization; one from the ccNSO, which is the Country Code Name Supporting Organization; one from the SSAC, which is the Security and Stability Advisory Committee; and one from the GAC, which is the Government Advisory Committee. So those four members, however, are not voting members, but they are considered part of the ALAC.

We also have a member who we elect in Seat 15 from the ALAC who sits on the Board. Jonathan alluded to it a short while ago. The current member of that seat who is an ALAC member—I don't know I should say was, but he says he is—and he is also a Fellow. So you can see that as a Fellow, you can reach to the highest level within the ICANN community. Next slide, please.

So, my journey. How did I get here? Like you, I started off as a Fellow in ICANN58. Then I was a Fellow again in ICANN59 and ICANN62. Then I became a mentor in ICANN64. Next slide.

So while I was a Fellow, I got an opportunity to learn about attend sessions the way you guys do, sit in meetings, participate and understand. Now, don't think that by going to one ICANN meeting,

you will understand everything. Even after two ICANN meetings, you may not understand many things. I am part of the ALAC now and I am still learning every day. And the thing about it is that what you have to do, what you have to remember, is the most important thing is to surround yourself with the people in the At-Large community. They are really very good subject matter experts and people who understand the community who have been here for a long time, some people from inception, and they are willing to teach you. They are willing to help you. Once you are willing, they will guide you and support you all the way.

So that is what happened to me. In 2021—this is shortly after my Fellowship finished and my mentorship—I was asked to run for secretary of LACRALO because I’m part of the Latin America and the Caribbean community. I’m from Trinidad and Tobago, a small island in the Caribbean. I ran and I was successful and became a member of the LACRALO community. Then I had a two-year term in that office. And when that term of office ended, it was okay. Is there something else that I should be involved in? And you would probably have been, or you may have a session, or have already had a session with the NomCom, and they will tell you there are positions that are open and stuff like that, and that you should consider running for different positions. So I said, “Claire, why not?” You know what they say, if you don’t have a ticket, you don’t have a chance.

So I submitted my application and I was successful for the ALAC position to the NomCom position for the ALAC. And that was in October 2023, I was appointed to the ALAC. And lo and behold, I was

asked if I would be one of the co-vice chairs of the ALAC. So that's how I ended up where I am. I am also now one of the co-chairs of one of the working groups, which I will talk about shortly. Next slide, please.

So how can you participate? You can participate in ICANN policy development processes and provide input and advice that accurately reflect the views and the needs of the individual Internet users, and that is through our working groups and the advice that we provide to the Board. Next slide, please.

So these are some of our working groups. Our two main working groups are the CPWG, the Consolidated Policy Working Group, and this is the one that most people tend to gravitate towards because it's the group that they talk about things like DNS abuse, Latin diacritics, they're dealing with the Next Round Applicant Support, and those kinds of things. So people see them as real policy items. I am one of the co-chairs of the OFBWG, which is the Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group, and there we deal with the softer issues, such as the ICANN strategic plan, the ICANN budget. There are couple of really important items that we're dealing with right now, which are the CIP, Continuous Improvement Program, as well as the Pilot Holistic Review. And we are also going to be talking about things like the ATRT4. Again, these acronyms, you start using them and you forget what the words mean. Accountability, Transparency and Review 4. Four is that it's the fourth one. Okay? Those are the kind of work that happens in the working groups.

Now, ACES is one of our new subcommittees, and it's the ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee, and they work directly with the RALOs to help to get the message out so that we understand the end user needs an interest and we provide the end users with information from the ICANN community that are of interest to them. And there is a whole campaign that we are working on to be able to get that information out. Next slide, please.

So those are the ways that you can contribute once you decide that you want to be part of the At-Large community. But upcoming opportunities—so those of you, you are here, this is ICANN82 and this is get involved, we are going to be having a reception after this meeting, and take the opportunity to talk to as many people as possible. Look around the room and you will see that the persons around here are willing to talk to you. I'm willing to talk to you. There are members of ALAC, Fellows, and you'll hear from some of them shortly, ask them about their experiences as well. So that's what you can do while you are here physically at the meeting.

Then there is the Policy Forum that is coming up in June, from June 9th to 12th. That's another opportunity. And even if you can't attend in person, you can attend remotely.

Then there is ICANN84, which is the AGM in October 25th to the 30th. The application period for that is open for Fellows. And that's February 25th to March 25th. Then the NextGen Program application deadline is from March 31st to May 9th.

Now, you may hear this many times, but one of the things that I've learned over my long life is that you don't always hear things the first time. Somebody says something and you think you heard or you think you understood, you hear it again, and then when you hear it the third time, it was like, "Oh, maybe I should apply for that. Oh, maybe this is an opportunity." So I'm just saying it now. If you haven't heard it before, I'm sure Siranush will remind you of these dates.

As I said before, the meetings are hybrid, and they are recorded, and we encourage you to join and participate. And that's my presentation. Thank you very much for listening.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Claire. I think it's very clear and very important to understand how At-Large and ALAC is working and functioning. And just for the sake of statistics now from At-Large point of view to the NextGen and Fellows, there are, as Claire mentioned, 15 ALAC members and four liaisons, and out of them, 11 are Fellows and three of them came through the NextGen Program. So they became NextGen, then became Fellows, and now they are part of ALAC. So you can see how important role you play in this community. So think about this.

Back to Claire or Jonathan. Who is the next? I think we will start now introducing Regional RALOs, so Regional At-Large Organizations, and we will start with the host which is NARALO. And Kathleen, the pleasure to introduce you. The floor is yours.

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN

Thanks. I'm going to let Greg start with a little introduction about what NARALO is.

GREG SHATAN

Hi. Thanks. I'm Greg Shatan. I'm the chair of NARALO, also the representative from ISOC New York. So welcome to North America and Seattle, which I have absolutely no connection with.

But in any case, NARALO is the organization that has both individual members and At-Large Structures from Canada and the United States and the United States territories. Mexico on the ICANN globe is part of Latin America, but Puerto Rico, being part of the United States, is part of NARALO. We won't go into the status of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, but in any case, the NARALO is an active group. We have a relatively small number of ALSes but a relatively large number of individual members, and a number of whom are former Fellows, one of whom is sitting right to my right, Kathleen Scoggin. So I'm going to let Kathleen talk about her NARALO journey.

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN

Hi, everyone. I'm Kathleen Scoggin. This time last year, I was a Fellow for ICANN79, and now I am one of the three ALAC representatives from North America. So if that tells you a little bit about your ability to engage in the At-Large and their willingness to

help you find opportunities that fit based on your expertise and experience.

I think one of the things that intrigued me about the At-Large community, first and foremost, is that I still early on in my professional career, and I didn't know exactly where I was going to end up, I still don't, and so I wasn't working for a regulator. I didn't have necessarily an interest in the domain name industry based on work. I didn't have truly an understanding of what that meant, especially a year ago. And I think something incredibly unique about the At-Large community is that it touches on such a wide range of issues. So if you hear some presentation, whether it be here or at a webinar throughout the year by ICANN, or whenever it may be, and you say, "That's interesting to me," for me, that was Universal Acceptance, which you may or may not have already heard about. I'm seeing some nods and some not nods. But the ability for someone to type in to a website or an e-mail address in their own script, in their own native language. So I found this concept really interesting and kind of dove into that, and then was able to do a Universal Acceptance event through my involvement in ICANN. And from there, understand more issues that were relating to the ability to effectively use the Internet in a way that is comfortable for you, and from there, it kind of expanded my knowledge even further. I think the At-Large is unique in its ability to take one issue and expand into a lot of different things.

So I'm part of NARALO, obviously. So if you're from North America, come talk to us. Even if you're not, come talk to us anyway. Happy

to point you in the right direction of the right representative. So happy to answer any questions. Thanks.

JONATHAN ZUCK

So yes, as Kathleen mentioned—this is Jonathan Zuck again for the record, if we're being recorded—there's a wide variety of issues that you can get engaged in and a wide variety of ways to engage in them. It's sort of a matrix, in a way. We use a sports metaphor. We have a deeper bench than a lot of the people that are a lot of the constituencies inside of ICANN, because we have the RALOs and the ALSes, the individual members. There's a lot of opportunities to get engaged at the regional level, to be engaged in regional conferences, and things like that. We're doing more and more to try and do some end user education, to get information out to the public, out to end users, about the New gTLD Program you've heard about, I'm sure, about DNS abuse or cybercrime, and how to prevent it, things like that that we're trying to engage more with the broader end user community. So there's a lot of different types of opportunities, as well as a number of issues that you might be more or less interested in. So there's no reason to try and become an expert in everything. Somebody said you may not get it in two meetings. I think I probably have been to 58 ICANN meetings, and I still don't get everything. So don't set that as a goal. Try to find a niche. Try to find what's most interesting to you and use that as your vector into the activities at ICANN, whether it's with the At-Large community or not. I guess we want to hear from Shreedeeep.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

We talked today in the morning that our mentors are assigned from the communities. And definitely, At-Large is one of those communities who is interested to assign mentors, both for the Fellowship and the NextGen Program. Shreedeeep is for the Fellows and Roberto Gaetano is a mentor for the NextGen. So we would love to hear from them. But I don't see Shreedeeep. I see Roberto. Okay.

ROBERTO GAETANO

I can speak from here. This is like in this modern theater when the actor comes from the background and surprises everybody.

A little bit about myself. I have been active in ICANN since before ICANN. I was part of the community and organizations that set up ICANN that was back in the past century. I wouldn't be surprised if that happened even before that some of the NextGeners were born.

So I have a long story here in ICANN. Don't be afraid. I'm not going to tell about. I'm just going to say that I got to the point in which I think that the best thing that I can do is to use my experience to help newcomers to join this community and become involved. Since I know the vast majority of the people in this community, please come to me and ask me if you want to meet somebody, some specific groups, or I can help you finding your way.

Just one word. I have done several things in different communities in ICANN, but at the end of the day, I'm still remaining active in At-Large, because At-Large is then the organization that is—like the name says, it's covering everything. It's not by chance that a lot of

people also in the leading positions in At-Large and in ALAC are coming from the Fellows, because it's about natural when you join an organization like ICANN, before you find your way as a member of the Intellectual Property or Business Constituency or Registrar/Registry, and so on, you are, in any case, an Internet user. And so your natural colocation and first entry point will be At-Large. So I would encourage everybody of the NextGeners to get in contact with—in this case, it's going to be the North American Regional At-Large Association, the NARALO, and join as individual user. Nothing else.

Just one recommendation to the NextGen. I always said that several times but I like to repeat it. Don't be shy to ask question. Don't be shy to introduce yourself to other people. Everybody has started from being a new person and asking a question, maybe thinking, "This is a stupid question. Why should I ask them?" You'd be surprised how many times when you asked that question, there were several people in the room who had the same question in mind but didn't dare to ask. So please make yourself known. Introduce yourself when you speak. And feel free to contact everybody in this community. Everybody will be open to hear you and to support you. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Roberto. Thank you. And we really appreciate a lot of work our mentors are doing and At-Large nominating them to support the newcomers. I know we are not going to introduce every RALO representatives here, but for the sake of you know these

people, at least the faces, I would like to name them and you wave so people know who you are. And we will use this opportunity when we will be outside for the networking event, they can approach you and talk to you.

NARALO folks, I know you already introduced. Yes, Judith. Yes, LACRALO. I see folks over there, Latin America and Caribbean. Yes, we have Lilian over there as well. AFRALO, African Regional At-Large Organization. Yes, I love this crew here. EURALO? Where is EURALO? Yes, this is my beautiful ladies over there. And we have the chair over there, Sébastien Bachollet. And the last, Asia Pacific? Yes, my own region where I come from. Yes, this is Asia Pacific. Ali over there, Satish over there. So please know these people.

Now we will use this opportunity to ask questions to At-Large folks. So whoever has the question, please raise your hand, and again, as Roberto said, there are no stupid questions, we want to learn. I have the first question online, so I would like to give it to you.

The question is from Chokri. “In my opinion, most of RALO activities are based on volunteer efforts and based on working group’s efforts. And I wonder how RALO will be able to conduct some structural improvements mentioned in the principle.” Who can take this?

JONATHAN ZUCK

Sounds strangely like a question from the previous session.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Oh, I'm sorry. This is from Q&A pod. This is from previous chat. You need to put that you already answered this question online so I know that this is from previous. Sorry.

JONATHAN ZUCK

That's a pretty dense question for this audience, I think.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yes. Okay. We have questions here. Thank you, Chokri. Apologies for repetition. Please go ahead.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

Hi, everyone. My name is Miracle. I'm a NextGen participant.

One of the things that has been very consistent in the sessions that I've been attended so far is that the membership number is really low for a lot of these committees. When the ALAC vice chair was presenting, and also when you spoke, you mentioned that everybody's about their business and you are the only committee that's focused on the end user. I'm curious to know what's the feedback loop or mechanism to know that the end users that you supposedly advocate for that, number one, they're happy, and number two, the things you advocate for is actually moving the needle.

This is why I ask this. I'm sure you don't have a thousand end users in the committees. You check the numbers, the numbers I saw there are just 200 and something. It's always a small fraction. I'm curious to know what the mechanism you have in place is to ensure

that the things you actually advocate for moves the needle forward. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Thanks for the question. It's certainly a perennial question for us, right? It's not a straightforward answer for me to give you. But we work hard to develop feedback loops within our own community because we do have Regional Organizations and these At-Large Structures, and they in turn have members. So when you add all that up, there's a lot of people we can go to get feedback on some of the positions that we've taken.

As far as making progress, we look at a particular issue like DNS abuse. I don't know if you've heard about that issue in the discussions that you've had thus far. It's basically the ICANN perspective on cybercrime, right? Because ICANN is focused on the DNS. It's a thin sliver of cybercrime that includes phishing and malware, botnets and spam when it's used to deliver those things. Registering domains for malicious purposes and things. We've been very active in that regard. Over the past, say, five years, we've seen a lot of progress that's taking place in terms of different things getting organized to study the process more to get better data associated with DNS abuse.

Recently, the Contracted Party House have accepted changes to their contracts that have more stringent requirements in terms of their response to report of malicious activity.

We're never satisfied with the amount of progress that's made, but it's certainly there, it's certainly evident. We do get the opportunity to see the needle, as you say, move. But it's always a struggle. Is it moving enough? Are we doing enough? Are we raising enough? We think we're doing a decent job of trying to identify the interests of end users and then advocate for them inside of the ICANN context. Sometimes we do global surveys to try and figure out what the interests of end users are. But a true anonymous randomized poll of the globe of end users of the Internet is a big undertaking. A truly unbiased poll like that is something we only get to do periodically.

The most recent one we did was just in India and dealing with IDNs, which was the topic that Kathleen brought up, related to Universal Acceptance. Because the idea behind Universal Acceptance is ICANN can add domain names all they want, but if websites and e-mail systems don't accept them, it's as if they don't exist, it's like a tree falling in the woods that no one hears. Universal Acceptance is making sure that the world stays caught up with the advances that are being made by the ICANN community. That's a struggle as well.

I mean, you look at a big airline or something like that and you sign up to be a member of the MileagePlus program or something, that code that's behind that webpage is probably 15 or 20 years old and written in COBOL. It's not something that anybody's around to maintain anymore. The challenge of bringing the world forward along with the expansion of domain names inside of ICANN is a big challenge that is being tackled from a lot of different angles.

We're part of that effort, but we're only part of it. It's a very broad effort to try and bring the business community, the website community, if you will, forward along with the ICANN community. I hope that helps to answer your question. But there's no definitive answer. That's something we're always constantly evaluating about ourselves is are we doing enough to figure out what end user interests are? And are we doing enough to advance those interests?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Jonathan. We have a question from Virtual Fellow. What are ALAC's top policy priorities for 2025?

JONATHAN ZUCK

I can answer. Does Justine want to answer?

JUSTINE CHEW

I can answer some of them.

JONATHAN ZUCK

I guess I'll just say a framework and then we can get into specifics. We always are trying to figure out... On the policy side, what we call policy is policy surrounding generic top-level domains. That's sort of capital P Policy. There's sort of a little P policy, which is best practices within the organization itself and are we cooperating well enough with the other constituencies inside of ICANN? Is our voice being heard to answer your question? Those are the two categories of things that we work on. But in the actual gTLD policy side, we're always trying to take an end user perspective. We ask the question,

“Is the issue in front of us likely to impact the interests of individual end users? If so, in what way? Then how can we accommodate that? How can we minimize that impact or maximize that opportunity?”

When we look at something like the Next Round, which is this huge topic, there’s a whole bunch of people that are really concerned about the predictability of the application process, the efficiency of the application process, things like that, because they’re planning to do volumes of applications for new strings. We look at it as how can we get people that weren’t able to be part of that community before into it this time?

In 2012, the last time we did a big expansion of the domain names, the map of where all the registries stay the same. It didn’t expand into the developing world. It didn’t expand into underserved communities. So when we think about the Next Round, we’re thinking specifically of that aspect of it and not the rest of it. It’s often like carving out a pie piece of an issue that we end up focusing on. That’s the framework. I don’t know if Justine wants to talk a little bit about the individual policy priorities.

JUSTINE CHEW

Okay. Hi, everyone. My name is Justine Chew. I’m the other ALAC vice chair. I guess I will talk to you about what are the policy priorities that we told the Board. The Next Round, Jonathan just spoke a little bit about that, but from the end user perspective, we’ve always been trying to expand the pool of registries to include those ones from the Global South as well as the Underserved

Region. If you know the concentration of registries at the moment is in the U.S. and Europe, and there's a few sporadic ones here and there. From that perspective, you know that U.S. and Europe are dominating the market for DNS and TLDs. We're trying to advocate for policies that would help expand that pool to reach out to Africa, South Asia, and Pacific, even. It's about trying to help establish registries in those regions that are underserved. That's one.

The second thing is we also want to see a lot more community TLDs. TLDs that serve communities, not necessarily just resell domain names as their main business. Those are the two areas that we're specifically focusing on for the Next Round.

In support of this wish, we have been advocating for what we call the Applicant Support Program. That is a program that ICANN has established to help the less endowed potential applicants to come into the TLD space. That's why we advocate for that. That helps with our goal at the end of the day.

There is also something called Registry Commitments. We attempt to try and get the Registry Commitments to be useful to end users, to be beneficial to end users and to make sure that they stay in place and they don't get changed easily.

DNS abuse is an evergreen topic. We are currently working with a definition of DNS abuse in terms of ICANN, but we are also always looking to expand that definition to not just define that it's currently per the definition. To include things over time, to make

sure that the definition evolves with what happens in the real world from now to going forward.

What was the other one? Multilingual Internet. I think we've already spoken about IDNs. We'd like to see more IDNs at the top level. Always tied to IDNs would be the Universal Acceptance. I'm not going to go much more into that. What was the other one?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE

Justine, also IDNs, the acronym.

JUSTINE CHEW

Sorry. Internationalized Domain Names. Apologies. That's what IDN means. Okay. I'll stop there. If you want to know more, just come and talk to me.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Justine.

CLAIRE CRAIG

I can just tell them about the small P. Justine spoke to the big P. The small P would be to evolve and strengthen the multistakeholder model, which is key for ICANN. How that is done is through ensuring that the Budget and the Strategic Plan aligns with the things that the end user interests that Jonathan would have spoken about. We look carefully at the ICANN budget every year and we look carefully at the Strategic Plan and advise the Board on how that impacts the end user community interests.

We also look at how to strengthen the ICANN community decision-making. You asked a question just now about how do we ensure that we're reaching the people that we need to reach, and that's through the RALOs. We reach out and we ensure that they are taking part in this decision. Through the small groups and the small teams, we pull people from... The ALAC can't do everything. It's only 15 members. Through the RALOs, members come in and there's where we have some of the subject matter experts who are involved in this decision-making process. ICANN put out a public comment, and what we would do is reach out to find out if this is a public comment that we want to be involved in. Does this impact our end user community? Then we do a review of the public comment and come up with a statement and that's how we get involved. Those are priorities. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Claire. Any other questions? Yes, Filimoni, please.

FILIMONI PELENATO

Greetings, everyone. Filimoni for the record. I just wanted to ask about the presentation from Claire regarding the At-Large Committee. You mentioned about the At-Large Structures and then you had UIMs. Could you clarify more on the different memberships? Because to recommend for us newcomers whether we should be joining an At-Large Structure or should we be coming in as an individual, or what are the differences between those members that you mentioned? Thank you.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Okay. Thanks for that question. A lot of it is what exists in your region, number one, as well as personal choices. In all the regions, there are At-Large Structures. An At-Large Structure could be something like, as Greg mentioned, the ISOC chapter. There are many ISOC chapters that are part of our At-Large community.

If you are a member of, let's say, an organization that has applied for through the RALO and has been approved by the ALAC, because the RALOs recommend the At-Large Structures and then the ALAC approves them to be part of the structure, you can be a part of the At-Large community. That's one method of coming in.

In four of the RALOs, except for LACRALO, there are individual membership and you can come in as an individual member. If you are one of those four RALOs and you prefer to come in as an individual member, then you can apply for membership in that way. For LACRALO, while it is on the books that we are working on individual membership, our individual members are still observers. If you did not want to come in through an ALS, then the other way for you to be part of the community is through as an observer. Those are the ways that you can enter. I hope that has answered your question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE

He's from Samoa. There is already an ALS there. He can join that.

CLAIRE CRAIG	But he can also be an individual member if he chooses.
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE	Samoa has an ALS.
UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE	Basically, talk to your regional rep to tell you exactly about joining.
FILIMONI PELENATO	Thank you for that. I do understand Samoa Information Technology Association is part of the At-Large. I was asking on the basis of why the other membership exists. Should we all go through an At-Large Structure? Just a follow-up question, please. With regards to the unaffiliated memberships, do they go through a process as well in order to be registered as a member?
CLAIRE CRAIG	Yes.
FILIMONI PELENATO	That gets certified by the ALAC?
CLAIRE CRAIG	Yes.
FILIMONI PELENATO	Okay. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

It is being certified by not ALAC, but RALO. So if you apply as an individual member, you apply to your RALO actually. In your case, it will be Asia Pacific, Oceania. This lady is the one who can respond to your questions more. Thank you. This was really important questions for many of you to understand.

Any other questions over here? Yes, please. Go ahead.

FEDERICA TORTORELLA

Hello. This is Federica for the record. Sorry if this might sound silly, but for example, if you have to join through your region, but nowadays, we have a lot of digital nomads, then how do you join this At-Large community? Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Pick a region and join through that region and then feel free to be nomadic. I think that's not anything that should hold you up.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

And if you move, you join another region, so don't worry here.

GREG SHATAN

I'll just say that we have one member of NARALO who just joined us who previously was the representative of ISOC Nigeria and was a member of AFRALO, Caleb Ogundele. It happens all the time. The only place that's not covered is Antarctica.

JONATHAN ZUCK

We're in discussion with the penguins.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

I think your question brings to another point. If you are a member of At-Large, and it doesn't matter which region, can you be a part of another community as well? I think many of you also would like to know. Can you respond to that? If you are a member of At-Large, can you join other communities as well?

JONATHAN ZUCK

Within ICANN or do you mean with other regions within At-Large?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Within ICANN.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

I mean, if they are part of At-Large in any region they want, but can they be a part of, for example, BC or NC, UC, Non-Commercials Stakeholders, Commercial?

JONATHAN ZUCK

Yes, you can.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Well, I'm still a member of NCSG. I don't participate actively, but I can because that's how I came in and I still get correspondence from them. So you can continue to be an active member of another constituency.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

But you actually are not becoming inactive in NCSG, right? Because you are active here.

JONATHAN ZUCK

You can join the At-Large because it's not a constituency. There are constituencies that are part of the Generic Name Support Organization, such as the BC, the IPC, the ISPC, and the Registrars and Registries are all constituencies, and as such have specific membership requirements. Any one of them can also join the At-Large because we are an Advisory Committee and have a different standing within the organization. Now, that said, when you join us, we plan to work you to the bone so you don't really have any time to work in it with another constituency. So you'll wish you were only a member of the At-Large very soon and you'll find yourself resigning from the other one. That's just a reality. That's all.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

That's what I wanted these people to hear. Yes, please?

BILL JOURIS

This is Bill Jouris. I would just suggest to you that even if you don't belong to an ALS and At-Large Structure, if your region doesn't accept individual members, just show up with At-Large. There's plenty of work to do and they will put you to work. I know, I've been there.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Especially if you are keen and you are expert in policy development, this is where At-Large needs a lot of support and a lot of help there. If you are a policy developer, you can be a pen holder, you can provide some documents for public comments or you can provide advice to any documentation, feel free to join. There are so many ways of being part of the At-Large community.

CLAIRE CRAIG

If I could add, someone just reminded me, that you don't have to be a member of At-Large to be part of the working group. You can come to the meetings and you can join one of the working groups and you can work with us. Just by way of statistics, because I had to do it yesterday, over the last year, we submitted 13 public comments to the Board in the last 12 months. That's a lot of work to get done in that time so we need persons to be involved in that and to support and help however they can. You don't have to be an expert. Once you're willing to learn, there will be people who will guide you and you will learn while you're there as well.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Now, we call it work, but it's really, really fun.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

And it's voluntary. It's not paid. I want to make it sure that these guys are devoting their own life, if I could say, their time, their family time to this work on voluntary basis. No payment. Let me be clear, this is all being done voluntary. If you are thinking joining this community, be ready to devote your time, your passion, and your energy to this group.

We only have like three, four minutes to go. I would like to give the floor to Vanda Scartezini who is a NomCom representative. You heard this word today a couple of times. This is Nomination Committee. She has a very short announcement for you as well, and then we will wrap up this session.

VANDA SCARTEZINI

Hi, everybody. Nice to see you all here. We have this time until 28th of March the opportunity you have to apply for ALAC, for instance, and many other positions like CC, like GNSO, even the Board and PTI. PTI is overseeing the IANA, so more technical approach. But this time we have opportunities for the region, persons that are coming from region Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Asia Pacific. Next year will be Europe and North America. But this year, until the 28th, it's open for people to intend to apply. That's an opportunity. Even if you'll not be selected, you learn a lot how to apply, how is the expectation for that one position that we need for leadership persons on these groups. So try. It's in NomCom page. I

will leave some of those information here. Please do. It's a good opportunity for everybody to taste your capacity and look if you fit for a leadership position.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Excellent. Thank you, Vanda. Thank you very much. Indeed, if you go to NomCom, it's Nomination Committee. But if you Google ICANN NomCom, it's one word, you will find a lot of information and the application, the way how to apply for this. Also, Vanda will provide some information there. But it's all on the website. This is the committee which is independent one. You heard that five people are coming to ALAC, 15 seats from NomCom. NomCom selects also ICANN Board members, selects GNSO Council members and Country Code, ccNSO Council members. They are selecting top leadership positions. Coming through NomCom, many of these folks also came through NomCom. Actually, Leon, who is now the ICANN Board from At-Large, he came through Fellowship program, but then he was selected by NomCom to have a seat in ALAC. That's the way how he moved forward. Thank you, Vanda, for sharing this information.

With that, I would like to thank our At-Large colleagues and the folks. I hope that you will also have chance to talk with them during the Fellowship social, where I invite all of you to join us. It will be next door on the seventh-floor foyer. We'll be here. Thank you, Jonathan, for coordinating this, and Claire and the team behind this. With that, our meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

Thank you. This was our last session for today. We are going to enjoy some drinks and food outside. I hope there will be some food as well.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]