
ICANN82 | CF – Get to Know ICANN Community: RSSAC GAC and IPC
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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much. Hello, everyone, and welcome to the next series of onboarding sessions where we will learn about ICANN community. My name is Siranush Vardanyan, and I will be your remote participation manager for this session. This session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

There is interpretation in six languages in this room, so if you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in Zoom, and when called upon, virtual participants can be given permission to unmute their Zoom, and on-site participants will use the physical microphones over here, these two. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak, if you speak a language other than English, and please speak at a reasonable pace.

And for today's session, it's my pleasure to introduce and to start the first 30 minutes of the session with introducing you RSSAC. So, this is Root Server Security and Stability-- Root Server System Advisory Committee. Okay. We got it.

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JEFF OSBORN

If it is at the end, it will go on your permanent record. There are no errors allowed.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

So, Root Server System Advisory Committee. We are there. And the chair of RSSAC is Jeff Osborn here with us, and it's my pleasure to give the floor to him to introduce what RSSAC is doing and how we can become a part of RSSAC. Jeff, the floor is yours.

JEFF OSBORN

Thank you very much. Good morning, everyone present, and good afternoon, evening, or God knows when for those who are remote. My name is Jeff Osborn. I'm the chair of RSSAC, which, to be clear, is the Root Server System Advisory Committee. How many of you have come across an acronym that you didn't know what it meant sometime this week? Okay. I'm going to try to explain a hopefully in half an hour you'll have a better idea of one of them that you'll probably hear the most. So, that's my intention. I'm going to try to speak slowly and be clear. Let's see if we can't figure this out.

This is a deck I have used for other things. So, the first couple of pages are very ICANN specific, so I'm going to go through them fairly quickly. The Root Server System Advisory Committee basically advises the ICANN community and the Board on matters relating to the operation, security, and integrity of the DNS Root Server System. Have any of you run across the acronym DNS? The DNS, it turns out, is a really important part of how all of this works.

The last two letters in ICANN, NN, are for names and numbers. The DNS is how names get translated into numbers, and that's sort of the key technology of all of this. So, if there's any part of the technology you need to have a little bit of a handle on, it's how the domain name system works, and we operate a part of that, and hopefully we can explain to you a little about how it works.

Now, the next few slides I'm going to go through are a lot of details. So, if you're interested in RSAC, you now have this deck and can learn the bylaws that affect us, the composition of the organization and how it's made up, and then get a look at how we do things, and then documents that we've published. Everything from history to format to advisories, and this is, like I said, this is the boring part of the presentation, but I wanted you to have it. If you later decide, well, that was interesting, I wonder what the hell I was looking at. this is that detail.

The important part here, though, is the DNS, the domain name system, is the technology that makes the internet functional. It's really, really key to understanding the whole thing. And whether this section is boring or educational will depend on whether you find it interesting. There is work to be done for people who simply enjoy policy. There are people who love the technology part. This is the technology part, but I'll argue, no matter what you're interested in, having a better idea of how the DNS works will serve you well.

So, jumping right in, introducing the Domain Name System. You all know what a domain name is. Amazon.com is a domain name.

Example.com is a domain name. DNS uses human names to find computer addresses. Because humans can remember things like Amazon.com pretty easily, but the computers don't know what that means. The computers out there expect to get a numeric address, like 18.239.62.181. This is just like you have your mom's name in your phone. When you hit it, what actually goes out is a number. So, having a name, translating it to a number, is what this system does.

DNS is how we know that www.amazon.com is actually addressed at 18.239.62.181. That's how that works. The numbers can change in the background, and you don't care because you just need to remember the name. This is how all connected devices on the internet find each other. Traditionally, you think about computers and servers and they all connect, but anymore it's refrigerators and your car and the washing machine and every IoT device out there. This is literally how they all find each other.

So, DNS asks questions and provides answers. The question is, here's a name, and the answer is, here's the address. You all can now leave and go get highly paid jobs. Congratulations, you're DNS engineers. That's not technically true. It's actually a little more than that, but that's the base of it. This is really the base of how this works, and it's the important part of why you have to hold the internet together in one place. I'm pushing the wrong slides. Isn't that funny?

So, why DNS? The most obvious reason is you can remember example.com and you probably won't remember 192.168.45.99.

You just won't. The second reason is for portability because Amazon, for instance, has this incredibly complicated background and they change machines and locations and devices all the time. You don't need to know that. So, this is called service portability. If you've ever changed cell providers, it's really nice to be able to take your number with you. It's the same idea.

The same set of words will find the computer at the other end no matter what they do with it. So, DNS follows you to your new home if you're the one who has this address and you want people to find you. What's amazing in the details, everybody here has entered letters in a browser address and magically had it show up, but what you didn't realize is how huge the network is out there. There are literally hundreds of millions of directories that are out there maintained by people. Everybody who has a domain name, and there are currently 350 million of them out there, gets to list all the other places they want you to go and we find them really quickly. It's arguably the largest distributed database in the world and it's kind of cool to work on it.

So, again, I keep forwarding the slide on my computer. I'm just going to close that. There are millions of what are called resolvers around the world, and you may have seen addresses. If you're ever configuring your computer, there's a little line that says DNS and next to it somebody will tell you to put numbers in it and the real common ones like 8.8.8.8 or 1.1.1.1. If you've ever had to do that, that's when you've run into this thing because mostly this is just all automatic in the background.

There are millions of resolvers around the world and when you want to find something, your computer asks them what's the address. They basically read phone books. All of those databases out there give their information to the resolvers and the resolvers have it and they hand it off to you. So, again, we keep asking this question. What is the number for amazon.com? The answer is this string of numbers.

This happens in milliseconds. This is faster than you can really keep track of, and it happens about 500 trillion times a day. And if you think about that, that is a huge number and we spent about a year coming up with it and we think it's right. It turns out it's really hard to accurately nail down. About 500 trillion times a day, somebody goes and looks for the number that matches the name.

Usually, because if you are looking for amazon.com, a tenth of a second ago, somebody looked for amazon.com. So, the resolver already has looked this up and it has it in its memory. So, most of the time when you're asking for information, the first machine you talk to goes, oh, I know what that is. It's right here in my memory. So, between 95, 96, 97 percent of the time, it just comes out of the memory of that machine. But if it doesn't have it, this is where the network and the root zone things that we do get interesting. What if they don't know it locally? Down here we have Case 1. Who do you have to ask? Nobody because the resolver knew.

In case 2, you're asking, let's say, for www.amazon.com and they don't know where www.amazon.com is. So, they search and they realize, I know where amazon.com is and if I send you there, you

can ask it where the www part is because that's actually a different address. That happens about 2% of the time. If you don't know any of that, then you have to go, I know .com. Does that help? There are 140 million .com addresses. So, in Case 3, you get the top-level domains server and you say, hey .com, I need one of your things. Which one? amazon.com. I know where that is. It finds that address and it asks it, thanks, now I need the www one. So, it's a two-step process, but eventually you get there.

Now, in the really rare case that you just took this computer out of the box or there's been a power outage and you don't know anything, you go to case 4. This is where you don't know anything and you say, help, is there something like a domain name out there? And it literally says, well, this address will get you to .com or this address will get you to .info and there are about 1,400 of these things to the right of the dot. The root server system just knows the addresses to the thing to the right of the dot. So, it's when you know absolutely nothing, we're there to provide this information to you. Does that make sense?

You know what it's a lot like is country codes. Like if you forgot how to use a telephone, you're going to need to know that 44 is how you start every call to Great Britain. Then, once we tell you that, you'll probably remember it forever, but if you come out of a coma, somebody's going to have to tell you, don't forget when you call your mom in the UK, it's 44 and then you won't have to ask again for a long time. So, that's kind of how we work.

Now this is the part where if you get through this next set of slides and it made sense to you, you can get a job as a DNS engineer and make fabulous money. This is how this process actually works. So, either checking in with your mom and tell her you like the hotel or pay attention, but the next five minutes, this is how this thing really works. The gray box is a resolver, which is just a computer that knows how to look stuff up. We're going to go through the process. Can you read those? If you can't, I'll say them anyway.

The upper left, it says start and there's a question, which is what is the IP address for `www.example.com` and you ask the resolver, come on now, do I know the answer? And it turns out you do, because there's a memory there and the last guy asked for `www.example.com`, so everybody knows and it's a simple process and this is how well over 90% of the time it works. That's DNS. You ask for a name, the first person you ask knows it, they give you the number and away you go.

But what happens if it doesn't know? So, now we ask the question, hey, what's `www.example.com`? The computer goes, uh-oh, I don't know that one. I go, okay, well, let's drop the `www`. Do you know where `example.com` is? And the computer goes, yeah, I know that. It's over here. It's the authoritative service for `example.com` and I'm going to ask it, hey, where's `www`? It gives the number, because the answers are always in numbers. It puts it in memory and now it says, do I know the answer yet? Yes, I do.

Well, let's say we go one step harder. Where's `www.example.com`? Do I know? No, I don't. Uh-oh, do I know where `example.com` is?

Nope. How about .com? Yes, I know where that is. So, I ask it, where's example.com? And the authoritative server, one of the 300 million databases out there says, here's where it is. We get the address, we put it in memory. Do I know the answer yet? No, I'm still missing the www part. So, then I go, okay, well, how about example.com? Yes, I know where that is. Cool, sent me that one. Here's the number, put it in memory. Now do I know? Yes. Got it?

Now we're going to start with the absolutely stupidest guy that could possibly ask who just came out of a box and doesn't know where anything is. What is www.example.com's number? I don't have the answer. I don't know what example.com is. I don't even know what .com is. I don't know anything. But I have a list that came with me that said there are these 12 guys out there and one of them, whoever answers first, can give me the authoritative server.

And so, this comes up and says, we are the root server system. Here's how you get to .com to ask it questions. Here's a number, don't forget it. Now do I know the answer? No, I just know .com. Do I know example.com? No, I just know.com. Okay. Hey .com, where's example.com? Ask, question, memory. One more time, I know example.com but not www. So, I will go and look for it. I get the number and back it comes and now do I know the answer? Yes, that's it. And what's so neat?

[00:15:57 – Spanish language] registrant, the registrant. So, the person who has the domain name gets to say what all the www things are off to the left of it. And they get to control them all. They

don't have to interact with each other at all because we know where to look. Usually, it's just in memory but sometimes you've got to go all the way down to the root of that. Isn't that interesting?

There's a great term for this too. People use the term recursive server and in computer programming something that's recursive means you're just, you're continuing to do something until you figure it out all the way down. So, that is the magic of the recursive server. And if you find this beautiful, you should have been a programmer or it's not too late. You should be one.

So in review, the root server system. The root server holds a copy of a file called the Root Zone and that's basically just the phone book of if you need to get to .com it's at this address. If you need to get to .us it's this address. If you get to need-- And there's only 1,400 of those in the world. So, it's not a big list. It's really, I have read the whole thing. It is not that long. And that's what it provides. So, it tells you .com, .nl, .jobs.

The next step up, the top-level domains authoritative server knows those next steps. So, it knows you can put TikTok in front of .com or Amazon in front of .com or anything in front of .nl. The domain names authoritative server is what we think of as the owner, but the term is actually registrant. So amazon.com having that name gets to decide what to put on the front of it and the resolver finds and returns the answer for all of this stuff from these three different places. And it's all distributed and happens so fast you don't even see it going. It's kind of amazing.

So in summary, the root server system just provides an address for that very top level. We're just giving you the country code. We don't know anything about what's in that country. We don't have any information on it. We just know how to get to that country. We don't decide what numbers those are. We don't get to control any of that information. We don't get to write any of that information. It's all provided by a group at ICANN called IANA, because you needed another acronym, and it's all put together and encrypted and handed to us and we just go out and deliver the mail.

So, the root server system isn't a gateway. It's not a filter. It's not a publisher. We just deliver the mail really, really well. We're in 1,800 locations around the world. We are within 10 or 20 milliseconds of almost any space on earth, Antarctica included, and it just works really remarkably well. There's no single point of technological failure because it's all a fallback for each other and because there are 12 of us doing it, it's hard to imagine a situation where most of us wouldn't be still alive and doing it no matter what happens.

And that was my last slide. How do you go backwards? Oh, I guess I'll leave it here. So, anybody feel qualified to go get a job as a highly qualified DNS engineer? Run with it now before you forget.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

So now I'm referring to newly established group of technical experts. Do you have a question for Jeff? Yes. We'll start Mohibul, then we'll come to Khadija, and then Saima, and then we'll see.

MOHIBUL MAHMUD

Hey, hello. It's Mohibul here, ICANN82 fellow. My question is, how does RSSAC collaborate with other ICANN advisory committee like SSAC to address security concerns related to the root server systems?

JEFF OSBORN

You know, the funny thing, we work closely with SSAC. We're really pretty friendly. It'd be really easy if you were in either group to be in the other group because we have very similar concerns. There aren't a lot of security concerns. We're basically handed an entirely encrypted file. It's public. Anybody on earth can get it. So, the security would be if somebody manipulated that file, it would be visible to everybody else on earth. There are all kinds of organizations that are always out checking, is that file the one it should be? Is that file the one it should be?

It's similar to like open-source software. In my day job, I run the company that develops most of the software that does most of the DNS around the world. And it's an open-source nonprofit company. You could read the code anytime you want, anybody can. And so, people talk about what if there's something horrible in the code? Some grad student in China is going to talk about it next week in Bangkok, and I'm going to hear about it because it's public and everybody on earth gets to check it anytime they want to.

So, the security concerns are not really that big because there's kind of nothing bad to do. And if you did harm it somehow, all it means is one of the other 11 servers out there would provide you the correct information. And all it is is the address of the .com server or the .uk server or the .nl server. It's not personal information. It's not a website. Our security concerns, it's like running a public bathroom. There's nothing to steal. There's nothing to break. So, there's not a whole lot to actually worry about. Does that make sense? Because it sounded like a non-answer, but it's just a non-concern.

MOHIBUL MAHMUD

Thank you. Just a follow-up question. For example, kind of DDoS attack, how you handle those kind of attacks?

JEFF OSBORN

A DDoS attack, by the way, is usually an attack in which a bunch of places around the world try to ask a question using very little language that has an answer that's a lot of language. So, imagine if somebody came up to you and said, give me your grandma's recipe for birthday cake. Well, that's a 10-minute answer. It's going to take you 10 minutes. If 50 people ask you that in a minute, and you're a computer, you've just ruined your next hour.

And so, a DDoS, that's the really simplified version. So, DDoS attack is where a lot of people are trying to get you to get very busy for a long time. And the way you can do it is by ganging up on one address. We use Anycast. And Anycast is kind of neat. It's sort of

like anywhere in America, if you pick up the telephone and call 911, you're going to get the local office. You can't all gang up on 911 in a particular place because it always goes to the closest one. Anycast is the same way.

My company operates 300 of these things around the world. They've got the same address. So, if you call us from all around the world, it's going to get split up into 300 attacks. And so, it happens all the time. People try to do this. We're a very unattractive target. The other thing that's great is it's literally 1,800 things. If you knock down the first 1,500 of them, nobody would know. They are literally all fallbacks for each other. So, it is shockingly resilient. And in 37 years, it's never failed.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Khadija. Yes, please take this mic.

KHADIJA MIAN

Thank you so much for this presentation. I had a question about-- Well, I have a two-part question. I have a question about private browsing first. I wanted to know if the increasing push to prevent devices from having a cache at all is going to affect the way that the DNS root server system works. And then I also wanted to ask about AI and the way that AI is bringing sources from multiple places and bringing them together. Is that going to affect the way that the DNS root server system works or how it's maintained?

JEFF OSBORN

Oh, great questions. The caching you're talking about in private browsing is unrelated. It's a different kind of caching. So, the term is, you're right, it involves caching. When we're talking about caching, it's more like just remembering what you did before. And again, like I said, my company writes the software that does this. And so, it has very rigorous ways of ensuring that its memory is kept in the right place and only cleaned up later when it needs to be. So, it's not really an issue.

AI is like quantum computing, where nobody has thought through all of the answers yet. So, that's why it's always a good question. I haven't figured out a way it's going to directly affect us much yet. And it's literally, this is my part-time job doing this and then my full-time job. In both of them, I spent a lot of time thinking about this. I haven't figured out where it's really going to affect us yet. The interesting thing to keep in mind is when you're talking about issues on the internet, you're very often talking about my personal computer and my personal information. We're literally handing out country codes.

So, if I told you Germany is .38, I think, and then you did all kinds of things for that information, I just gave you the .38. So literally all we do is say, here's how to go ask .com some questions. Here's how to go ask .fr some questions. We're so far removed from the actual data that we're just not involved. Does that make sense?

KHADIJA MINA

Yeah. Thank you so much.

JEFF OSBORN

Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. And Saima? Just no, no question. Okay. Thank you, Jeff. It's always a pleasure listening to you and learning from you. Thank you very much for your time.

JEFF OSBORN

Thanks for your time.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yes. And we will now move to learning another community, which is called GAC, so Government Advisory Committee. And it's my pleasure to introduce Karel, who is GAC representative from Trinidad and Tobago, but that's not the only hat he has. So, he's a fellow and he is a part of the new incoming, no, current mentor for the fellowship program. I mixed it with the selection committee members. So, he's a current mentor for the Next Round as well. So, Karel, let us tell us about GAC and what you are doing and how you became a GAC member as well. The floor is yours.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Thank you, Siranush. And good morning, good evening, or good afternoon. That's a new salutation in ICANN because we have so many remote participants. So, thank you. And yes, I'm from Trinidad and Tobago. I don't know if anybody knows where that is.

Put your hands up if you know. Okay. That's a fair amount of people. And for those who don't know, Trinidad and Tobago is in the Caribbean, very close to Venezuela. If you don't know where Venezuela is, that's in the legitimate question for some people. Venezuela is in South America. So yes, it's actually quite warm there, unlike Seattle at the moment. So, we tend to have a lot of sun and sand, and it was carnival last week. So, that's a good reason to go to Trinidad.

So yeah, and of course, I have been a fellow. I was a fellow in ICANN49. I think my first fellowship was in Singapore, and then it was in Durban and London, I believe. So, I did my fellowship at ICANN, and I learned a lot. And I do see many persons who were fellows at that time also now members of the ICANN community in different roles, quite important roles at that. So, the fellowship program has been very, very good to me. I've been very involved in ICANN and specifically in the GAC. Just to give you a little history, even before I joined the GAC, I was a part of the NCUC, which is one of the constituencies under the NSCG, the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group. I'm going to get this--

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

We will learn about them during our last session today.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Yes. And that's another thing. You're going to have a lot of different acronyms being thrown at you. So don't get intimidated. It will come to you. But of course, as I do tell people all the time, take it

piece by piece. Don't try and, as I say, boil the ocean. Don't try to go to too many meetings where you become overwhelmed.

But having said that, off to the GAC. So, what is the GAC about? So, the GAC is the Governmental Advisory Committee. And I do have some slides here. So, it's not going to be as exciting as the RSSAC. And I wanted to ask a question as well, by the way, Jeff, if somebody said that not even a nuclear war could destroy the internet. And it's unbreakable, but we'll leave that to the end. So, we'll come to that.

So, the Governmental Advisory Committee, also known as the GAC, is one of three advisory committees in ICANN. So, it was established in 1999, quite some time ago. And as you know, it does or is the voice of governments and also intergovernmental organizations or IGOs. And what are intergovernmental organizations, you may ask? Does anybody know? What's the hazard, I guess? Sorry? UN? Okay. Well, that could be one, but I don't think the UN, but that would be something of an intergovernmental organization.

So, we do have, for example, the CTU, which is the Commonwealth or the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. Do we have CANTO as well? CANTO? So, we have Teresa Wankin, who's from CANTO. And so, these are bodies that represent interests. I believe we have WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organization. So not only do you have governments like Trinidad and Tobago or the United States, but you also have non-governmental bodies.

So, the idea, as you have here, we have currently 183 governments as members, and those members are allowed to vote. And we have 39 intergovernmental organizations as observers, and they all come together to make the GAC. An interesting fact is that there's a high turnover of members at the GAC. So, we do have 183 members, so government as members. But you find what happens quite often is that representatives come and go.

So for example, today we may have some new members because they've been promoted into the job, and next week they're off to another job, and so we don't see them again. But I'll come to that to say one of the big issues that the GAC has is to see how best to inform the new members how to be a part of the GAC. So, we'll come to that.

So right now, this is the GAC. And you could think of the GAC as a committee. It is a committee, just like how we sit here. And you come from all over the world, different parts of the world with different interests, and we sit as a committee to make decisions. And that is essentially what it is. Unlike any other committee, you have to have a leadership, a leadership body. So, the GAC is led by a chair and five vice chairs, just like how you have at home you may have in your workplace a board, and you have a chair of the board, and you have members who are members of the board.

So, the chair is elected by the members, and currently, and I say currently because the next few slides will tell you that this has been considered, reconsidered. The current term for the chair is two years, and he has a maximum of two consecutive terms. So, like

the president, you can't serve more than two terms. And the vice chairs, we have five vice chairs, and they have a term of one year and a maximum of two consecutive terms. Now the vice chairs themselves, the five vice chairs are meant to be representative of the different regions.

Let's go back on that one. So, when I say the different regions, so for example, we have North America, we have Asia Pacific, we have Africa, we have Middle East, and we have Europe, and Latin America. So, when we select our vice chairs, we are mindful of the fact that we want to make sure we have representation, so that we do have somebody from, let's say Latin America, may not always be the case. It may not always be the case, but as much as because people who want to be vice chairs, we select from the pool. Let's say we have five people, and those five people tend to be from, okay, just North America, and Europe, and maybe Asia, and maybe nobody from Africa, so we'll select. But as much as possible, we try to make sure that it is representative of the GAC.

So, moving on. And of course, like any committee, you need to have support, right? You need to have support. So, we do have a fabulous support team, supported by five ICANN's support, just like you would have here. And in our case, we have five members, we call them the Fabulous Five. Just like the superheroes you see walking about, there's a Comic Con conference, by the way, if anybody's seen that. But if you haven't, we have our own Fabulous Five, Rob Hoggarth, Fabien Bertremieux, Julia Charvolen, Benedetta Rossi, and Gulten Tepe.

And those are the persons who tend to sit in the back of the room, and they help a lot with meetings. They help us a lot with agendas, and you see here, organizing meetings, providing substantive issue on briefings, managing the GAC website, which is a huge undertaking, email. I get so much email. I don't know what's going on. I get swarmed. It's almost like they're spamming me. That is something you get accustomed to. There's a lot of email or email messages. They liaise with ICANN org and other structures. So, they do a lot of the work for the GAC.

Because remember, we don't work full-time in ICANN. So, we need their support to make sure things are happening, understand there's a meeting. And you wouldn't believe, I thought this meeting was at 1:30. And it was Rob, one of the GAC support staff, said, "Karel, you need to be somewhere at this time, don't you?" And so, they are immensely important to us.

Moving on. So, how does the GAC work? So, we come together from all these parts of the world, Trinidad and Tobago, from your countries as well, and I'm sure some of you know your GAC representatives. If you haven't, try and make an effort to meet them. And we come together, as I said, and we have to meet and discuss what do we need to discuss. Yeah. We'll come to that. But when we do meet, we don't argue. We meet to discuss and then negotiations, just like you would have at home or in your workplace. And the way we meet and discuss and make decisions is by consensus.

So, consensus advice is to understand, to meet the practice of adopting decisions by general agreement in absence of any formal objection. So, for example, if I were to put out a question here, would you say that we should have a break for lunch at 12:00? Let me just put it out. Do you think we should go for lunch at 1:00 and forego lunch at all? Okay. Well, I guess people here are not saying yes or no, but if everybody said yes, then okay, we will accept that as consensus advice. Nobody objected. Generally, no hands are raised, but we do on occasion ask for a raise of hands.

So, that is a way of making consensus advice. So, it's not necessarily like how you would have a board and a resolution and how many yeas and how many nays. I'm sure you've seen that sometimes, either in movies or if you sit on a board. So, consensus advice is a general way of getting agreement without necessarily going through the yeas and the nays and how many abstentions.

And at the end of that, we have a communiqué. Now, a communiqué is a fancy word for a resolution or a report. In other words, we've met for the week and coming out of that week, we have these five things that we've decided upon. That make sense? So, we've met and just like how we meet here today, we're going to have five things or three things. And the communiqué is written up and that communiqué would be-- Well, as it says here, in the communiqué we have the minutes and the transcripts and all these things that would have taken place. And that would be the formal, let's say, document that would say what was decided at the meeting. Is everybody clear on that? Is that okay? Right.

So just to say that we do meet face to face three times a year together with the ICANN meetings. So, we've met this year, first time this year, but three times last year as well. And we have internal working groups. So just like any other big committee, we sometimes have smaller groups to do some heavy lifting. So, let's say the big issue these days would be the Next Round. So, there are some issues concerning the next round of gTLDs.

So not everybody may be interested or there may be certain issues that we say, listen, maybe persons who are interested, we could form a small subgroup. And that subgroup will focus on those issues and then report back to the bigger group. So, we have working groups. So, moving quickly along. I don't know how my time is, Siranush. Am I okay for the time?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Maybe two, three minutes more, and then we'll go to questions.

KAREL DOUGLAS

I should tell you that Trinis likes to talk a lot, so, yeah, you need to rein me in.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Don't worry, I will stop you.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Okay, great. And I'm going to skip some slides here because, yeah, so I just spoke about the role of the GAC. And of course, what does

the GAC do in respect to the broader picture? Because there's so many different committees and constituencies. So, we just come to meet and talk and go home? No. So, we provide advice to the ICANN Board ultimately. And that's really important. Why? Why is it important?

Because we are governments. And governments have a role to play, a huge role to play when it comes to the law and lawmaking. So, if, for example, ICANN has to deal with an issue, you need to hear from the governments. Because that's a huge reason why it could be adopted or opposed, as the case may be. So, we provide advice to the ICANN Board on issues of public policy, especially where there may be interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws. I want you to understand and stress national laws.

Because there are decisions in the past, and maybe now, that could affect your country. You could be in a country where the law doesn't allow certain things, but ICANN is making a decision to say, yes, that has to be done. And your country is saying, no, we don't have that. We don't allow that type of issue. And you do know that, or if you may not know that, certain issues have been discussed that could very well affect you, how you access the internet. Or maybe the government that the country that you live in, it may be adverse to those issues there.

So nonetheless, so ICANN provides advice in respect in accordance with the GAX operating principles. And I won't get into the GAC operating principles, because they are just rules of how we meet

and how we do things. I'm going to speed up here. I'm going to skip this. So, this is the bylaws. We could skip that.

Right. So, okay. So, like anything else, there's a process. And that's one thing that the ICANN is really good at, processes. At work, I'm a lawyer, by the way. We, where I work at the telecommunications authority, we ask our providers, what do you think about this? We're going to have a new law. What do you think about that? And it's exactly the same here. Exactly the same. So, we would have gone through a process and have, as I said before, at the end of the meeting, have a communiqué. That communiqué is then sent to-- So, I'm actually going to say it goes to the Board. And then it goes to the Board, who may then seek clarification.

And the Board comes back saying, no, we want some further information. And you will see here the type of process that it may go through. So, the Board will then say, okay, no, we agree. And then the Board will determine yes, as the case may be, or no, in which case the Board will engage the GAC on the advice for further clarification or further consultation. As the case may be, it will then go, if it is yes, and I'm sorry if I'm reading this too fast, because there's different lines, but is there a point on this one? Okay. It's okay.

But in any way, so generally, the process is of engagement. So, the very same thing that you would do at work before you send out something, you will talk to your boss and talk to your colleagues. We do the same thing in the GAC. And this happens to all these other committees, and it's called the PDP. So, it is a Policy

Development Process. And just think of it as asking people what you think. I get your response. This is what I want to do. I get a response, and then it goes to a different stage. I'm going to change it, and then it goes along to the end.

All right, so working methods. All right. We spoke about this. We have our own operating principles of bylaws, how we meet, how we don't meet, as the case may be, how persons are elected. I can skip past this. Elections can be done electronically. We have working groups and so forth. And these are all parts of a committee. It's quite usual. Of course, between the meetings, we meet. So, we have online meetings. Sometimes we have webinars. So not only at these meetings when we meet physically, we have meetings as well. And so, I'm going to skip past this.

And, of course, we have interpretation, just like you would have experienced here. You have the six languages plus Portuguese, and you do see interpretation over there. And I spoke to that. Intersessional work, basically meaning we meet during, in between meetings. I'm going to skip past some of this.

All right. And, of course, every two years, we have the high-level government meeting. Now, the high-level government meeting, what is that? Who needs this? This is really an opportunity for the heads, your important government ministers, because what happens sometimes, you will come to the meeting, but your minister at home, who you report to, has no idea what the ICANN does or what the GAC does. So, it is an opportunity for your minister to come, your high-level representative to come, and be

informed of the GAC and the importance of ICANN and the issues that we discuss.

So, we had one recently in Kigali, and a lot of ministers came, a lot of heads of department came, and, again, it was an opportunity to explain to them, this is what we do when you send this gentleman or gentlelady to wherever it is. These are the issues that we discuss. Let me skip along here. All right. This is what I just mentioned, reaffirm the critical role that governments play at ICANN and enable a clearer understanding of that role.

So, I did mention that we have working groups. So just like how you have subcommittees on a board, you have working groups, as I said, to do some of the heavy lifting. And we have several working groups. We have the Underserved Regions Working Group, which is one that I'm also a co-chair of, along with Tracy Hackshaw, who is also from Trinidad and Tobago. So, we have a lot of Trinis here.

So, the Underserved Regions Working Group focuses on regions underserved by the DNS industry and least developed economies and small island developing states. And I could speak a little bit more to that because, as I said, I'm a co-chair of that working group. And what we recognize, the Underserved Regions Working Group, is that there are a lot of newcomers and a lot of people who just don't understand what ICANN is about. They come from wherever they come from, and they're lost. And they come to the meeting, and they sit down, they take notes, and they stare at the screen, and they go back home.

And this happens. It happened to me. I had no idea what is ICANN about. I sat down, and all these acronyms and the technical issues, and nobody took the time to say, hey, Karel, this is what we're discussing. Sometimes you go to a meeting, and they're already discussing it from the last meeting, so it's almost in mid-swing. And nobody said, listen, this is about that.

So, the Underserved Regions Working Group is aiming to help people understand. So, we have 60 new people in the GAC at this meeting. That means 60 new people who've never been to an ICANN meeting. They don't know anything about ICANN. They're newcomers. And the job of the working group, this working group, is to say, hey, come on, let me pull you to one side and have a quick discussion. Do you know what we're talking about? Why don't you ask a question? Or ask me, and we could discuss these things. Maybe you don't want to ask a question, but at least when this is being discussed, you know what is being discussed. You have an idea.

So, I'm going to skip along. Next working group is the Public Safety Working Group, speaking about the DNS, again, the threats to the DNS. Next working group is on human rights and international law. We have, of course, a very important working group, which is the hot new topic that everybody's discussing, is Next Round of New gTLDs. So, I'm not going to discuss that because I'm sure that's going to be a hot topic as well.

The Next Round of New gTLDs, you know what a gTLD is, but it's going to have new ones. So you have the .com, .biz, but it's going

to have new ones. So, if anybody wants to have a new generic top-level domain, now is the time. Maybe you're thinking of an idea, hey, I could make a few millions, right? I'm going to, I don't know, .moon, because that's a new thing, right? So, we have a working group on that.

Talking about applicant support for persons who need to maybe want to apply. So, I'm going to skip on. We have a working group on the Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names Working Group, so other scripts besides English. And the working group on the operating principles, so just like how we vote, how we do things. Any questions, or should I just run through this? I will come to the end shortly.

All right. So, I'm going to skip along this here. So, the GAC, obviously, like every other committee, we talk to other committees. So, hey, what is RSSAC doing? RSSAC, what are you guys doing? All this fancy stuff. Well, we need your what is IP doing. You intellectual property lawyers, oh, come on. So, there's a lot of communication, because we all, in a large part, may have shared goals, and it is, of course, part of the multi-stakeholder methodology. So, we do communicate a lot with different committees.

And we spoke about the PDP before. I'm going to skip this, of course. This is important. I'm going to go over this. IANA transition, that was a while ago. I don't know why this is here. Skip over that. Topics. All right, so what are the hot topics? Anybody has an idea what may be the hot topic? We have a prize for this

question. Anybody? Maybe, no? Okay. Let's go on. As I said, the hot topics, maybe we should do a prize, and that will keep people awake.

All right. So, the hot topics, at least for now, are, or is, are, collective noun, the New gTLD Subsequent Rounds. I did just speak about that. There's going to be a new round of generic top-level domains. So, guys, when you're in your free moment, think about something that you could probably take back home and think of maybe a new top-level domain. WHOIS and Registration Data Services?

As you know, in the past, you could have put in a domain name into the WHOIS, and you would get to find out who is the person behind that. Hey, that's cool. Now that has changed because of the GDPR. So, data protection says that information actually is private. So, any information that could identify a person, it could be private, it could be personal, and so forth. So, that is a big issue. But of course, that could be a problem for LEAs, law enforcement agencies, so we don't know who's a bad actor. So, those are hot issues for us.

DNS Abuse, I just mentioned some of that. IGO rights protection, so you have persons who rights need to be protected. And Internationalized Domain Names, so as I mentioned, countries or languages that are not currently on the internet. So, it could be, I don't know, there's so many people who around the world that speak languages that are just not English, but they have to be on the internet. So, how are you going to get maybe Bengali or certain Chinese dialects, but they are also going to be part of the internet.

So, how are we going to get them on, and they don't know English, or they don't know? So, those are part of the working groups on the issues.

And I think this is almost the last slide, so you'll be happy to know. So, important for us in the GAC, as I mentioned before, is capacity building. Capacity building, capacity building, capacity building. 60 new people this meeting, they don't know anything, so we try to bring them in into the fold to hold their hand.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Is this ICANN75?

KAREL DOUGLAS

I know, I was going to ask about that. I need to remove that 75 there. I don't know who that got there. But you got a prize for saying that. Yeah, I was going to give somebody a prize, whoever said. Okay. We can skip this because I think we just spoke about these issues. I don't know. The next issue we're discussing is changing the, how we are governed as a committee. So maybe instead of having the chair for two terms, and he can't serve another term, maybe three terms, just to give some consistency over a period of time. That's an internal matter.

And of course, we have some websites, because this is ICANN, right? So, you must have a website for something. And this is a way, if you want more information, by all means, you can get that at these websites. And I think that is it. Five minutes. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Excellent. Oh, my God. We have so many questions. We definitely will not be able to take more questions than one, maximum two. But Karel will be staying here, and during the break, you can ask him. Desio, I want you to come. Next to Desio, the guy, come close.

KAREL DOUGLAS I hope I could answer the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Yes, please introduce your name and ask your question.

SONGO NORE Hello, everyone. My name is Songo Nore. I'm from Papua New Guinea. Kind of like a very interested in the topic that was raised in regards to get priorities with in relation to the internationalized domain names. In the ICANN multi-stakeholder process, we are trying to promote a multilingual internet. And I believe that there are about 60 countries in the world with their local languages being captured into the internationalized domain names. Most of these countries, they have their own writing system, ancient writing system native scripts where they can easily capture them into the IDN system, but if--

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Songo, I'm sorry to interrupt. This is not public forum. Very briefly, what is the question? Because we, we are very limited. We have very limited time.

SONGO NORE

But my question is what is the GAC working at the moment to try to incorporate or assimilate other cultures, especially in the global South, like Papua New Guinea and in the Pacific Islands into the IDN system where they don't have a proper writing system in place? What is the GAC doing at the moment or encouraging, especially to absorb or assimilate those who don't understand English or who cannot speak in other languages that are already in the IDN system, but they have roots in oral traditions. But how do we capture them into the IDN system so that their voice can be heard in the ICANN multi-stakeholder process, or at least those who don't have understanding about English language, they can have access to the internet? Yeah.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Okay. Thank you so much. That's a fantastic question. Now, I'm not a member of the working group, but I could tell you that it's a huge issue for us simply because we understand that many governments who even come to the GAC are from countries where their language needs to be incorporated into the internet so that their populations can access, can be a part and parcel.

So, I can't tell you at this point in time what are the most recent issues concerning that process because, as you know, it is ongoing.

It is something that we're working towards a solution to ensure that there is adoption. Recently, even in Trinidad and Tobago, I must say, we had a launch, well, ICANN had a launch, let me put it like that, in five jurisdictions where the universal acceptance and IDNs were promoted. So, it is ongoing.

It may be more of a technical issue as to what specific scripts are being involved or being incorporated into the- in the script. Maybe you would know more, Jeff, because I'm not the expert on these things, but from the GAC level, from, let's say, the political level, if you want, where a country is being involved in the internet but wants to make sure that their script is part of it, that is where we are seeing, yes, as much as possible to have these scripts incorporated, but it's a work in progress. So, I can't tell you the definitive where we are at this point in time, but it's something that we're looking at quite closely.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

You can talk with Karel during the break and continue this discussion if possible.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Maybe you can come to the GAC meeting. I'll try and find out when we're discussing that. So, it'll be an excellent opportunity for you to come and see exactly what is being discussed. Because we do have a working group, and maybe I could actually introduce you to some of the members.

SONGO NORE Actually, I was there at a GAC meeting group, but I did want to raise this question, but I felt that I must find a proper audience to raise this, so this, I think, it's a perfect audience for me.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN I think Karel can connect you, Songo, with the people who are in that working group, and they can sit and discuss this with you further. This will be the best way for you to understand the roots of this problem and how it can be solved. Okay? Thank you.

SONGO NORE Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Ten minutes ten seconds. Vinny, go.

VINNY ADJIBI Okay. Vinny Adibi for the records. My question is, so you guys are working in governments which are not stable most of the cases, so political parties come and go. How do you make sure that your advices are constant or more predictable?

KAREL DOUGLAS That's a really good question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

10 seconds.

KAREL DOUGLAS

I was like Usain Bolt, huh? He did 10 seconds. Well, that is an issue. That is an issue that we face every day, every meeting, because, yes, governments come and go, and you would see sometimes a letter come in to the GAC saying, listen, there's a new representative. And that is normal, quite normal, that people--

So, what happens is that there may be a change in perspective. There's nothing wrong with it. We accept, because, as I say, we're not a political body per se, but we are representative of different governments. So, if somebody comes from your country and is a new member of a new government, he may have a perspective, and he's free to share it. And just like everything else, when we come to a matter, he or she would say, well, this is the perspective of my government, as the case may be. And that's fine, and we accept that, and it still goes through the process where we would hear different views and have a decision. So, it is quite usual, and we welcome, to be honest with you, we actually welcome divergent views. So, nothing happens to say otherwise. This is quite acceptable, and, yeah, it's welcome.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

And I would suggest definitely there is a lot of interest how GAC is working. Go to the GAC sessions on Tuesday. This is constituency day, and definitely the way how they prepare their communiqué will be another interesting way of observing how GAC is working,

and then try to find your own GAC representative, as Karel mentioned.

Karel, thank you very much, and thank you for being here with us. We'll move forward to our last presenter for this session is Intellectual Property Constituency, which we call IPC. It's another abbreviation for us to learn. And John and David, it's my pleasure to introduce chair and vice chair of IPC constituency here. We would like to hear from you. What are you doing, and what is this constituency working on? You have the power over slides.

JOHN MCELWAINE

Thank you. And it's a thrill to be here with the Government Advisory Committee and the RSSAC advisory committees are the real important players in the ICANN model, and the IPC as a constituency, I'll talk a little bit about it, is part of the policymaking process.

So, to start, thank you. Thank you for being here. We need you as part of the multi-stakeholder model. We need your thoughts, your opinions, your new diverse ideas. The multi-stakeholder model depends upon getting new fresh faces into its system to help grow and do all the hard work that is going on to make policy. So, I'm really excited to speak to you today and tell you a little bit more about the IPC.

I'm here with David Hughes. He's the vice president or vice chair of the IPC, and we're going to kind of go over a little bit about what we do, but to start, maybe it'd be useful. Have you guys had any

explanation about the policymaking process yet here at ICANN?
Okay. Good. So, this will then all make sense, hopefully.

Okay. So, the IPC represents the interests of intellectual property owners throughout the world. And when we say intellectual property, we're dealing with intangible rights. Those rights are enshrined in a number of different laws and international treaties. So, we're talking about things like copyrights, which are rights granted to authors in their works, trademarks, which are words and symbols and even other types of devices that represent the source of products so that consumers know that they're getting the real thing when they're shopping online or even in the real world that they're getting the right product.

We're also talking about other adjacent rights like the right to your likeness so that people can't steal your identity. So, that's what we focus on. And we obviously here at ICANN, we're focusing on how those rights intersect with the domain name system, which we've heard, I'm sure, a lot about today, how all that works. And as I said, we're part of the policymaking process, so we try to ensure that those rights are reflected in policy as it's being made by ICANN.

So, what do we do? We participate in the meetings held three times a year. We are very involved in the GNSO Council, so the Generic Name Supporting Organization Council, that is the policymaking body. We, as individuals, engage in working groups to help develop those policy recommendations. We are involved in other advocacy, so we will sometimes write letters, we will do comments on

policies, all of that hard work that's required to make policy through the multi-stakeholder model.

As we heard, we will have meetings with the GAC. We'll have meetings with other advisory committees. We will have meetings with other constituency groups, so we look for alignment on issues. We look sometimes to educate other groups on the issues that we are experts in or find important. And then, lastly, we engage in other types of reviews and committees, such as the ICANN Nominating Committee.

Let me go ahead and yeah, right here. So, I think it's important to talk about, before we get to policy issues, who we are and then how do we fit within the GNSO structure. Who we are really is a group of large international associations, so these are our members, like the International Trademark Association, industry groups, such as the Motion Picture Association. David, why don't you tell us a little bit about your organization to give people a feel for who our members are?

DAVID HUGHES

Okay. Again, thank you for being here. We're really encouraged to see so many young faces because most of us are getting old. I represent a group called the Coalition for Online Accountability. So, my members are the major record companies like Universal Music, Sony Music, which is where I spent most of my career, Warner Music Group, as well as the major motion picture studios.

So, the Motion Picture Association, as well as their members like NBC Universal, Warner Brothers Studios, Disney, for example.

And on the IPC list that we talked about, whether it's brands or trademarks or copyright itself, these issues are all very important to the companies that I represent. And that's why we're here. As you can imagine, from the consumer side, a lot of harm can be caused. People can be tricked. This is one of the issues that, if we have time, we'll come back to. They use a lot of products, whether it's a brand like Warner Brothers Pictures or Harry Potter or something like that, to trick people into spending money on false products or being ripped off or phishing attacks and all kinds of things. And it overlaps with a lot of the things that we'll talk about, abuse and harm, which is what we'll come back to a little bit later, I think. So, that's who we are.

So, I'm going to interrupt for one minute. This is a completely separate thing. Coalition for Online Accountability, COA, another acronym. So, this is what I recommend you do. When I first started ICANN years ago, I made a spreadsheet. And every time an acronym came up for the second or third time that I didn't know, I looked it up. We have wonderful tools now. If you go on the ICANN resource page, there's ICANN acronyms and terms, as well as the acronym helper. IPC, for example, if you type IPC in, it'll tell what we do. It'll tell who our members are and everything. And you can do that for GNSO or CSG or anything else. And the ones that are important to you, keep a list, make a little spreadsheet or whatever, put it on your smartphone.

And don't be shy, like carry it around. When somebody says, yeah, NCSG, like, I didn't even know that was a thing. Okay. well, now I know what it is. And just knowing what the acronym stands for, I'd say, my personal experience, 75% of the time, 50% to 75% of the time, knowing what the acronym stands for, you can figure out more or less who you're talking to or who they're talking about. Sorry to go off on a tangent, but I think that's valuable.

JOHN MCELWAINE

I tried in the slide to give the definitions. I one time gave a speech, similar, where they had given out these little soft, squishy toys. And I told the audience members to throw that at me if I ever hit an acronym without telling them what it was. And I got bombarded a couple of times, but I think we gave away umbrellas, and I think that could hurt. So, I'm not making that suggestion.

All right. So, we've heard about the industry associations that are members. We also have bar associations, like the American Bar Association, which is a group of lawyers, companies and businesses. So, companies like Meta or Amazon, companies that have really important brands will often be a member of the IPC, law firms from all over the world. And then we have individual lawyers that join. So, it really goes from a single person all the way up to an international organization that make up our membership.

All right. So, okay. So, that kind of covers who we are. And I'm going to try to explain where we fit in. As I mentioned, we're part of the policymaking aspect of the generic name supporting organization. And we are one of the constituencies in the

Commercial Stakeholders Group, which is called the CSG. And that CSG is part of the Non-Contracted Parties House. So, hopefully you've had some explanation. I've tried to diagram it out here.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN You had the opportunity to listen from BC, Business Constituency, which is along with IPC is part of this Non-Contracted Parties.

DAVID HUGHES Yeah. I'm going to interrupt again and say, take a picture of this. I'm not joking. You have the slides. Okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN The slides are in our schedule, so download it and keep it. But make a picture of this page. Definitely.

JOHN MCELWAINE Well, which is taken from the ICANN website. Give full credit. So yeah, this will kind of, as we're making policy, it's all made through these working groups, and the working groups are going to either be just people volunteer to show up without any thought to what constituency they fit within. Or sometimes those working groups to make policy have a certain set number of people that come from a constituency or stakeholder group.

And what we're talking about here is you have a contracted party side. That's the registries and the registrars, and that's one house within the GNSO. And then you have the other house, which is the

Non-Contracted Parties. And you see here the makeup of that house. I won't go into detail, but the IPC is one part of that second house. And we have two councilors that work their tails off to help develop, or I should say manage the policymaking process, because that's what the GNSO really does.

An idea will come and a problem will be identified. The GNSO council, as the manager of the policy process, will then do a report on that. And if they decide that we need, we as a group, as ICANN as a group, need to work on that problem, they set up a charter and then they fill out the problem to be solved and then set a working group to act under that charter and to come up with recommendations or solutions for that particular problem that's being solved.

As you can see from the GAC slides, I don't know if that the ICANN 5 was just an error or that really was the slide back from 75, but these issues take a while to work through the process. So, a working group can last for a year or two, maybe even a little bit longer. So, there are serious pieces of work that the individual members of the multi-stakeholder model undertake through their constituencies to develop a solution for the greater good of ICANN and really of the internet public.

So, I think that kind of gets us as to where we fit in, and now I'm going to go back to talk a little bit about what is important for us. So, the top five key issues we have going on at the IPC right now, and this is kind of similar to what we saw on the GAC slide, you can see we're very aligned. WHOIS/Registry Directory Services. So,

what we're getting at there is the ability to access information about who owns a domain name.

And that is important because as David was getting at, sometimes a domain name will be used for not so nice purposes. It might be used to run a scam. It might be an infringing copy of a legitimate website. It could be a situation of what's called cyber squatting. So, there's a number of different bad actions that can happen with a domain name and it's good to be able to find out who that registrant is so that law enforcement or companies that are being injured or people trying to make sure consumers aren't injured can do something about that.

Accuracy and the ability to utilize privacy and proxy services is another important issue for the IPC. And David, I don't know if you want to talk a little bit about that too.

DAVID HUGHES

Yeah, this is a big balance that we have between protecting the privacy of the people who, for example, are registering a domain and the need for us in some cases to know who they are if they are doing something harmful either to the DNS system or using the DNS system to do harm to consumers or stealing or phishing or malware or any of the other categories of abuse that we have to deal with.

And it's a delicate balance, but when there's a legitimate need to find out, law enforcement is the most obvious one. But for example, my community, for copyright, for example, there are

countries in the world, this might not surprise you, where the vast majority of music and movies are not paid for because people are getting them for free on the internet. And so, it's in our business interest to try to enforce that. In fact, it's in the human rights interest of the creators. I mean, many of my friends are musicians and songwriters to enforce those rights, so they get paid for what they've created, right?

And so, what we need to do is we need to have a way when the criteria are met to find out who registered that domain so that we can do three things. The first thing is reach out to them nicely and say, hey, you're doing something wrong, please stop. And sometimes people don't even know what they're doing is wrong, and they stop. Or we need to find out who they are so we can threaten legal action. And in some cases, we need to know who they are so that we can make a referral to the FBI or Interpol or London City or any of the law enforcement agencies around the world that help us enforce against illegal action on the internet. So, that's a long answer, I'm sorry.

JOHN MCELWAINE

Perfect. So, one of the other policy areas that we are active in is what's called Rights Protection Mechanisms. The most well-known is the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy, which is a UDRP. That was one of the first policies, consensus policies, enacted by ICANN and is what is utilized to stop cyber squatting. There's a number of other Rights Protection Mechanisms that were developed in the 2013 timeframe when the first round of new top-

level domains were issued, and that's things like the Uniform Rapid Suspension, the Trademark Clearinghouse. But we're actively involved in developing rights protection mechanisms and the reviews of those.

Another topic is DNS Abuse. So, this is the domain name system being used for specific defined abuse such as phishing and malware. So very similar concept though to what we've been talking about. And then lastly, the New Round of top-level domains. So, of course, we represent companies and brands that are interested in a New Round of top-level domains, but also making sure that there's protections for those brands and those companies in these new spaces that are going to be developed. And with that, I hope I've saved a good amount of time for any questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Great. Thank you very much. Just for you also to know, we have a lot of lawyers applying through the NextGen and Fellowship Program, and we have a lot, many lawyers are interested in particular IPC part. So, intellectual property is something they are interested very much in it. And it's very important that you also take time to come and talk to newcomers about the community and the work you are doing. So, it's very important and I thank you for this. And we have about a couple of minutes here to take questions. Those who would like to ask, please. Miracle, please. We'll start with you.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

All right. Can you hear me? All right. Thank you. My name is Miracle for the record. So, I have a couple of questions. The first is that trademark issues, especially those bordering on intent, they're very subjective. And I know that 20 years ago, there was a famous case with the UDRP with Barcelona.com. I don't know if you remember that. It's very popular. And of course, the court reversed UDRP's decision on that. And I'm wondering in 20 years since then, how has UDRP evolved?

So, I was happy when you had, I saw one of the bullet point reviews. I'm just curious to know, because I know ICANN tries to mitigate so many things. So, how do you manage, especially things that are not very clear cut, right? Because now with AI, everybody's an entrepreneur. I just want to make sure that UDRP is not actually a straitjacket and allows people and you don't allow the big guys overshadow the small guys because they were in something before. So, I'm curious to know how you've managed that and how UDRP has evolved over time.

The second thing is I'm also curious because I know it's easier for ICANN to chaperone and superintend over TLDs, but for some of the country code TLDs, there are local privacy laws that, I mean, we're not mentioning any country here, but that's sort of against some of the policies, right, from the IPC. How do you manage that? Because it's also very subjective and I'm curious to know how you manage all of this. And then lastly, do you work with WIPO? Because I didn't see them on your slide. Thank you.

JOHN MCELWAINE

Okay. So, WIPO. I'll kind of go in reverse order here. They're, as you heard, a member of the GAC, though they do have members or employees that will sit in on our IPC meetings. And we have a number of IPC members that are also WIPO panelists for UDRP proceedings. So, there is a connection there I didn't mention, but no sort of official because they, as a governmental IGO, as a governmental organization, they're in the GAC.

The UDRP has evolved, as you know, over the 25 years that it has been enacted. But to your question specifically from a policy perspective, which is what we would be dealing with here, there is a review that is scheduled to be done of the UDRP policy. And that's where adjustments are made by the community to policies such as that. So, I think that answers all your questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Okay. You have follow up?

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

I just wanted to confirm, is that review happening at ICANN82?

JOHN MCELWAINE

Not, no, it's not, but it'll be talked about. And if you want to hear a little bit about it, it'll be in some of the GNSO meetings, council meetings.

VINNY ADJIBI

Good morning. Thank you for the presentation. My name is Vinny Adjibi for the record. My question is related to domain name abuse. So, you are under the GNSO, which is more like generic domain TLDs, but then there are TLDs, ccTLDs, such as .ai that that are used for abuse some of the times. So, how does you being in the GNSO affect your ability to do or to, how do I say it, to contribute to policies so that abuse from those spaces do not affect?

JOHN MCELWAINE

Yeah. So ccTLDs, so country code top-level domains are not under the remit of ICANN. Their policies are developed by those various countries independently. That's not to say that there's not discussions and communications and collaboration between the GNSO and the ccNSO, but there's no official oversight from the GNSO of-- Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Filimoni, please. And we have Shreya. I will ask you to stand up to ask the next after Filimoni.

FILIMONI PELENATO

Greetings. Filimoni Pelenato from SAMO for the record. I just wanted to ask the question based on WHOIS information registry. My question is, how does IPC view the impact of GDPR, General Data Protection Regulation, on WHOIS data, and is there a challenge within intellectual property with regards to GDPR?

DAVID HUGHES

You can go first. Yeah. I'm happy to do it, but.

JOHN MCELWAINE

Yeah, very quickly, and then you comment. So, obviously, when GDPR was enacted, ICANN did what was called a temporary specification that shut down access, as we were used to, to registrant data. And we, ever since, as a community, have been working on balancing the rights of individuals to protect the privacy that they have and legitimate, reasonable access to their registrant data, and that's still an ongoing issue. The RDRS system was one of the first tests of being able to access that information, and you'll hear a lot about it in the working sessions during this meeting. But, David, do you have any comment on that?

DAVID HUGHES

Clearly, it has caused a lot of pain and suffering to my constituencies. It's become, in some cases, almost impossible for us to enforce our copyrights, trademark, brand, and combat abuse, because the position has been taken, as you know, by registries and registrars that they need not reveal that information. And I think that what we've seen is that local governments across the world, and there's discussions in the United States now, here, and, of course, in the EU with NIS2 and others, that I think we're going to see there's an acknowledgement of that problem, because the abuse, particularly in the security and consumer protection area, that we're going to have to deal with at a higher level within ICANN.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

And we will take the last question. Shreya, please, very short, brief.

SHREYA SHIVAKUMAR

Hello. Thank you for coming to speak with us today. I have an interest in legal and tech policy, so I really appreciated your presentation. My question is, how does the influx of AI change your enforcement efforts of intellectual property, and how do you expect it to change in the next 15 to 20 years?

JOHN MCELWAINE

I could go on and on about that, but I think the two—to answer it quickly—the two places that I'm seeing it as a practitioner, an awful lot, it's really easy now to set up a very legitimate-looking website using AI to run scams, right? It used to be a lot harder.

Secondly, we're utilizing AI. I'm actually utilizing AI to find those infringing websites. So, we're all upping our game with AI. I know we're getting close on time. What I really encourage people is we actually have a table outside of the door here. We'd love to chat with anybody who has other questions. We have an open meeting Tuesday at 1:15 in room 502, and so if you can't find any of us in the hallways, feel free to come by our open meeting, and we'd love to chat with you about these topics.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Excellent, because I know there are some people who are keen to ask questions, so you can take this time, and I appreciate your presentation. This is very important for you to take time to come.

And thank you. Thank you to all our panelists, our appreciation to all our presenters. Thank you very much. And with that, our meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]