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ICANN82 | CF – Small Island Development States (SIDS) Working Group  
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ALBERT DANIELS

Hello and welcome to the Small Island Developing States SIDS Work Session. My name is Albert Daniels and I am a Participation Manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and welcome to all of those who have joined us on Zoom. And when called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom and on-site participants will use the physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable place. I will now hand the floor over to Shernon Osepa.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much, Albert.

ALBERT DANIELS

Could you put up the agenda, please?

SHERNON OSEPA

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. So, of course, it depends where you are. Welcome. Welcome to today's

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session, SIDS at ICANN, where we embark on a journey of discovery and growth. Together we will explore new ideas, challenge our perspectives and unlock our potential. This is a space for open dialogue, collaboration and innovation. So, let's dive in with enthusiasm, curiosity and a commitment to making the most of our time together.

My name is Shernon Osepa and I'm a Strategic Advisor with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, CTU. CTU is the main ICTs policy development body in the Caribbean, established by CARICOM Head of States in 1989. CTU is also well known for its contribution to the global IGF, given that it did convene the first IGF even before the United Nations, something that not only CTU but the wider Caribbean is very proud of. Together with my colleague, Andrew Molivurae, we will be chairing this SIDS at ICANN session. So, let me give Andrew also the opportunity to explain briefly about himself and also the organization he is representing. Andrew, please.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Hello and good morning, good evening to wherever you may be, those online. Thank you, Shernon, for the intro. My name is Andrew Molivurae. I am from the Oceania Pacific Island region and from the nation of Vanuatu, which is also a small state of 300,000 people. And my role, I'm at the Regulator's Office and my role is the Senior Internet Governance Officer and mostly I look after the management and administration of the .VU ccTLD. Thank you.

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SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much, Andrew. I also would like to recognize and thank all the ICANN's regional vice presidents who have been instrumental in shaping and giving direction regarding this SIDS initiative, which is a direct ICANN's response to a community request. It is important for us to understand, in addition to all the sessions taking place at ICANN, why there is a SIDS at ICANN session and what are the objectives of this session.

SIDS have some very unique characteristics, such as vulnerable to natural disasters, small and close economies, lack of capacity, high import and export costs, and limited resources. And for this, I would like to invite Rodrigo de la Parra, Vice President of Latin America and the Caribbean of ICANN, to give us some background regarding this SIDS at ICANN initiative. So, Rodrigo, please share with us the background regarding this initiative.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Thank you very much, Shernon, and again, welcome everybody. Good morning. It's a real pleasure to have you all here in our very first, let me say and stress, this official session of the SIDS at ICANN. It's on the agenda. We have remote participation. We have all the settings, but it's important also to remember that this is not the first time that we are here together. It is on a formal setting.

We have been having some informal conversations during the previous ICANN meetings, and we finally landed in this session. As Shernon has stated, this has been a request from the community, particularly came from actually the CTU and our Caribbean

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stakeholders, but now we have defined this as a more-broader concept that entails the SIDS rather than just the Caribbean islands.

And as many of you know, ICANN has been doing a lot of engagement in the different countries that constitute the SIDS on a different approach or different teams. Like, for example, we have a regional vice president for the Pacific Islands here with us, or my colleague, Pierre Dandjinou, is doing engagement for SIDS in the Africa region. Samiran Gupta, the vice president for Asia-Pacific as well. And of course, Albert and myself working for the Caribbean islands.

In the previous sessions, informal sessions, we've been trying to figure out how this group or this kind of initiatives should focus on. What is the impact? What is that we should do together? And what does the SIDS territories and countries constitute and are the differences from other developing regions, right? And Shernon mentioned one good element about this, and it's about the vulnerability from, well, you mentioned a lot of good elements. Vulnerability is one of them. And I think we can follow two different tracks, perhaps.

One of these tracks, as we thought, is, of course, the special outreach and engagement that, given the characteristics of SIDS, we should follow. But also, in the technical and operational side of these small island and developing states, which has to do with what is that ICANN and partners working at ICANN from the technical community can help and can contribute to make a more resilient DNS infrastructure in this country.

So, you will hear about some of this as well. And, of course, how can we make the most of our existing engagement programs for fostering a more-broader and meaningful participation from SIDS stakeholders. So, with that, I welcome you again, and I will hand it over back to Shernon. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much, Rodrigo. So Andrew will be guiding the next session.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Shernon. So if you look at the agenda, it's generally a discussion and questions that are stated up there. And so, it will require some feedback from the community. So, the first one, it says, how can webinars and training be more focused on SIDS? Oh, sorry. I'm going too far. Thank you, Shernon. Yeah, I think before that, as Shernon had said earlier, we thank those who look after the region from ICANN, and they will be providing some current updates on the initiatives that are happening in the different regions. So, we will start with Save. Yes, and Save will give us an update from Oceania. Thank you, Save.

SAVE VOCEA

Thank you, Andrew, and welcome, everyone. This is Save Vocea there for the record, and I'm responsible for Stakeholder Engagement in the Oceania region that includes Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. So first up, we are always looking

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for partnerships and how we can work together in the regions, to lighten the work.

And for ICANN Org, we already have an existing memorandum of understanding with the Pacific Islands Telecom Association because they've become a key partner for us in terms of, because they bring together the small telecom companies, the ISPs, who are managing the DNS in the islands, and some of them are also having roles as ccTLD operators in the islands. So, it's been an important platform for us. We work with them and we collaborate with them and participate in their annual events we present there so that we can appraise them with what's happening within ICANN.

And one of the things that we do well is that through the Pacific Network Operator Group, which is an organization that has been established through PETA and other partners, we help deliver DNSSEC training and support these initiatives to help with the capacity building of network engineers in the region. And I believe that there are other initiatives like this happening in other regions. So, one of the important things that we've done is, when you look at the Pacific previously on the map, it's just a big blue blob of little islands in a map.

So, I think for small island countries, they are wanting to know, if we are engaging with them, what can we offer them? And so, the initiative from ICANN to offer and support the hosting of root server instances in the islands has really helped in the resiliency part of the DNS. So in the region, in the Pacific Islands, including Australia and New Zealand, there are 13 economies that are already hosting root

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server instances, and we will continue to do this where there is interest from these small island countries and small island telcos and ISPs if they want to host.

So, that's part of the technical engagement that we do, and I think you'll hear more from David on the technical engagement. With governments, we are lucky that, we have all the governments in the region that are represented through the GAC. And one of the things that we know that with the turnovers in governments, we also have new people coming in, and we'll have to also update that with the GAC.

And one of the important things is that, in the region, there are other agencies like the ITU, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity that bring together governments from the region and they converge in one country, which has made it easy for us as well to participate in those forums and help support the Capacity Development of governments in those regions as well in terms of what they need to know about ICANN and what's happening in ICANN. With the civil society engagements, we partner very well with the Pacific Islands Chapter of Internet Society.

They've been holding annual Pacific IGF, and through that platform, we are able to participate and present at those events as well. There has been fellows that have come from the region, and they've gone back to, have their own At-Large structures. And so, some of them, we are working very closely with them as well. And so, I think for the region as a whole, there are opportunities for more partnerships and collaboration, and we are always looking for those opportunities.

But I think I'll stop there for now, as there's many other speakers for the 10-minute slot.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Save. Yes, Save has done quite a lot in the Oceania. Next is Albert Daniels from the Caribbean. Thank you, Albert.

ALBERT DANIELS

Thank you very much. And of course, we must recognize Sameran, who's vice president for one of our regions in ICANN, where there are six territories. Believe it or not, it's actually 10 minutes past 11 for him in the evening. All right, so as much as he would have wanted to join us, he's not going to be able to. But I'm happy to see a little bit about what we've been doing in the Caribbean. If you could go to the next slide, please, and the one after that.

One of the things that we did in a lead-up to coming here is we executed a survey amongst six territories, and we asked, well, what are some of the challenges that you have in participating in ICANN? Because that was the real question that was put to the ICANN CEO some years ago. And it was interesting that some came and said, well, we don't know much about ICANN. There's not much engagement. Even though, as you've heard from Save and you will hear from others, we have been doing certain things, it seems like these things were not reaching some of the individuals and some of the stakeholders that we wanted to reach.

So, I thought it would be useful here if I gave some indication of the strategy and the mechanics that we use when we do some of our



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engagement in the Caribbean, using the example of our Latin American Caribbean Internet Roadshow, which we've now rebranded to call ICANN Near You. And I think the term ICANN Near You gives you an idea of what it is. We are bringing ICANN to you, essentially.

So, what we did, the approach that we take with this particular roadshow is we first look at the information that we have on the various parts of ICANN, the supporting organizations and the advisory committees. And in particular, we check to see which of our countries in the Caribbean are members of the ccNSO, the ccTLD managers, which of the countries, like you've just heard from Save in the Pacific, are actually represented in the GAC, which of our ISPs.

And I'm happy to see Teresa here from one of the associations in the Caribbean, which of our ISPs are in the ISPCP in the GNSO. And of course, we see which individuals are in At-Large structures are representing the End Users. And we pretty much take a broad look, who's on Working Groups, who's in leadership positions, and so on. And in each case, when we choose the island, we assign a metric.

So, at the end, we can sort and do a list and find out which countries are at the bottom with, quote-unquote, lower engagement. And then we choose one of those countries and decide that's where we are going to go with our LAC-i roadshow. So, we take the event there, and we speak to our partners in that particular territory, because in every territory, we have these associations. We have one or two individuals who are already participating. And we say to

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them, call your friends, call your organizations, and let's get people to participate.

And once we have them in the room, what we do is we talk generally about the ICANN ecosystem, the multi-stakeholder model, how we develop our policy. And we also bring in stakeholders who are already in ICANN, and they actually talk about what their journey has been. And in the end, after all of that, we hold their hand and we walk them through the actual participation, because we know ICANN can be a complex place. You have things like the ccNSO is considering a PDP on IDNs that has to be discussed with the GAC and the SSAC. And when you come into ICANN for the first time, that can be a bit intimidating.

So, after this kind of event, we also actually hold their hand and walk them through. And that is the approach that we actually take in an attempt to actually bring persons into ICANN. So, you can go back to the agenda slide, please. Yeah, thank you very much. So, I'll stop there and allow the chair to call on David to talk about some of the technical engagement.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you. Thank you, Albert. Up next is David Huberman, and he's the technical engagement. Thank you, David.

DAVID HUBERMAN

Hi. Thank you so much. And good morning, everybody. For the record, my name is David Huberman, and I work inside ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer. And ICANN's Office of the

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Chief Technology Officer is a really cool place because it's 21 individuals who each have decades of experience in names and numbers and building Internet infrastructure across the world. I've been doing this for 26 years, and I'm like the most junior person in the group.

So, we have a team inside there called the Technical Engagement Team, and this is six individuals distributed across the world to help support and build capacity across local and regional communities. And, of course, that includes small island developing states, and I wanted to highlight just some of the most recent engagements we've done.

So, we facilitated a technical training for ISPs throughout the Caribbean where we cover topics like DNS and DNSSEC, and ISP engineers from islands all across the Caribbean were all able to participate during this full-day workshop over Zoom and learn these practical skills. Along with Sir Albert, a group of us traveled to the island of Grenada, and we ran a full-day training program, part of the CaribNOG event.

We trained over 200 high school students in how the Internet really works. And not only were we talking, but we were working with them, because the students got to learn how to configure routers and servers. They built an ISP, and in the end, these routers that they configured were actually exchanging packets across the live Internet, and it was awesome. It was so much fun.

We most recently developed a capacity-building program for Cabo Verde. It's in Portuguese, and so we landed resources from across

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ICANN, from Europe and from Latin America, to make this program a success for the engineers in Cabo Verde. We can and we do, we regularly conduct trainings and workshops throughout Oceania, all throughout the Caribbean region, in Africa, in English, Spanish, French, Arabic. We support all of these different communities.

These types of trainings, this capacity-building we're doing, it's on things like network operation security. DNS 101, when you have non-technical attendees who want to learn about technical infrastructure. DNSSEC 101. But not just that, we dive quite deep. We can spend up to five days going deeply into DNSSEC, how to configure it, how to deploy it, how to maintain it. We work regularly with TLD operators throughout the world to deploy, to sign their zones, and to maintain them.

Finally, I just wanted to highlight one more thing that ICANN does on the technical side that can significantly improve internet and the internet experience for all users, especially on small island developing states. It's about root service. ICANN, as you know, operates a root server called L-Root. And we say root server because historically, back in the day, it actually just was a single server. It was a single server sitting under someone's desk. But it's 2025, and it's not a single server anymore.

We have hundreds of instances of this same root service called L-Root, and we put them all throughout the world. At ICANN, we spent a lot of time looking at how we can make root service more reliable for End Users in remote and underserved locations. We've seen ISPs cut off from root servers due to undersea cable cuts, satellite

transmission failures. We've seen routing errors several networks away cause root service to be sporadic or unreliable for you.

Like every other service on the internet, there can be spikes of traffic, and that traffic can make things congested. So, the way to make root service more accessible is to move the servers closer to the End Users, no matter where the End Users happen to be. Fortunately, there's a really good and simple and effective mechanism to make that happen, and it's called Anycast. Anycast allows us to install many instances of L-Root service in underserved areas. So, that any particular DNS client that needs to send a request can get an answer locally.

So, ICANN can work with you to deploy an instance of L-Root on your island. The program of deploying L-Root instances is one of the ways that we support ICANN's vision of a single, open, and globally interoperable internet. And I happen to think it's one of ICANN's most significant contributions to the global public interest. Thank you.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, David. Yes, that's correct. I believe some of the small island states have been benefiting from your engagements. And for us in Vanuatu, we did have at least two DNSSEC trainings through survey. Thank you. And yes, I believe probably others. And we also have, I think we have an L-Root instance in country. Thank you very much for the work you're doing.

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Now we're coming next to the community engagements here. And the questions are up there. And the first one is, how can webinars and training be more focused on seats? So, we have 20 minutes on that. And the floor is open. If you can, please share your answers or contributions to these questions. Shernon and I will be keeping the time. Thank you. So, when you want to speak, please, maybe if you're online, raise your hand. And also, if you're here, just raise your hand also. And also, before you speak, just introduce yourself. I already see Maureen there. Thank you, Maureen.

ALBERT DANIELS

And also in the room, we have a hand raised by Claire Craig.

MAUREEN HILYARD

Thank you very much, everyone. And it's great to see a really good crowd here in our SIDS session. One of the things that I wanted to actually do was, first of all, explain how the whole SIDS setup started. And we started through the IGF in about 2010, 2012, with Tracy and I basically working together to actually bring SIDS together in an IGF forum. And I think that then we progressed until 2018 when we actually created the dynamic coalition of SIDS. And one of the things that we've actually really tried to do, and we've been able to do really well with the Pacific and the Caribbean working together.

And I have to acknowledge that CTU has been integral to that whole development of getting the two SIDS groups working together. And the fact that we've actually had SIDS IGF. So, that the underpinning

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sort of like organization has actually been through the ISOC chapters. At the same time, we've always recognized that we needed to have, and this is across At-Large at least anyway, is that collaboration between the ISOC and ICANN. Because as Andrew knows from the history within the Pacific, the PEC-ISOC for example, we used to run PEC-INETS. And PEC-INETS was an IGF and a training component.

We offered both of those sorts of things when we actually went to visit an island, an underserved island within the Pacific region. And that was really, really important. But we actually at that stage, we used APNIC. And APNIC has been absolutely brilliant with the work that they've done within the Pacific region. But ICANN has actually sort of like become, we've become a lot more involved.

The ISOC chapters, for example, make up At-Large component of the At-Large community. And it's really sort of like I think the strengths of the At-Large community is that there are people who are very much engaged in the whole internet governance. They have an End User perspective so that the technical work actually has relevance because of that involvement.

So, I'm actually really, really pleased. I mean this is, like I mean I really appreciate that CTU actually sort of like set up our first meeting in Puerto Rico as a SIDS community and that we've actually come this far already. And I do know, I mean Albert's been really part of that whole building of that relationship too between the, and then we're trying to sort of like grow it.

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I don't know if there's anyone from the other regions other than the Pacific and Caribbean here. But I think that if we can actually sort of like develop it beyond that and probably using the GSE team, I think that's really, really important. But I really do appreciate that we're actually getting that both sides of the system anyway. Thank you.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Maureen. Yes, I think we can acknowledge that. Maureen and Tracy have been our key drivers back then and thank you so much that we have come so far. I've got a hand online. Claire Craig and we'll give the floor to you.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Hi, good morning, everyone. I'm Claire Craig and I just want, I am one of the co-vice chairs of the ALAC, but I'm speaking in my personal capacity. I wish to commend and congratulate ICANN. Some of the things that Maureen said on ensuring that this session is now part of the ICANN formal schedule. So, let's give them a hand for that.

A lot of work went into this. I recall one of the last meetings where I'm not seeing him in the room, but Daniel Fink was literally moving the laptop from person to person to get people to be able to comment and speak. So, to reach to this level, there has been a lot of work taking place in the background. The reason I am mentioning this is because yesterday, as part of the At-Large, there was a DNS women's session.



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That was one of those that also started through grassroots and had separate type meetings. And it's at the stage now where the Board members are actually attending DNS women, and I really hope that we, as SIDS, will attract the attention of the ICANN Board members so that they recognize the importance of what we're doing.

Now, to get to the specific question on webinars and training, I attended that session in Grenada that David spoke about. And what was really good about that session is that it was an ICANN-coordinated session. It wasn't a RALO session. Even though it was in the Caribbean, and LACRALO is responsible for Latin America and the Caribbean, David is part of the North America region. And so, there was support from the North American region because the VP for stakeholder engagement in North America also attended that session.

So, we do not have to operate in silos. That's the point I'm trying to make. Let us use the entire ICANN ecosystem to ensure that what we get works for all of us because there are certain nuances about our small islands and about our regions that sometimes when we try to operate in the little confines that we operate in, it causes more, it doesn't flow as smoothly as it can. So let's be more open to understand that there may be, opportunities for cross communication and cross collaboration.

So I just wanted to say let's ensure that those kinds of webinars and training continue to take place, and let's all work together because we recognize that as small islands SIDS, we do have unique

challenges, and those must be brought to the forefront, and there is room for capacity development. So, thank you.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Claire. I believe Nigel is online, so I'll take his turn now. Thank you, Nigel.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE

Yes, I am here. Thank you very much, Andrew. And I would like to say thanks to ICANN, in fact, for bringing the SIDS space to the level that it is at. We did have a bit of a false start at the last one in Istanbul, but I think it's good to see where we have come to. Essentially, I intervene as well, basically, to also try to address the question that was on the agenda, in terms of webinars and how we could focus more on SIDS and that sort of thing. And I would say, well, it depends.

It definitely depends on what the topics are. But certainly, I forget his name now, Mr. Hughborn, I think it was, was talking about root servers. I think there are three key areas I'd like to identify that we want to improve the standing of SIDS at present.

One is, of course, resiliency, and the root servers near you is one of the key ways of doing that and is very, very relevant to ICANN. So, any sort of capacity building and other project support related to root servers in SIDS, I think, is one of the key ways that we could benefit from ICANN engagement. But into the residency as well, there is the lower level, which is the physical level.

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And notwithstanding that ICANN isn't really a physical infrastructure kind of organization, I think the expertise that resides in ICANN could also be used to build capacity and inform and advise SIDS who might have resource limitations, resource or expertise limitations. So, I think resiliency is a key aspect of what ICANN could help SIDS with. And both at the internet technical level and at the basic infrastructure level as well.

Capacity building, of course. One of the traits mentioned in SIDS is usually limited resources. So, we have to make the optimal use of the resources that we would have. And thirdly, what I would call market development. We all have plans for digital transformation and developing digital economies and so on. But you start at a disadvantage because your potential market is very limited. So, this is why you find that we have groups of islands, like in the Caribbean, you tend to have some sort of cooperative or collaborative movements. In our cases, the Caribbean is the single market and economy and the Caribbean single ICT space and so on. I'm not quite sure what might be the status in the Pacific or other SIDS regions. But how can ICANN help SIDS develop their digital economies?

I think that would be, and maybe in terms of what ICANN does in its trainings and engagements, it must always customize its engagements to take into account the particular public that they're trying to reach. In this case, SIDS. So, what can I do for SIDS? Understand the situation of SIDS and how can I customize my message and my engagements and my assistance so that they can

move forward? So, I'll probably just stop there for the moment and pass back to you, Mr. Chair.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Nigel. I think the question has two parts of it, webinars and training. And one thing that I want to highlight is that ICANN doesn't know your situation. And we have these FIPIs in the region to, they are there, so you have to also reach out to them on your needs so that they may see what they can do from the ICANN side. So, I'll give the floor to the lady on the right.

DONNETTE O'NEIL

Good morning. Donnette O'Neil, ICANN fellow from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Now, regarding to this question with the webinars and training, as Albert would have highlighted when they were discussing about the engagement, I think maybe we could take a similar approach where we can do an assessment or survey to see where the various SIDs are, because all of them are not going to be at the same level in digital capacity.

So, based on the trainings and webinars that you may offer, you can do an assessment to verify where this country is, and then you'd better know what approach to go and move forward with. So, that's my point. Thanks.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you for that input.

ALBERT DANIELS

Maybe before we continue in the room, there's an online comment from Tracy Hackshaw. Well, first of all, he says kudos to the CTU, and I'm assuming that this has to do with the CTU's role in getting us where we've been. As a matter of fact, the CTU was the one, I think it was either Nigel or the Secretary General, who asked the ICANN CEO the original question, what is it that has been wrong with what ICANN has been doing so that we don't have enough persons from SIDS participating.

So, he said kudos to the CTU, but also with regard to webinars and training, he suggests that ICANN use more case studies from the SIDS territories, success stories, and also not-so-successful stories. And he's also suggesting that there needs to be a look taken at what can be done with the attitude of governments with regard to engagement.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE

That was the altitude of government engagement.

ALBERT DANIELS

Okay, altitude. I don't know where I got attitude from.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE

Yeah.

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ALBERT DANIELS                      But he says he's in listen-only mode, so I guess he won't be able to maybe explain a little bit further.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE                      Maybe I could help there a little bit.

ALBERT DANIELS                      Sure, sure.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE                      Nigel Casimire again from CTU. This was relevant to the comment you alluded to about the level of engagement we've had from ICANN in the Caribbean. We've had technical level engagements. And I had mentioned, I think it was a public meeting or something, that it has been since, I think, 2013 or 2014, since we had an ICANN executive, well, not executive, but an ICANN CEO in the Caribbean. And we had had a participation at one of our ministers' meetings in the Caribbean from the ICANN chair, but it was a virtual intervention at that time.

So, I think when Tracy had mentioned the altitude there, he's talking about the level of representation from ICANN that comes to engage in the Caribbean. I mean, we have opportunities to meet with the ministers, and there are also the, in fact, even if you want to try to go as far as the heads of governments and meetings that are held at least twice a year in some of the Caribbean territories. All right, just to, that's the kind of thing that would help raise the profile of ICANN and what it does. Thanks.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Thank you. This is Rodrigo de la Parra for the record. Thank you, Nigel, for joining us remotely. And it's well noted. During your last presentation in a public forum, I believe it was in ICANN81, and Albert and myself have already asked for or provided some options for Kurds to attend one of the big events in the Caribbean scheduled for this year. So, we're just hoping it's a matter of scheduling, really. But thank you. It's noted, and hopefully he'll be visiting some of the Caribbean islands this year.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you. I think the next on the queue is Teresa on my left. Thank you.

TERESA WANKIN

Hi. Actually, Donnette addressed my suggestion. So, I just wanted to say Teresa Wankin from Canto, a fellow from Trinidad and Tobago, second time at an ICANN meeting. But I've participated with Albert to do capacity building in the region, and that has been well received by the entire Canto community, and we cover the entire region. In terms of surveying and testing the temperature of the training that's needed. So, that's what Albert did when we were developing the training for our ISPs in the region, and the attendance was very well.

In addition, the feedback was well received. So, one of the things, yes, capacity building is needed in the region, but we must be intentional and focus on the type of training that we give to the

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different stakeholders in the region. And it has been working for Canto and the training. We do what ICANN. So, I suggest the other sectors, the other SIDS, could do something similar so that it's not just a training because it's available and you can't do it on Zoom because it has been challenging now to get people to fill spaces and training. So, if you do it in an intentional, focused way, like the DNSSEC training that we did, I think it was well received. And we have some lined up that we hope to get done in this year.

The other thing is to group some of the training with events, CTU events, Canto events. We've been talking about that. And we've done it in the past, and it worked well so that people don't have, that's for face-to-face training, so that people don't have to travel to another event in the Caribbean. So grouping it with Canto events, CTU events, it's also possible. So as small island developing states, and as Claire said, we cannot do things in silos anymore. We have to come together and collaborate to ensure that the region benefits from ICANN, and ICANN benefits from the region. Thank you.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Teresa. Our final cue for this question is Lance. Hand up on Lance. Thank you, Lance.

LANCE HINDS

Thank you, Chair. Lance Hinds, Chair-Elect LACRALO, for the record. This is a follow-up to some extent to what Tracy spoke about in terms of the attitude of the engagements, certainly on the government side as a primary stakeholder. And I think some of us,



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as we think about it, and as you do your training and you want to focus the training, we're going to have to establish a nexus between what ICANN does and what ICANN can provide, and we're going to have to find a way to connect it to national development.

We're going to have to connect it to those things that are critical to governments and political leaders. Does this help advance the countries? Does it advance the country? Does it help them be more effective in other areas? So, we're going to have to find a way to make the case because we can sit down, have the meeting. We've had the meetings with the ministers. We have the organs to have the conversation, but for the years that we've been doing that, I don't think it sinks in. And we continue to have the meetings, we continue to have the discussions, and it still doesn't sink in, and that's primarily because of the fact that, in fairness to them, there are other critical areas, tight financial situations, especially in the case of SIDS.

They've got more physical challenges to face. So, sometimes, even though there is a recognition at the superficial level that this is beneficial, I'm not sure whether we make the case or even if we need to make the case. But certainly, I think if this is going to go forward and is going to succeed, and especially when the governments are probably the largest stakeholders in many of these areas, we may just have to fine-tune a bit the training and sending the message to show how beneficial this is. Thank you, Chair.

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ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Lance. I think you're moving forward to the next question already, but we'll have the lady at the back there as our final key, Rocio. Thank you, Rocio.

ROCÍO DE LA FUENT

Thank you. I'm sorry for jumping at the end of the queue. I'm Rocío. I work with the Latin American and Caribbean ccTLD community. I'm not from a small island state, but I can speak about my experience working with Caribbean ccTLDs. And I just wanted to mention two cases that are related to some of the comments that have been shared so far.

One is the Unified Domain Search Engine, that we call it in Spanish, bucardo. It's basically a service to check the registration availability of domain names. And what we did at LACTLD was trying to engage Caribbean ccTLDs to participate in this project and be sort of displayed on equal footing with all the other regional ccTLDs. And so far, we only have one ccTLDs that is already integrated from the Caribbean, which is the .gp from Guadalupe. But we are working with the others, so all the Caribbean ccTLDs can be a part of this project.

And the other one that I think is more important and has had a more relevant impact is the LACTLD Anycast Cloud. And this is related to what I think David was commenting before. This is a project that provides DNS secondary service for free for Caribbean ccTLDs and also Latin American ccTLDs. And currently, we have six ccTLDs from the Caribbean that are participating in this project. And after seven

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years of operation, last year, we organized an event that was focused on the LACTLD Anycast Cloud.

There were many ccTLDs from the Caribbean participating and sharing their experiences. And it was a very interesting and helpful experience because we also got to learn how the ccTLDs in the Caribbean were making use of this service and how this had helped them in the past when they had to face crises such as Haiti with the political and social crisis. So, it was a very interesting experience.

So, my conclusion or what I have learned from these two projects is that the active participation and the engagement many times is based on sharing their own experiences and inviting them based on what they have done already with these projects and how they have made use of this. They are many times happy to participate and engage. And this is what I wanted to share. And one more thing is that I want to echo what my colleagues said that I'm very happy that we're having this session at ICANN meetings and I hope we can continue this conversation. Thank you.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you so much. That concludes our time for the first question. Now I'll hand over to my colleague here, Shernon, to proceed further in the next question. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Andrew. We do have 40 minutes for us to finish this session. So, let's focus now on the next question. One of the challenges that we have been facing of talking with people within

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the community is mostly regarding participation at ICANN meetings. Every discussion with Albert all the time, they say people are not participating at ICANN meetings and other ICANN events.

So, we would like to get a better view. What are the challenges that people don't participate or what can be done for us to stimulate for more people to be engaged and to participate at ICANN meetings? And I think in this regard, maybe once in a while, Albert, given that you have been discussing this with me many, many times, maybe you can also elaborate a bit on it. But let's first open the floor. Let's hear from Vincent. Please go ahead.

VINCENT ROBERTS

Thank you very much. My name is Vincent Roberts, and I'm the GAC representative from Grenada. I begin, first of all, by thanking Albert for exposing me to ICANN. He came to Grenada with David, and there we realized that the person on record as the GAC was not active, had not attended meetings or anything of the sort.

First of all, I think awareness is critical, and I'm also chairman of the regulatory commission, telecom regulatory commission. So, I interact with colleagues throughout the region, and I have found that there is very little awareness with regard to the work being done by ICANN or even the scope of work that ICANN is involved in. So, whatever we're doing to get more people involved, we have to start looking at how we can raise the awareness.

Secondly, with my involvement in ICANN, and this is my third meeting, but I follow very closely online, not just the preparatory

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meetings, but there's a wealth of information on the website where one can learn of opportunities to do other things. So, my exposure in ICANN has informed my participation and my government's participation on other forums, from ALAC to WSIS+20 to IGF. All of these things, I can now go to my Ministry of Foreign Affairs and help them to develop a position on what is happening and explain the importance of getting involved outside of ICANN.

So, ICANN serves not just for what we are doing here, but it can help to inform our participation. As Small Island Development states, where our resources, our human resources are oftentimes very limited, you find the same people cutting across, and not just cutting across, but having access to, it's a flat country. So, I can go home and call my Prime Minister and say, listen, we have this meeting coming up, and I think it is important that you send someone. So, again, I reemphasize the importance of awareness. If we can make the countries more aware, that would be good.

Second, finance. To participate, if you have to apply for the funding, you have to be very alert as to the window that opens when they say, okay, you can apply. It's a very narrow window, and one has to be aware of what is happening. So, the time I call my colleague in St. Vincent, for example, and he hesitates a little, two days, and the window is closed. So, we have to also look at how we communicate. The ITU, for example, has a local focal point in every member state, and all information goes there.

I would recommend that we have a focal point for ICANN so that all of this information can go to the focal point who can then

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disseminate. So, this is a practical suggestion. And finally, we have local expertise in some cases who can match anybody globally, but we are restricted in our exposure. If we can have an opportunity for cross-training, for some sort of technical exchange, for example, I called a person by name, Brent McIntosh.

Anybody who speaks in the Caribbean can tell you that Brent McIntosh is a global expert. It would be great if he had the opportunity to come into David's group and spend a week. There's a lot he can do because he's influential throughout the region, and he can help to spread what is happening and all of that. I learned here. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Vincent. Albert?

ALBERT DANIELS

Well, first of all, thank you very much, Vincent, for your kind comments and identifying a case where we've had success because it's always good when we go into a territory to see the results, and David was there as well. I think David interacted with Brent as well, so this is good. I think there is one step that we can almost immediately take with regard to one of your suggestions.

I'm happy to interact with anyone in any of the territories, but we have, as a result of this SIDS movement, established within ICANN a mailing list for SIDS, and that perhaps can be a sort of central location where we connect with a lot of the local experts where they get access to some of this information and to some of the guidance

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on what we're doing. The mailing list is there. I had it set up and so on, and we're happy to manage it, but now the community will have to come back and say, what would you like us to share? What sorts of information do you want?

We've also set up a Wiki page, which can also be another tool that we can use for SIDS, not just in the Caribbean, but across to the other SIDS regions as well, such as the Pacific, which have similar challenges, so we can share that information. So, we're very thankful to you for those suggestions, and I think we're starting to get at some of the things that can actually resolve the problems.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Albert. Maureen?

MAUREEN HILYARD

Thank you, Albert, and thank you to us. I think that one of the things, I mean, I've been involved with At-Large for 12 years or so, and one of the things that we've actually really been attempting to sort of like organize is something for small island states anyway, because I think it was sort of like around about the time when, like a few years back when there was a bit of an issue with the Caribbean and the Latin American area.

I won't go into that, but it just really sorts of like highlighted the importance of actually having some communication directly with small island states, because we're so different from all the

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developed countries, the big countries, and the issues that we have are quite unique.

So, I guess the stakeholder group is probably the one that could actually manage that and organize. Like, for example, I was thrilled to hear what's been done with the ccTLD managers, because Save and I have actually just been engaged, and Andrew, with the ccTLD managers who have difficulties. Like, I mean, and again, it's sort of like these tiny little organizations trying to operate a ccTLD on their own. They just need that support.

And so, what we need to do is, like, so there needs to be sort of like a ccTLD, just a group, just sort of like something that, like, as you say, it's sort of like a mailing list, but they need to actually have contact with someone regularly that they can actually get advice from and that sort of stuff.

I guess we could organize something within our At-Large community. We're all probably, I think we're actually sort of like already doing that through our sort of like the SIDS IGF sort of like area. But at the same time, I think that, we're going to have to sort of like get, try to organize within the system something that is actually more for us.

SHERNON OSEPA

Yes, thank you very much. I don't know your name, but please go ahead. Okay, go ahead.



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SONGO NORE

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am Songo from Papua New Guinea, in the Pacific Islands. One of the things that I realize is that people in my country, and I can speak on behalf of I think other small island developing states as well, even the politicians, the famous politicians in my country too, they don't know what is an ICANN. Like when I travelled here, I had to bump into the former Justice Minister and Polish Minister. We had a chat on this thing, and he asked me, where are you trying to go? And I said, I'm going to US to attend a conference. And who is hosting the conference, organizing the conference? And I said, it's the ICANN. What is an ICANN, he asked. And I said, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

So, I think that's the first time he came to know ICANN, when I explained ICANN to him. I mean, he's a senior minister. He's very famous in the country. So, I've seen that there's, like what my brother from Grenadines said, there's lack of awareness in the region about what the ICANN is doing and about what the ICANN is.

So, we have a regional office, but it's kind of based in Singapore. But we need a more physical presence in our region, the Pacific Islands, in other small island developing states as well. If we could look at decentralizing the regional office to set up one in the Pacific Islands, probably in Fiji or in Papua New Guinea or in some other small island developing states, that would be good because it's going to be a hub in which it will promote awareness, raise awareness about ICANN, what the ICANN is doing. And it will, in a sense, encourage more participation from the small island developing states.

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I was trying to ask if ICANN can decentralize down to establish offices in especially various jurisdictions in the seats, like from each country. But if they cannot do that, can we just have a regional office of our own within the Pacific Islands? Probably Fiji could be a very ideal location. So, this is just my suggestion. Yeah, thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much, Songo.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Claire, please. Hi, Claire Craig for the record again. Some of the things that I've been thinking about, and I've shared it with our RALO regional At-Large structure in the region in LACRALO, is that we need to do some surveys because there are organizations that have previously participated but their participation has dropped off.

So, we need to really try to understand why these organizations are no longer participating. What is it that we may not be doing to hold them and to encourage them to continue to participate? Is it that we're not addressing areas that are more aligned? Because particularly in Latin America, the countries there are so big compared to some of the small islands in the Caribbean. Are the needs of these islands the same? And we may therefore have more in common with some of the other SIDS than we do with our region itself.

Another suggestion I would like to make is that we also collaborate with some of the other entities. Like David spoke about working with CaribNOG. And I am a member of CaribNOG, and again, we do

a lot of work with ICANN in the region, and I think there may be opportunities for the NOGs in the SIDS to work together because we're talking about a technical community.

The thing that we need to work on is the time zones and those kinds of things, but once we could figure those out, then again, the whole area for capacity development and sharing of what we do and how we do it, there could be some avenue for that to happen. So, I will just stop there. Thanks.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Claire. Are there any other questions? Yes? Go ahead.

DESSYO SIONEHOLO

Thank you, Chair. My name is Dessyo Sioneholo from Niue. I represent the government, and it's probably one of the smallest of island states in this room, but I'd like to come in and thank ICANN for forming this platform for us to state our views. I attend ICANN through the Fellowship, but it's my second visit to ICANN.

I'd like to thank you and agree with all the views that has been put through in terms of even though we are a very small country and a very small population, we all face the same issues in terms of ICT development, and just being here in this room, I just learned from David there are services available for us. Thank you. I'll probably be talking to you after. And again, I'd like to thank Save in terms of our region, the Pacific, on the work he has done to bring us forward to where we are now. Thank you very much, Chair.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much. We're going to move to the next session, but I think it's very important if we can get to know each other a bit. Let's spend two minutes doing a round two in order for us to know who is here in the room, because for the next session we're going to make a kind of a deep dive, so I may be pointing fingers, and that is why I need to know your name. So, let's start with my friend over there.

FILIMONI PELENATO

Greetings, everyone. My name is Filimoni Pelenato from Samoa. I am an ICANN82 fellow here, so I am a newcomer. I'm making the most of the advantage of being a newcomer in these sessions, and I'm very happy to be here today and hope to engage with you all after sessions. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much. Next, please.

MAUREEN DIANA SALINI

Hello, everyone. My name is Maureen. I come from the Solomon Islands, and I'm also an ICANN82 fellow. Thank you.

VINCENT ROBERTS

My name is Vincent Roberts, as I said earlier, the GAC representative from Grenada and the chairman of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission.

SHERNON OSEPA I know you, Vincent, but still, officially, I want to know, okay? Thank you. Okay, next.

DONNETTE O'NEIL My name is Donnette O'Neill, and I'm an ICANN fellow from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and I work in the IT department of government.

SHERNON OSEPA Thank you. Next, please.

LAUREN Hello. I'm Lauren. I'm a PhD student. I'm originally from Australia, but I'm based in New York at the moment, and I'm working on a project in the Pacific Islands region and submarine cables, and I'm just here observing. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA Thank you. Next.

MAUREEN HILYARD Hi. I'm Maureen Hilliard. I've been associated with At-Large for 12 years and was a former chair of the ALAC and now with the ISOC Board.

SHERNON OSEPA

Everybody knows Save, right?

DESSYO SIONEHOLO

Okay.

SHERNON OSEPA

Yes, yes, of course, of course.

DESSYO SIONEHOLO

Again, my name is Dessyo Sioneholo from Niue. I'm here through the Fellowship Program. It's my second visit to ICANN, and I'm a chair of the Niue ICT advisory committee as well as Board member for the telecom communications. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you. So, we will skip staff from the ICANN. Yeah, go ahead, please.

TESSIE LEVA

Thank you. Good morning, my name is Tessie Leva, and I work with the Department of ICT Papua New Guinea, and this is my second time to attend a community forum ICANN GAC, and I'm also happy to be here, and maybe if you can give me a few minutes of time that we're happy to work with Save with the regional presence of what ICANN is doing, and we have other platforms that we use to try to get ICANN programs and I think we're improving Pacific and with other issues being highlighted by our colleagues, we'll take note of

them and we'll work through our contact point to implement activities or issues that have been highlighted. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much. No, I'll do that later. Let's finish the table and then we'll go there. Okay.

KROOPA SHAH

Thank you. My name is Kroopa Shah. I'm with Identity Digital. We are a technical infrastructure company. We provide registry and DNS services for ccTLDs, including small island developing states. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Kroopa. Next.

KAREL DOUGLAS

Hello. Good day, everybody. My name is Karel Douglas from Trinidad and Tobago. I sit on the GAC. I was actually going to mention in respect to the engagement, how important engagement is. So, small island developing states obviously have restrictions when it comes to finances. So, when an island or a country decides to send somebody, they assess the value of that based on other commitments.

So, I tie that to engagement to say that when ICANN is seen from the country as important because they are involved, ICANN is involved in different programs, and we know in the past we had the

Roadshow, which is where I met Albert and others who have done Roadshows.

Those go a long way. Those programs go a long way in showing the government or the powers that be that this is important. And hence that in turn allows persons to say, yes, we want to be a part of this and send people to meetings or get involved in different areas of ICANN. So, it's a symbiotic type of arrangement. So, yes, engage in the SIDS, and of course the SIDS will then see, yes, this is important for us to be a part of it because we understand the reason for it. So, I just wanted to comment on that. So, thank you for that.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Karel. Next, please.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Hi. As I said before, I'm Claire Craig. I'm from Trinidad and Tobago as well, and I started in ICANN as a fellow at ICANN58 in Copenhagen.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Claire. Next, please.

LANCE HINDS

Hello again. Lance Hinds from Guyana, the chair-elect of LACRALO, and also, I started young, but one of the founding members of the RALO, which has been around for over 20 years at this time. So, let me support what my colleague just said. ICANN has to show value. ICANN has to show that you are justifying, attending, participating,



and moving it. That is the kind of traction that you're going to have to get as you start your new engagements and as you start thinking through strategies. You're going to have to show value. You're going to have to show relevance. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Lance. Next, please.

SEUN LEWIS

Good morning, everyone. Seun Lewis from the Caribbean Telecommunications Union where I'm the policy analyst. Here supporting my colleague.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much. Next.

TERESA WANKIN

Hi, everyone. I'm Teresa Wankin, fellow from Trinidad and Tobago. This is my second time in ICANN, and I was introduced to ICANN by Albert a very long time ago, but this is my only second meeting. We provide a platform for collaboration similar to ICANN with all the stakeholders, all the ICT stakeholders in the Caribbean. So, from the technical side operators, ISPs, governments, regulators, and we have similar challenges to ICANN in showing value.

Our modus operandi, so to speak, is collaboration to make things happen, and we feel that collaboration with ICANN and all the other stakeholders is key to getting the message throughout the region for

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the Caribbean region and I guess the Asia-Pacific region as well.  
Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you. Next. David, sorry, I will skip you, okay, because we know where you're at. Okay, sorry.

SONGO NORE

Hi, my name is Songo Nore. I'm from Papua New Guinea. I work with the Integral Information and Communications Technology Board for Morobe Provincial Government, which is the first of its kind in the country. My colleague there, Tessie, she works at the national level with the Department of Information and Communications Technology. So, I'm an ICANN fellow, and I'm pleased to meet all of you. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much. Okay, let's go here quick, because we still have a few minutes.

KATIE BENGARD

Hi, my name is Katie Bengard [ph]. I work for the Internet Society. I'm here to better understand the work that's been done in this area so far with this group, and seeking ways to support and further collaborate with you all. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Katie. Next, please.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Hello, everyone. My name is Laura Margolis. I am from Uruguay. I am not from any small island, but I am from a small country. So, I just wanted to say that I was part of the Selection Fellowship Committee for six meetings, and I'm happy to see lots of Fellowship members here. And I just wanted to mention that we tried to help the participation of, especially of Caribbean people and Pacific islands too, because we know there are very few people participating, and it's very important to help and for them to be engaged in ICANN.

And I agree with you. It's very difficult to explain what ICANN is. I think it's a very difficult task, but we are all the time working on that, especially in the small countries. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Laura. Judith?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Hi, I'm Judith Hellerstein. I'm also not from a small island, I'm from the U.S., Washington, D.C.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Manhattan.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Yeah, and I'm originally, oh, yes, yes, yes. He, Rodrigo does say, yeah, I am from Manhattan, which is an island. Not a small island, but it is an island. But I also work with a lot of SIDS countries on helping them create policies and regulations for the digital economy, working on capacity building. And so, I've been working with SIDS for several years.

I first came to ICANN from Glenn McKnight, who you all know, who was my mentor, originally taught me. Many people think I've been here for years, but it really hasn't been that long. It's just that Glenn's mentality is you have to jump in headfirst and get involved in every aspect so that that's really the only way of getting it, of really being involved as much in ICANN is to jump in at the deep end.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you. Yes, Pat.

PAT DONALDSON

Hello? Is it on? You can hear me? Okay. My name is Pat Donaldson. Nice to meet everyone. I work for Danny Digital alongside Kroopa Shah over here. We provide DNS infrastructure and automated registry solutions to country codes all around the world, small or large. And we are greatly interested in this joint DNS initiative. So, I'm excited to be here and learn more.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you. Do we miss someone?

SOPHIE MITCHELL

Hi, everyone. I'm Sophie Mitchell. I'm from the .au, Australia. We're really proud to be part of a really strong region of obviously a lot of small island nations. And we work closely with our regional neighbors, including Papua New Guinea, who we've spent a bit of time working with recently.

And last year we were really proud to convene a Pacific Islands or a Pacific ccTLD forum, which is something we hope to work with our neighbors to continue into the future as well. Really pleased to be here because we know we've got a lot to learn from other small island developing states as well, so our friends in the LAC region. So, thank you for having us.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you very much. We do still have two more people. So, please.

ROCÍO DE LA FUENT

Hi again, everyone. I am Rocío de la Fuente. I work with LACTLD, the association representing Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs. And I wanted to add something to the comments of my previous intervention, is that we would be very happy to work with other organizations in the LAC region or from other regions. We have a long history of collaborating with ICANN and the ICANN regional office. Also very happy to work with CTU. And if you see that any of our projects would be of interest to you and we can do something together, I will be happy to have a conversation. So, thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA Yes, thank you, Rocío. I think we have one more person there, and then we're done.

GIOSE MCGINTY Giose McGinty. I'm a staff, work with Albert and Rodrigo, the LAC team, and the North America team.

SHERNON OSEPA Thank you very much. So, that was everything that we have seen so far. That was just the introduction. So, now we're going to work, okay? So, we would like to leave this room with a--

ALBERT DANIELS You have nine minutes.

SHERNON OSEPA Yes, of course, that's why I'm rushing through it. We would like to leave this room with a concrete initiative that we would like to continue working with once we have left this room. So, if you look at ICANN, ICANN doesn't-- We know that SIDS, as I did mention initially, we do have our challenges, but, of course, ICANN cannot solve all of those challenges.

So, ICANN is focusing on a few areas that we know. They are focusing on the domain name system. They are focusing on the root servers and those kinds of things. So, let's think about one specific project or name that we can say, okay, this is something that we

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would like to do and replicate in all the SIDS. For example, in Africa, Pacific, and the Caribbean.

So, if we can achieve that, then I think this-- I mean, of course, the meeting was successful, but at least we can show that this is what we're going to do in the future and not just talk about our challenges and problems, but we would like to solve real-world challenges that we are facing. So, what would you suggest is one particular project that we can choose that we can replicate in all the SIDS that we did mention? Claire, please go ahead.

ALBERT DANIELS

Well, perhaps in 15 seconds, I can say something that can help us even once we get out of this room. And it actually relates to a question that Dev asked. How does one join the mailing list? And how do we get information on the wiki? And what I commit to do once we leave here, we all know how to get to the schedule item for SIDS. There are two documents right now there, the agenda and the presentation of the survey that we did.

So, what I commit to do is put another document on there, which gives instructions on how to join the mailing list because we don't have everybody's email addresses yet for this SIDS group. And I'll also put on another document there to take suggestions how we can put the different sections of the wiki so even when we start this project, we can start moving forward working together on the wiki. Okay, thank you, Albert. So, you were going to say something?

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CLAIRE CRAIG

Yes. Claire Craig, for the record. One of the things that David spoke about at the very beginning was the deployment of the root servers and the availability of Anycast. Now, we know that ICANN's mandate is security and stability of the Internet. And Vincent mentioned Brent McIntosh, and Brent has been very active in terms of deploying Anycast.

I don't think, however, that, as you know, my passion is Internet Exchange Points, that ICANN distributes Anycast on Internet Exchange Points, but I think one of the areas that we will want to look at is how that those Anycast servers can be implemented across the SIDS regions to ensure that we do have that kind of stability and resilience of the Internet so that we have Internet for all. Because Internet access and security and stability is one of the critical underpinnings of ICANN. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Lance? Thank you, Claire.

LANCE HINDS

Thank you. I don't know. Is there any information collected in terms of where SIDS is? I mean, what assistance is being given to date? Maybe a project to collect information in terms of where we stand, who has benefited from ICANN intervention, who needs it, that type of thing. Not a whole lot of information, but it might be something that we want to keep in terms of knowing about each other, knowing what they're doing, knowing what kind of work is being done, and



seeing how we could do probably cross-training or cross-cutting work.

ALBERT DANIELS

To start that going, I asked MTS to put up this slide, which lists all of the SIDS countries. And what we did was we used the United Nations definition of SIDS, and that would be a good starting point to say, well, okay, if we're going to be doing research, if we're going to be doing surveys, these are the countries that we're going to be looking at.

And one thing that's important up there, of course, I cover the Caribbean, but Save covers the Oceania region, and we have another VP who would have liked to be here, but he's not here with us, Pierre Dandjinou. He covers the Africa region, because they have some SIDS as well, and also there are some SIDS in the Asia-Pacific region, Maldives, Singapore, and Timor-Leste. So, this information is available. I'll put this slide up on the wiki as well.

LANCE HINDS

And then at some point you can drill down to see exactly what kind of activities are being done in the various areas.

ALBERT DANIELS

Each one, yeah.

SHERNON OSEPA

Yes, we do have a few more minutes, but let's take one. Maureen?

MAUREEN HILYARD

I just wanted to support the mailing list thing also, because sometimes there are issues that come up on ICANN where we need to give our SIDS voices and add our SIDS voices to those Public Comments, and having that mailing list, putting out a thing, and developing a working group or something like that, it would be really awesome. Thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Teresa, please, go ahead.

TERESA WANKIN

So, I just wanted to address how are we going to handle the public awareness that we heard from several people around the table. Is it that we could form some guidelines for people to take back and say to their country or their respective organization, ICANN as a resource is available, and this is where you go to get this information.

For me personally, I have most of my members on ICANN Learn because I was so fascinated about it, but I think similar to the focal points, that model, the people who come to the meeting has a responsibility to take back the information and share it with others in their community and like their governments and stuff like that.

So, some kind of model that I don't have to go and look for a big report and develop a report, but if we have a framework that people could say, okay, this is ICANN, and if you are at ISP, this is where you

go and stuff, I think it will help spread that information from the ground up.

SHERNON OSEPA

Thank you, Teresa. Lance, let me just take Kroopa before because she was ahead of you, okay?

LANCE HINDS

No, no, no. Go ahead. Oh, sorry.

KROOPA SHAH

Thank you. I just want to address some of the comments that have been said around the room with regard to capacity building and building awareness. So, one of the things that-- Oh, sorry, for the record, it's Kroopa from Identity Digital. One of the things that we have done is to work with specific countries to understand what they need, unique need, to build capacity in their own country because it's not enough to do one session and be done with it, right? It has to be a program that's implemented over a period of time so that that country then develops capacity over a period of time.

So, one of the things that we've done is created a training program for some of the countries that we are working with, and what that helps them with is to assert greater administrative control, cultivates a robust and secure environment for the folks in that country or for that ccTLD in itself, and builds awareness and helps them navigate the global landscape because not everyone knows, like some of the folks in the room have said, what is ICANN? What is

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this industry? It's such a small niche industry, but without this industry, the Internet cannot function.

So, that awareness is critical, but that has to be done using a training program. It's something that we've done. We actually just published an article about it on our website. If you have a few minutes, please go read it. And, I'm around here this week. If you'd like to come and speak with me, I can give you more information. I know we're short on time, so thank you.

SHERNON OSEPA

Yes. Let's take three last questions, and then we will need to bring this session to a close, but with some concrete point of departure that we will be mentioning, okay? Let me start first with my co-chair.

ANDREW MOLIVURAE

Thank you, Shernon. I just feel that there needs to be some form of coordination at some stage, so maybe that could sort of set the ball rolling and see maybe create a group that would sort of coordinate things from here on. So, I think once we have the mailing list up, this might be the first thing that we look at. Thank you.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Hi. Yes, Judith Hellerstein. I'm looking at the SIDS listed here, and I don't see Guadalupe listed, because you're listing not in the ICANN territories. You're listing in the actual where they reside. So, shouldn't Guadalupe be in the Caribbean region?

ALBERT DANIELS

Well, we had to use a definition, and we decided to go with the United Nations definition. The thing about Guadelupe and Martinique is that they're actually overseas dependencies of France, and as a result, they are considered Europe and France, and that's why for some reason Guadelupe is not on here. But that's something that we can look at, whether we can have associate members in our SIDS grouping later on. But that is simply the United Nations list, which we have no control over.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Right, but then they should be listed on the bottom, just like New Caledonia, which is part of France.

SHERNON OSEPA

I'm sorry. We need to bring this session to a close, so let me take one last short comment, and then we will focus on the action points. One more, okay? No? Okay. So, basically, we have seen there is appetite for this. We have seen a lot of comments. We got a lot of feedback. What is it? Judith, we got a lot of feedback regarding this.

So, I think what we can do is to reactivate the mailing list, Albert, and then we can take it from there. And this is also one of the ways how we can be engaged, continue to have that conversation. And I would like to thank all of you for being here. We have seen, Judith, that there is an appetite about this, and people would like to give a contribution to the SIDS in their particular regions.

So, we talk about Africa, Pacific, and the Caribbean in this particular case. So, let me give Albert or Rodrigo, in this particular case, the opportunity, a few last seconds, to say thanks to the group, and then we will continue like that. I'm sorry, we would like to take a picture as well for this group, okay?

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA

Thank you. I will be super, super, super brief just to thank everybody for coming to this session, very initial efforts. And I think we have very good ideas for the way forward to this group, of course, through the mailing list and many of the very good ideas that all of you have shared with us. So, we'll try to take it from there. Thank you, Albert. And of course, thank you, Shernon, for being such a great chair to our session. And let's go for there, Andrew. Sorry, Andrew. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**