
ICANN82 | CF – GNSO: NCUC Membership Work Session
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ANDREA GLANDON

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WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much, Andrea, for all the support. So this is the NCUC Membership Session. We are going to go through a marathon. My name is Wisdom Donkor. I'm the Chair. I'm not going to waste too much time. We'll go straight into the agenda. So I'll call the meeting to order and then we'll begin with the introduction.

I think I'm going to skip this one, the introduction part. What we'll do is that the speakers who are going to be speaking, they'll introduce themselves and then they'll go into their agenda items

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that they are supposed to speak on, in order for us to save time. But before we begin, I'll go to the approval of this agenda, if this is okay, and then we can proceed further. Is this okay?

MILI SEMLANI

Mili, for the record. I just think maybe we could use No. 4, Community Engagement Strategies, to also talk about the NCUC fellowship. I don't think we've discussed that with membership, and it might be a good opportunity to do so.

WISDOM DONKOR

Okay. So Andrea, can you please note that? All right, so the agenda is approved. And then we'll begin with the ICANN82 overview. Peter will be giving us that. Peter, are you online?

AKINREMI PETER TAIWO

Yes, I'm here. I just wanted to give you a brief overview of some of the discussion that's taking place in ICANN82. And I won't repeat everything, just wanted to do an overview of that to let you know some of the topics and issues that NCOC needs to be abreast of and also get involved in, like that of the DNS abuse. We've been talking about it. RDDS, Applicant Support Program, Next Round, especially -- which NCUC actually needs to get the members to be involved and work with the people championing these interests.

The reason why I actually mapped these out from the conversation that's taking place is for NCUC to really get involved in conversation, and also ask "Why" questions. Why do we do this?

Why do we do that? So that we inform and we help the people that are actually representing or championing this matter to bring the view of the NCUC and non-commercial interest into the conversation that is currently ongoing.

I'd like to touch on that of the Next Round, because that is key. I can actually offer on-demand translation for Next Round Outreach Material. And I believe that this is one area that we need to take advantage of this opportunity by the NCUC members. Imagine each member actually requests for this outreach material in their local language. We'll be able to advocate for the Next Round. We'll be able to do publicity and advocacy of New gTLD and Next Round. So this is one aspect I want us to take the opportunity of. Because we've been advocating for simplicity of this material, and now we can get some of these in our local languages. And I want to ask NCUC members to actually take advantage of that.

And another one I want us to actually talk about, that is on the plate of everybody, is DNS abuse. What does DNS abuse mean? We need to advocate for this. So we have a lot of topics that are taking place, a lot of discussion and conversations, and I want to repeat that. But these are the highlights of everything that members need to be abreast of and also develop their capacity. And we've seen from the recent session that just concluded to bring you all up to speed on Applicant Guidebooks and Next Round. So the same thing as you see needs to be done for other topics so that we make ourselves known and also make ourselves valuable in all these conversations.

Because sometimes, what the community or stakeholder asks is, "What is the concern here from the NCUC perspective?" And sometimes it's difficult for us to even advance the interests of NCUC because we don't even know what we need to do. So this we have the lead discussion of the people championing this topic and the issues to know what you want and what are the issues that non-commercial stakeholders and organizations are actually passing through and want to advance.

With that, I will just pass the mic back because this is just an overview of some of the conversations that's taking place in ICANN82. Thank you. Over to you.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much, Peter. I think one of the things that we should think of doing is putting this in summary and maybe coming up with a newsletter or something with all of these items that you mentioned and then we float it around to all our members as well as publish on the website.

So I move to the next agenda item, NCUC reports and updates. There's a number of discussions that the EC is having. Then, I would like to give a bit of updates on what has gone on so that members will be abreast of some of the discussions that we've been discussing. So I'm going to slot in here also NomCom to give an update. But then I will start with Namra.

NAMRA NASEER

Hi everyone, Namra here. I will just give some quick updates of what we have been up to. But I think the most important one is we had a meeting with the CEO, Kurtis, and also Russ was part of the meeting, the Senior Vice President, Policy Development Support. We had this meeting in February, and we had a couple of questions that we asked them. And I will just give a brief overview of what these questions were and a summary of what the responses were.

We asked them how ICANN views the role of the non-commercial users within ICANN over the next five years, to which the president and the CEO said they don't have any concrete plans as of now. He's still very new. He's in the learning mode. He wants to understand and gather as much information as possible. And then they, of course, underscored the importance of open communication between all the parties. And SVP, the Senior Vice President, especially emphasized the importance of NCUC and Civil Society in reaching out to other members of the multi-stakeholder model and to share perspectives and collaborate with them. And he said the policy team is available to help facilitate these connections.

We talked a bit about the fiscal and budget challenges, to which we have been hearing similar conversation here. I won't repeat that. We also talked about the new gTLD program and how that is also a point of interest for NCUC, and how Civil Society can play an important role in making this program and the Applicant Support Program more visible for the people within the ICANN community.

I also asked them if they foresee any changes under the new US administration. And their answer was that ICANN has a dedicated US government engagement team that will continue to monitor any developments that are relevant to ICANN and they plan to stay in contact with the relevant policymakers.

And then we updated them on what we are working on and how we plan to engage our respective regions, and having some information sessions possibly after this meeting to share what we have learned here and also then gauge the engagement that we get at the session and maybe then branch out to our region-specific sessions. But that is something that we would love to discuss and do after ICANN82.

Other than that, we are working on the operating procedures to update the document, make it more relevant to what we are doing right now, and take out the redundant things. And Wisdom has been leading this effort, but we are planning to have a media and communication working group. We had the call of expression for EOIs and we received around 10 EOIs for that. We will be now moving forward to drafting the NCUC media and communication strategy.

Other than that, Pascal has been appointed as the NCUC rep on the NCSU financial committee. If he's on the call, congratulations.

And now I will just quickly go over the CROP. A lot of people keep asking me -- they have funding questions. CROP is, I guess, a very interesting -- one of the funding options that is available to the community. It's called the Community Regional Outreach

Program. And they basically provide one slot to NCUC on which NCUC members can travel. Of course, it depends on which region the ICANN meeting is taking place. And then you have to be part of that region.

And it's an open call, you can apply. NCUC chair, along with EC, takes a decision to allot that slot. And there are certain expectations to attend and participate fully in the ICANN meeting. It's there for four days, so it's not like full funding, but the goal is to build local and regional awareness about NCUC's work and engage with current members, and also communicate the mission and objectives of ICANN to new audiences. I think that's all from me.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much, Namra. The next agenda item is the Treasurer's Report. I think this is one of the important components that all members will be interested in. Since I took over as chair, I think this has been blank. We actually don't know the status of NCUC when it comes to its finances and all of that. So we thought of bringing this and then trying to understand our standing with this. I don't know if Milton is online. I think, Pedro, if you can talk about the fellowship project?

PEDRO LANA

Maybe we will talk about it in the NCSG session as well because it's a NCSG related fellowship. We were in conversations with PIR since last year, or 2023, developing a project that will be focused on reinforcing the policy-building processes of NCCG, and organizing

them so people who are new can better understand what's happening, what are our priorities, what are our goals, what are our plans to achieve those goals, and we will have someone who will receive this fellowship to implement this process guided by the non-commercial community.

We will be developing the details and the selective process of this fellowship in the next few weeks. Rafik, I think, will be doing that with me, right? And then we can share the details. I think the project was already shared in the list, but I can also share the project that was approved by PIR a few months ago. And we will be beginning the fellowship by, I think -- I believe we will be able to do that in the next two or three months. I don't know if there's any question about that. And you want me to do the policy updates as well?

WISDOM DONKOR

Yes, I wanted to invite James to briefly update us.

JAMES GANNON

Thanks, Wisdom. James for the record. So for those of you who don't know me, James Gannon's my name. I am your representative on this year's nominating committee. So very briefly, this year we have a huge slate of candidates to appoint. We have over 10 roles. We have three board seats, both the voting seats in the GNSO, we have a ccNSO seat and three ALAC seats, and the PTI board. Because of the size of the slate, it's a great

opportunity to get more Civil Society-aligned candidates into leadership positions at ICANN.

So nominations are still open until the end of this month. I strongly encourage both people in the room here and inside of our networks to sign up, apply for roles. Even if you feel you mightn't be a 100 % match, get your name in there so that it's part of the evaluation process. When it comes to selecting candidates, we can only select from people who have applied. So if we don't have a great slate of Civil Society candidates, we won't have a great slate of Civil Society members in leadership positions.

So I just strongly encourage everybody to apply, particularly non-North Americans. We've had some regional restrictions now due to the board appointments of GNSO and ccNSO. So we're specifically looking for non-North American board members for ICANN. And yeah, just please, more Civil Society candidates into the mix so that the final slate can be more representative of the groups that we're here representing at ICANN.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much, James. With the financial report, I will be following up with Milton to see if we can get the financial report and then share with all members. So we move straight into the policy updates. Pedro?

PEDRO LANA

Perfect. I will try to be brief because we already had the policy committee meeting this morning. And to avoid some repetition, I

think we'll focus a little bit on the teams that were not debated and just giving a fast overview on the most important parts regarding NCUC members' work on the topics that were discussed this morning.

I believe the finishing of the transfer policy review is a highlight that we have. Ken did an amazing work during so many years on that and reporting detailedly on the list for us during this time. We got full consensus at the end with two topics. He mentioned still a bit of concern regarding transfer disputes, not-included registrants, and the change of registrant which will be the object of a separate policy process. It's important to note as well that deleting Diacritics PDP has been chartered. There is a definition of a chair and co-chair, so we will be working on that in the next few months.

The RPM-IRT also had an important milestone. We finished the discussions about the guiding materials and the modifications of the rules, so they will be published soon. We will have an important discussion on billing contact tomorrow at the GNSL Council. Farzaneh will be leading that.

About the code of conduct, especially the discussion about the statement of interests and who will be declaring who they are representing in policy discussions within ICANN, still waiting for a Board continuation on how things will go on from now, but it's also an important aspect for us.

About the public comments, they are open. I think it's important to highlight the proposed languages for draft sections of Next Round AGB. Micaela is leading that. I will be helping her. But since there

are a lot of documents to comment upon, it would be nice to have some extra hands.

And as upcoming proceedings, it's maybe administrative matters, but really relevant for us, the improved GNSO Stakeholder Group and Constituency Charter Amendment process will be up in April 2025. So, I think that's it.

WISDOM DONKOR

I think, Amin, you can just proceed with the membership update.

PEDRO LANA

Oh, about this one. I was trying to look on the CV CRM for specific data on NCUC and the only thing that I discovered is that I hate CV CRM for now. But I will be getting the report in the next few weeks and sharing it on the email list, because we will have to do a specific request to get that information. About the outreach and engagement efforts, it will be part of the discussion we'll have on the next item there on the membership engagement at the end of it, item four.

WISDOM DONKOR

Okay, so I think to add up to that, with the membership, we want to actually see how we are doing over the years and then see if we are lacking some way in order for us to reach out and get more members into NCUC. So Pedro will be following up on that. And there's one other aspect that we also identify within NCUC as working on which has got to do with our communication and

media. It looks like we are doing very poorly with that. I will call on Amin, he is the one leading on that, to give us an update.

AMIN HACHA

Thank you, Wisdom. Concerning the Media and Communication Committee, before last year we were only focusing on the website and Twitter. This year, under the guidance of our chair, we find it's a very good opportunity to develop the idea and work on media and communication. In this way, we can more reach our community and we can more tell them what is going on in our activity with them. We made a call last month and eight members are interested to help us in this committee.

Sorry, I forgot to mention that this is a responsibility. We are working together, me and Sara, about it. The idea is to have in every region one or more members who are good in writing or in the media. This way he can give us more close in what's happening in the area through their experience. And until yesterday, I think with the help of Tapani, we get, again, access to our website. So we will try to update the last news about it. Also, the idea to have a LinkedIn account as well as a Facebook account. I will give it to Sara now. She's online, she can give us input.

SARA ALI MOHAMMED

I don't have a lot to add, and I don't want to repeat Amin's words. But I think with the newly chosen members, we can foster strong collaboration and bring a fresh perspective to this working group. So together, we aim to enhance the NCUC outreach and attract

more attention to its agenda and strengthen its ability within a broader ICANN community. And additionally, we want to create a new way to engage people from outside the NCUC, helping them understand its role and values and how they can contribute.

Through effective communication and media strategies, we aim to enhance a platform draft also, ensuring they are more engaging and accessible and aligned with the NCUC mission. This will allow us to expand our impact, attract greater participation, and build a more informed and active community. We also welcome your thoughts on this approach and look forward to working together in this important initiative. Thank you.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much, Sara and Amin. We are moving to agenda item No. 4. I'm going to combine two items here. The first bullet point is Internet Governance and Public Interest. It looks like a lot is going on within the internet governance space. And then we, as representing users in Civil Society, we need to be out there talking to everyone whom we think falls within our group and then bring all of them into our fold.

So, I'll leave this to Farzaneh to talk a bit about this, and to see how NCUC can benefit and also adapt with public comment and policy development processes. I think a lot of our members still lack the understanding of policy processes. We need to simplify this for all of them. So if you can take care of these two.

FARZANEH BADIEI

Thank you very much, Wisdom. We do have a few people who are new to this session, so, welcome. At NCUC, we are a constituency of the non-commercial stakeholder group, and we care about human rights and access to open and global internet. And we try to infuse those values into policy development processes and ICANN's governance processes as well. So we care about transparency, we care about accountability, both inside of ICANN and outside internet governance institutions.

For internet governance, I don't know about that public interest part, but for internet governance, I will give you a little bit of feed on what has been happening. I am not an expert on that. Bruna knows much more, but since she's not here, I'm going to cover it for her. Basically, there are multiple international processes in international organizations that are talking about internet governance. They had commitments beforehand and action lines and they want to look at how those action lines should evolve in terms of governing the internet. And what NCUC and NCSG, as a whole, believes is that we need to protect the multi-stakeholder approach and the bottom-up approach that the internet governance institutions such as ICANN have been practicing and have been advancing. So that's our message in these processes.

Our members participate in, I would say +20 for example, or there is another one, Global Digital Compact Disk. That process also is ongoing. But what our message at NCSG, at NCUC, and to the broader community at ICANN is that we need to protect and defend the multi-stakeholder approach. And we have been trying to

document why the multi-stakeholder approach is better than other governance mechanisms and is more complementary.

Some of the things that we have done, we are talking about success stories. For example, in the multi-stakeholder environment, we can participate on equal footing with our government. So if the government doesn't have the bandwidth or the expertise, we can participate in these processes while in other venues and multilateral processes we might not be able to do that.

Another thing that the multi-stakeholder approach has done is to keep the Internet global and unfragmented, and that's another one of the achievements. There is an informal council group on Internet Governance, we are discussing things. From time to time, I come back to the group, to NCUC, to NCSG, and ask you what you think about our approach to Internet Governance and weigh in on these processes. That informal group is just a communication channel with other community members like GAC and ccNSO to kind of do a collective action and send our message to these multilateral processes that the multi-stakeholder model is great.

For the Public Comment and Policy Development Process, I can mix policy at the GNSO. And GNSO has a council that has different counselors from different stakeholder groups, commercial stakeholder group, non-commercial stakeholder group, and the contracted part. But the policy development processes are open to anybody that wants to get involved. Those values that I told you about, the human rights values, privacy, freedom of expression, and others, we try to infuse those values by participating not only

in the PDP, but also through the GNSO. We have representatives on the GNSO Council that will make sure that the policies are human rights respecting and stuff like that. But it's very procedural. And I'm one of the councilors as well.

So, how can NCUC get involved more effectively? For example, Pedro was talking about the billing contact and registration data in general, the topic of accuracy. We need to really explain to people what sort of implications these policy issues have for privacy. If you look at the issue of billing contact, billing contact is in the registration data for Whois. When a domain name registrant registers a domain name, they collect information. We believe in data minimization and data collection minimization. So we don't want the billing contact to be included in the registration data.

And then another issue that we are discussing is a matter of accuracy. And this might sound really alien to people, what is accuracy and why are we so riled up about it? That also has privacy implications and freedom of speech implications. Because some parts of this community are trying to say that domain name registrants should be identified through their domain names. And they want to advance that through saying that the domain name registrant data should be kept accurate. They define it as accuracy means that be able to identify the domain name registrant, which will have implications, not only on freedom of speech because we live in oppressive regimes -- not oppressive regimes -- we want to discuss things that the government doesn't like and we don't want to be identified through our domain name.

Another factor is that if you say that we need to identify the domain name registrant, then there's going to be maybe a requirement on the registrar to require ID cards. Not in every country, people have ID cards. So that's a matter of access to domain names. Are we going to have an impact on people's access to domain names?

So I think that by simplifying and really targeting the issue -- how these issues that we are discussing affect human rights, affect these values of open and global internet and access of people to domain names -- I think we can make it a little bit easier and more worthwhile for people to participate in these very elaborate and sometimes four-year long policy development processes. And it's going to be tedious when you get involved. There are going to be many, many meetings that are more procedural, and sometimes even the topics might not be related to what we are interested in. But it's a matter of that kind of consistency and persistence in showing up.

Woody Allen had a quote that I cannot remember. But he said something along the lines of, "You will win if you show up." Something like that. So we need to show up. We will identify the policies that could affect these rights that we care about by showing up and participating. For example, we had the transfer policy development process that took four years, but there were many aspects that we were interested in because we are interested in advancing the rights of the domain name registrants, but also the end users' access to knowledge and information.

I think that from our side, the leaders and people who have positions at NCUC and NCSG, they should be able to simplify things. And the other side, the newcomers or those who want to join, I think persistence and showing up would be good.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. We'll quickly move to the next item, Community Engagement Strategies.

JULF HELSINGUS

Can I just very quickly comment that the quote is actually, "Eighty percent of success is showing up." Tell that to Woody Allen.

WISDOM DONKOR

Yeah, thank you. So, Mili.

MILI SEMLANI

Thanks, Wisdom. Mili, for the record. I just wanted to flip this a bit and keep it a bit more interactive because I see there are a few new faces and some fellows and also newer members. For community engagement, we are hosting a lot of ICANN readouts, especially after each meeting. But I want to hear from our members and newcomers especially, what is it that you require, need, that we can build on? And I know we spoke about the NCUC fellowship that's coming up and you should see the nice way to engage deeply, kind of train yourself. It is a paid fellowship, I think; Pedro, if I'm not wrong. So yeah, if anybody wants to take the floor and tell us how we can support our members and community better in terms of

learning about issues, or anything else that you need at a capacity-building level.

PEDRO LANA

I think it was the point I talked about in the last item. Just one thing I forgot to say about the NCSC fellowship. It's not related to the fellowship program of ICANN. Especially considering you have a lot of new people here, it's a project that is funded by PIR and developed within the commercial community focused on the improving policy work and showing to the rest of the community what are our positions and what we want to achieve within the ICANN ecosystem and within the domain name system in general.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. Mili, are you done? Okay. So I think we are doing well with time. The next bullet item is Proposal for New Initiatives. I think this is where I will open up for ideas. So the floor is open.

MOHAMMAD ATIF

This is Mohammed Atif, for the record. I'm an ICANN fellow, and I was newly inducted in the NCSG ecosystem. And it's good to hear about the developments that you guys mentioned. And kudos to the team who has been working continuously on these deliberations. I can see hundreds of emails spamming my inbox related to NCSG and POC and NCUC. And it would be good to streamline it into a fellowship where the specific goals of working

in a specific ecosystem pertaining to specific objectives could be realized.

So my question would be-- There are some ongoing deliberations, some of the working groups have been there for quite some time. For example, related to human rights and accessibility, I can see reports being floating in and comments being asked for. So how do we as newcomers get into that straight away? Because it is expected that there should be some knowledge pertaining to that. Or it is expected that we know the background of those issues that are being floated in? So that is my first question open to the floor.

And second is related to the communication strategy team. I am a certified marketer myself. I have reached out to Amin before for contributing to realize the objectives of the website and streamline it. And my suggestion would be if you were trying to have a more robust outreach program, you can go for search engine optimization and other marketed campaigns wherein I can help on a voluntary basis. I have my own company, a media company, running back in India, but I can do this pro bono. So this is just a small suggestion, and I would love to contribute for the engagement part as well. I've had my discussion with Amin and I now open the floor to hear feedback on this. Thank you.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. Pedro, if you can take this, then Amin will come in.

PEDRO LANA

Well, we just made the million-dollar question of how a newcomer can understand ICANN policies. We do have as part of ICANN, ICANN Org, but ICANN community as well, a lot of materials that are crafted for newcomers. So, ICANN Learn, for example. But we also have non-commercial on our website a lot of courses that encompass a great array of subjects and also how specifically to develop policy work. So for example, how to do policy writing, you can see a lot of those materials on our website.

But I think that the most important part of learning how to do is actually doing, and a good way of doing that is getting not exactly a mentor but someone who can do that with you. We do have a lot of people who are interested in doing that with newcomers within the non-commercial community. And since you also come from the intellectual property background, we do have an incoming issue in that area, which will be really important for the non-commercial. And if you want to, it would be a pleasure to work with you on that.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. Amin, briefly.

AMIN HACHA

What I can tell you, I think on my side and Sara, we want to tell you that you are most welcome and we will work with you, not you will work with us, and deliver something good. So, you are most welcome. And also, I want to welcome Hamad. He's living in Sweden. And also, it's interesting to join the media team with us. I

think the media and communication, the more we have more members, I think we can make more reactions to the community.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. Rafik, then Kathy will come in.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks. Maybe I think Pedro covered some points about the material and so on. But the most important, if we take the example of public comments, is that there is no shortcut. You'll have to read the report and all the background material around that to get familiar with the topic. There are other materials that, even for ICANN meetings, provided by GNSO staff like the GNSO policy brief and so on. So that's how you need to read to get familiar with the issues.

You can ask any question in the list. You can ask people if you want some clarification or to share the historical background to understand, because some topics were discussed for many years. But that's the way. And also as Pedro shared is you learn by doing. Like, when you do the drafting. That's why we encourage a group of people so that we don't put the burden on just one person, a group of volunteers that can coordinate and work together to draft a comment. And also, several times the public comment is like an informal questionnaire. So it's clear there are specific questions we try to respond to. And again, you can ask in the mailing list to ask for help. Also, we have here our policy committee chair who can support. So yeah, that's the way.

For the working group, slightly different. Depends what we have as a working group. Now, many of them are membership based, so we appoint representatives. But there is a way just you can join as an observer and see the discussion. I always advise that you observe what kind of dynamic people are responding in a kind of comment to understand their point of view and also can join the call as observers. So there are ways. It's kind of a learning experience to see how things go and take your time. Again, there is no shortcut. You will become a policy expert, but you go through steps and with that you digest a lot of information and to get more exposed to the different point of view, like to understand how we are covering those policy issues.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much, Rafik.

PEDRO LANA

I just forgot there is a specific problem that is also very useful which is the ICANN Policy Development Accelerator. There is one happening right now, and the material stays recorded. They do a breakthrough of the whole process, how it was developed. And it's very useful. There are a few options. You can get one of those to every subject that is happening right now. But the ones that they did approach are really good in the sense of getting a comprehensive view of everything.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. The floor is still open. So what we want to achieve is going into the next ICANN meeting, we want to kind of at least identify our good members. And then, if possible, we can attach them to some of the community leaders to learn from them and to see what can come out, adding our people into the already exhausted pool that we have so that getting replacement wouldn't be difficult. But then we need to get more members and start bringing them up with policy development.

And also, before the next meeting, to improve the way we communicate, to improve our social media presence. We need to get out there. You will be seeing a lot of the ECs taking out some programs in various regions. So it's good that you are getting in touch now. We still have some time.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR

Tomslin, for the record. I think I have a question which relates to improving engagement to members, especially the ones who just got involved in public comments. And I wonder if there is anyone in the room or online who has contributed or attempted to contribute to public comments in the last couple of months and they've had any challenges that they might want to share with us so that we see how we can help.

WISDOM DONKOR

Anyone? Kathy?

KATHY KLEIMAN

There have been public comments out there that are huge. The Applicant Guidebook for New gTLDs is going to be hundreds of pages. There are nine sections out for public comment right now, totaling hundreds of pages, and this is the fourth round. So, if anyone wants to take small pieces of it-- When we read it, we're reading it-- It's really strange. ICANN is asking, "These are the rules for applying for new gTLDs--" If Emmanuel and I apply for the same string, how are we going to fight it out? Is it going to be auctions or objections?

But one of the things we've been fighting for very successfully, guys, is readability. The question ICANN asks is, "Do the rules -- are they the policy that the GNSO negotiated?" Yes, they could be the policy that GNSO negotiated, but nobody other than the six people who fought for that policy may understand it. So we fight for readability too.

So if anyone wants to join me in reading these nine sections, or anything that's out on public comment, and making sure that not just ICANN can understand it, but the world community that may need to understand it -- Civil Society, indigenous peoples, tribes -- please come in and help. Because if you don't understand it and you've been in an ICANN meeting, I promise you the rest of the world won't.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. Manju? Members want to hear from you.

MANJU CHEN

I guess we were talking about how to start doing policy, in a sense. For me, myself, I joined a working group and then I started from there. I joined the EPDP Phase 2 Working Group, representing NCSG. Like Rafik said, there's no easy way to do it. You have to read up. There's this constant thing in NCSG or NCUC. People are like, "Oh, it's too difficult. You have to simplify it for us. You guys have to summarize for us or else we wouldn't be able to understand, that's why we cannot participate." But for me, I personally feel like if you're only reading a summarized version, you will never get into the depth, the essence, or what it really means.

Because, I mean, nowadays you don't even need us humans to summarize for you, right? You just go to chat GPT and they'll summarize it for you. But then when you read the summarized versions, you're just losing all the details that actually you should be paying attention to. So, of course, in a sense, we need to do outreach and we need to let people know, "It's actually not that hard, you can do it too."

But then at the same time you really have to read yourself. You're not relying on us chewing and feeding you what we chewed on already, right? That's why I thought it's easier if you actually join something and then you read up. We have so many people who are so willing to help you with your comments. I wrote my first public comments after I joined the working group. And I felt very happy and proud about myself. But I still needed a lot of edits from those who have been doing the work and speak better English than me.

So, like Rafik was saying, and like a lot of people were saying here, we really encourage you to join. And I know when we put out for conferences or whatsoever, it looks very frightening. They ask you for so many things. You have to update your SOI. And you're like, "What is SOI, and where do I do that?" So I think you can grab a person now. You look into a room, and you choose a person that looks the most friendly.

And after this, you go to her or him, and you're like, "Can I add you on whatever messenger app that you're using?" And after that, when you see any questions, you just message this person. I'm sure this person will message back. If you feel unsafe, you pick three, okay? If the first person didn't reply, you choose the second one. Yeah, that was my suggestion. Thank you.

WISDOM DONKOR

Yeah, thank you very much. We have four minutes. So let me give you one minute.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS

Okay, just to add to the comments that Kathy and Manju said, we are encouraging people to do something that we are already doing right now. And just to add that one of the public comments open right now, it's the Proposed Language for Next Round AGB, Applicant Guidebook. And we, since from NCSG and NCUC and all together have been too much active in that topic. So the comment should be easy for us to do. It's easier than other ones because we are more active in this topic than the other ones. So we will have

some people working together to do this comment. I am talking about just this topic. But it's a team effort. It's not just one person. So that's it. Thank you very much.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. Pedro?

PEDRO LANA

Just building upon something that Manju said at the end about looking for a friendly face. Something that is really important that we are lacking and it's something I was talking about a few months ago but I don't have the time to focus on it right now is having an engagement and outreach plan for each ICANN meeting, because we simply don't talk to newcomers and we don't have any direction in that sense. Some of us do, but this needs to be something that is more well planned and a real effort by our community to reach those people so they know that we are friendly faces and they know that they can talk to us. So, it's something that we can discuss in the next few weeks.

WISDOM DONKOR

We have one minute. Benjamin.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE

Benjamin, for the record. I just wanted to add to the conversation around capacity building. We're successful now that we have a decent amount of hands on the table that can push our agenda. But I will encourage us to not hold this engagement to the

meetings. We can have webinars. Topic experts can take issues and discuss them in such a way that can get members warmed up or primed to be able to jump into the pool to engage.

So I would just encourage that we do more of that in between, after meetings, after readouts. Pick issues that we think can be relevant to the community, have a webinar around it, and have intense conversations. It will easily pick people up. And that's what has helped. Now we have more hands, before we start looking for hands again. Thank you.

WISDOM DONKOR

Thank you very much. I believe it's time. Okay. So, meeting closed.

ANDREA GLANDON

You may stop the recording. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]