
ICANN84 | AGM – Get to Know ICANN Community: At-Large Advisory Committee
Saturday, October 25, 2025 – 16:30 to 17:30 IST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Hello, everyone. Can we start the recording?

Thank you. Welcome, everyone, to the onboarding session with At-Large. And before we start, let me give the floor to my colleague Fernanda Iunes to read the script.

FERNANDA IUNES

Hello, and welcome to the Get to Know: the ALAC session. ALAC stands for At-Large Advisory Committee. My name is Fernanda Iunes, and I'm 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 ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. Please observe the following guidelines to participate in this session. I'll also post them in the chat for your reference.

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record, the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English, and speak clearly at a moderate pace.

Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. All are welcome to use the chat. Please note that private chats are only possible among panelists in the Zoom webinar format. Any message sent by a panelist or a standard attendee to another standard attendee will also be seen by the session hosts, co-hosts, and other panelists. With that, I'll hand it back over to Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Fernanda. Welcome to the session with At-Large. We are going to learn what its end-users' community is doing within this ICANN multistakeholder model. For all those who don't know, this is my own community where I came from, so I really treasure being back to this community every single time at every ICANN meeting. And it's my immense pleasure to see my friends and colleagues here.

We have heard about Non-Commercial Stakeholders in the group, and this is our chance now to see what are the differences between At-Large and NCSG and what At-Large is specifically engaged with, and which is the most important also, my At-Large colleagues will talk about this, they do have regional representations which is key to At-Large community. But without further ado, I would like to

introduce you to the chair of At-Large, Jonathan Zuck. Jonathan, please, the floor is yours.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Thank you. We're always happy to have you come back over and over again. I'm just kidding. Thank you all for the Fellows for being here. I think Siranush might have misspoke. It's a bit presumptuous to call this an onboarding session because it means you've already decided to join the At-Large community. But I think by the end of the session, you will make that decision so it's probably all right. You've heard from the NCSG that the At-Large community is much bigger than the ALAC itself, which is just an entity within the ICANN Community, but has a lot of depth to it.

There are these regional At-Large organizations in the five regions and their members are made up of both individuals and institutional members. There might be an organization that specializes in security or something like that, and therefore, has an interest in what ICANN does even though it's not their primary interest. So, there's a lot of levels in which you can participate in the At-Large Community.

But at a high level, the idea behind the At-Large Community is to represent the interests of individual end users. What's difficult about this is that there's a lot of them. So, we don't suggest that we represent those people because they didn't vote for us or anything like that, but we try with some amount of rigor to identify what their best interests are and what things, decisions are made here in

ICANN that affect those interests, and then try to defend and improve that end user experience.

We like to say sometimes that end user is really a set of activities more so than a particular type of person. Like my background is in software engineering, and yet I spend most of my time on the Internet doing online banking and making restaurant reservations like every other end user. Most of us are just end users most of the time.

What are those interests? What do we care about? We care if we type in Bank of America that we actually get to our actual bank and not some farming site, right? We're concerned about malware. We're concerned about things that might make sites that we care about go away, etc. You think in terms of end users and think about the things you do most of the time on the computer and you'll sort of be in the right place to have this conversation.

At the center of the At-Large Community are these Regional At-Large Organizations, one for each region, and they elect members of the At-Large Advisory Committee, which is just 15 members. Ten of them come from the RALOs and 5 of them come from something called the Nominating Committee that attempts to try to find people from outside of the community to be on the ALAC. The RALOs are primarily focused on outreach and engagement at the regional level, trying to inform as many people as possible about what ICANN is doing and why they're doing it, and also to bring back feedback from as many people as possible in terms of what

those interests really are and are we having difficulty understanding them.

One example that I often use was a discussion we had in a room very much like this about geographic names. This was a working on the next round of new gTLDs. Hopefully, this vocabulary is starting to seep into you over the course of your time here. But if somebody wanted to get .amazon, for example, what are the implications of that, given that it's actually a geographic region as well as a business that we've all come to know? What are the implications of that? And what should the rules around that be? And it was a very difficult discussion for us to have because, first of all, there's a database out there of geographic names and there's 11 million of them. Do we prohibit all of them? Do we say it's just capitals? Do we try to set up a test where you have to get permission from those who have sovereignty over those geographic regions?

The discussion we ended up having was who do we want making a decision about whether or not people should be able to register a regional name? Then some people came to the realization, "Well, maybe we don't want governments making that decision either. Maybe it's communities that should be able to do it. You don't want your government to be the one to tell you whether you can register it if you live in that region." That was a complicated question for the small group of us in this room to try and address so we tried to create a survey that went out to a much broader audience to get more feedback on that type of question.

That's sort of At-Large—I didn't know what my time limit on this was, but that's talking a little bit about what the At-Large Community is, a little bit how we're structured. With that, I guess I'm turning it over to our Fellows that have become part of the At-Large Community and have, in fact, become leaders within that community. Or we're just going to Amrita first. All right. I don't need to look at my picture up on the screen.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Hi, everyone. My name is Amrita Choudhury. I represent the Asia Pacific, Australia and Pacific Islands, which is called as APRALO. As Jonathan was mentioning, At-Large Community is a huge community global. I represent the Asia Pacific part, which is called as APRALO. Welcome to all the Fellows and the NextGen. Though we are in Europe, the reason why I am the RALO chair who's speaking is because many of the NextGen who were chosen were from the Asian part of the continents because the meeting was supposed to be in Asia first. Welcome to all of you. There are many of you who I know. There are new people in the room who I don't know. We can always have a chat later. We would like to hear more questions from you.

In terms of what Jonathan says that we represent the end user community, different places, the end users are very different. My experiences are only from the APAC region. In APAC, we have countries who are very developed and we have also landlocked countries, small nations, whose issues are different. And that is

what our ALSes or At-Large Structures' individual members bring to this table. And many of the Fellows and even from the NextGen, few of them are attached to APRALO, so what do we do?

If there are some young people, and I'll speak from the young people perspective, who want to know more about At-Large or contribute, you can do it in many ways. For example, in APRALO, we have the small teams. You'll be hearing about Continuous Improvement process. There are two Fellows who are leading it. Many from this room are also part of it. They can raise their hands to show the groups they are in.

There are many who are also moderating certain sessions. We have topics being discussed, hot topics. How, for example, leaders have been participating in working groups. And that was done by one of our past Fellows who organized it.

There are many things you can do. You can work in small teams to contribute to a policy which is being discussed or even having outreach activities. For example, few from the NetMission had how to even submit a proposal or apply for a Fellowship. There are many things which you can do, but it also has to come from you just as it can come from the RALO. So, you have to let us know what you want to do, we will definitely try to help you. You can ask us more in terms of how you can participate. And you will be hearing from a few past NextGen Fellows who will be speaking. Incidentally, I was also a Fellow at one point of time.

I think I'll stop at that. We would like to hear more from you rather than we speaking. Because it should be an interactive session, not a top-down session. Thank you so much. And welcome to all of you. Happy to see you here. I hope you can really engage in this. I was also supposed to tell you, the next meeting is in the APAC region, which is also my home country. I welcome all of you there, whoever is coming. The beauty is we are on the Internet, you can participate online, share your thoughts, process it how we can shape the programs better, have more better outreach activities. Yes, let's continue this discussion. With this, I pass it on to Nati.

NATALIE TERCOVA

Thank you so much, Amrita. Hi, everyone. My name is Nati, and I'm one of those who went through all the stages. At some point in time, I believe it was ICANN78, I was a NextGen. Then progressively, I started to be interested in the work of ICANN and all the working groups, and I got elected as a Fellow. Now, I represent the European region on the At-Large Advisory Committee and also on the At-Large Advisory Committee Leadership Team. All those little steps. I'm not saying this to brag to you. My grandma is already proud. It's more to show you that it's possible and it's definitely doable.

My personal story or more of a background is that I work as a researcher. I work in academia and my main focus is on specific type of end users, being young people and children. How do they interact with technologies? What impact, for instance, meeting

DNS abuse for the means, what types of consequences that can have and so forth. That is why I became interested in the work of ICANN in the first place. It had meaning for me so I stuck around.

I guess that's okay for an intro. We can, of course, have more interactions in the future. Don't feel scared to approach me in the halls. I'm more than happy to talk to you or answer any questions. I will pass the floor to my colleague, Kathleen.

KATHLEEN SCOGGIN

Hi, everyone. My name is Kathleen Scoggin. I am Natalie's counterpart on the ALAC. I am one of the elected North American representatives. I'm also part of NARALO, the North American Regional At-Large Organization. I was a Fellow in ICANN—I don't remember, a little while ago. Then came on a similar trajectory into the ALAC.

I also come from a non-technical background. In my day job, I work for a non-profit doing cyber policy issues research. I had always been relatively interested in kind of the backbone of the Internet and how it all worked. It was a big black box mystery to me. I had not joined ICANN previously because I had some preconceived notion that it was a very technical organization that did not have a place for policy folks.

As I was ushered in by some great mentors, I was quickly told that that was not the case. And rather that folks can really benefit from a variety of different—both policy and technical expertise. I think

that that is something inherently unique about the At-Large. Lots of folks have had careers in whether it be more technical areas like Jonathan in software engineering, perhaps from an industry perspective, etc. But like Jonathan was saying, we are all individual end users at some point of the Internet and your expertise can truly be beneficial to us and this community.

As Natalie said, happy to talk afterwards if you have more questions. At-Large is definitely a combination of policy work as well as capacity building. I think we're going to speak more specifically about that soon. Feel free to come and chat with us. I am going to pass it to another one of our former Fellows also on the ALAC who is online, Emilia.

EMILIA ZALEWSKA- CZAJCYNKA Hi. Hello. I hope you can hear me well. Just please confirm.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Yes, we can hear you. Please, go ahead, Emilia.

EMILIA ZALEWSKA- CZAJCYNKA Okay, perfect. Hi. Hello. My name is Emilia Zalewska-Czajcynska. I really hope my connection will be stable because it's really not today. If you will lose me, I'm just sorry. I'm also very sorry not to be there on site with you. It would be so much better than... You can

just see my face, of course. You can also approach me on LinkedIn, for example. But nothing can replace talking in corridors.

Anyway, what Kathleen and Natalie said about their story with ALAC, mine is kind of similar. I also started as a Fellow in Puerto Rico last year at ICANN79. What is beautiful about being in this community is, first of all, you may have an impression that ICANN is very technical and that you need to have a very technical knowledge. For example, myself, my background is that I am a lawyer. I am also animal psychologist on the other side. But I work as a lawyer so not a very technical person. I work with technical IT people but I don't have technical background.

Anyway, still, this experience and this knowledge, this kind of skills may be very irrelevant at the place that At-Large is different kind of backgrounds. For example, the ones in capacity building, Kathleen mentioned, are in policy development or in law or in also other kinds of more, let's say, software skills or less technical skills and knowledge. It still can be very valuable when we talk about the point of view of end users and representing their voices. Because what is very important is if you have already been chosen to be there to be the Fellow, which is a huge accomplishment, and congratulations on that, but probably because this is the experience most of Fellows share, you may feel a little bit intimidated by how technical things here are. You can imagine how simple, let's say, Internet users feel about it. For them, this is a total black magic.

The role of At-Large among others is to translate this insider very technical aspects that also impacts Internet users to translate them into their language. This is where I would say each kind of background can be very helpful to building this picture that can be then translated for end users and also which may help them to understand why ICANN's work may be relevant to them.

With that, thank you for being here. I really missed the opportunity to being there with you. But hopefully, we will meet on site during the next meeting in Mumbai. I'm really looking forward to it. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Amelia. And I think according to our agenda, we will now move to Claire.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Hi, everyone. I am Claire Craig. I am one of the co-vice chairs of the ALAC. Like many of you—are you hearing me okay? Like all of you, well, except the NextGen—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Can you talk a bit closer to the mic, Claire?

CLAIRE CRAIG

I was trying to pull it forward and this one came out. That's what we were trying to... Okay. Like many of you, back in 2017, I came on as a Fellow. Siranush always said, "Once a Fellow, always a Fellow."

I started as a Fellow in ICANN58 in Copenhagen. Then I had my three Fellowships. I did Copenhagen, and then Johannesburg in 59, and then the policy forum in 62. After that, back then, the mentors came from the Fellows. So the Fellows could have been mentors. So, I became a mentor of other Fellows then. At the time, I wasn't really sure where I wanted to go. I started to look at different communities and I became involved in the NCSG and then COVID struck.

During COVID, I continued to participate. What I'm trying to say to you is that don't allow things that you have no control over to hold you back. Just continue to find ways to participate. I was fortunate to have—they asked for volunteers to be on a panel for a plenary session and I volunteered and I was selected for that session. Siranush always used to tell us that it was also important as Fellows to be visible, to make your voices heard, to speak up at things like the public forum. When you come to sessions like these, ask questions. I'm just encouraging you that that's the way to go, to just continue to speak and meet people and talk to them.

As a result of some of those things, I was asked to be the secretary of my region, which is Latin America and the Caribbean RALO. I did that for two years. That was again during COVID in 2021, I became the secretary. Following that, when my term was up, because LACRALO has some specific rules, I could only function for one term in a position, it was like, "Okay, what should I do next?"

So, I decided to apply to the NomCom for the position on the ALAC. I was successful in that and that's how I came on to the ALAC. I was here for two years. Again, at the end of that, it was an opportunity for me to apply through my RALO to be back on the ALAC, which I did. I was selected as one of the co-vice chairs, and that's what I am doing.

What I would continue to suggest to you is that I am happy that you're here at ICANN84. Please continue to reach out to persons and contribute. The next meeting, as Amrita said, is ICANN85 in Mumbai. If you can't be there in person, there is a hybrid option. Please use it and be involved. Then there is ICANN86, the Policy Forum. I don't know if it's official where that is yet, but that's another opportunity to continue to participate. As you would know, there are Fellowship applications. I don't think it's open as yet, but look out for those and do apply. There will be NextGen applications, look out for those and apply as well. And continue to become involved in meetings.

ALAC and At-Large. You can communicate, you can engage in your region in your RALO and you can also engage in our At-Large working groups. These are the Consolidated Policy Working Group which meets weekly. It's normally a 90-minute meeting and that deals specifically with policy. There is also the Operation, Finance and Budget Working Group, which I am one of the co-chairs of with my colleague here, Bukola Oronti. That also meets weekly for a 90-minute meeting. What we try to do is ensure that our meetings rotate so that persons in different regions can effectively

participate. Once you join the meetings, there will be opportunities to volunteer to be involved in things like writing public comments and just being on a small team, and we are encouraging you to do that. If you miss a meeting, all our meetings are recorded and you can follow the recordings and find out what you would have missed.

Those are the things I want to share with you. I am willing to speak to persons as, I think it was Amelia said, I'm on LinkedIn. You can look me up and I am willing to speak to all of you and look forward to having a conversation with you. Continue to participate and continue to be involved. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Claire. Thank you very much. Those who are Fellows and NextGeners, you do know that we have mentors and we have Selection Committee members who are assigned from the ICANN community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank At-Large for always being next to our programs and helping us with mentors and with the Selection Committee members. With that, many of you already know, but I would like to give the floor to our mentor just to say a couple of words from At-Large, the Fellowship mentor, Raymond. Then just a couple of words for you, Roberto.

RAYMOND MAMATTAH

Thank you very much, Siranush. My name is Raymond Mamattah from Accra, Ghana. And I'm glad to be the At-Large mentor for the

Fellowship Program. I am a two-time Fellow and I was also a member of the ALAC representing the African region. It's a great opportunity for me to give back to my community as the mentor for the Fellowship Program.

I would encourage you to make the necessary contacts, get the necessary memories that are useful for you in the future. I would encourage you to join the necessary mailing lists. Those working groups that you need to join, please, join them housed here. If you need necessary information, contact any of us and we'll provide you with all that you need to be successful in the ecosystem. Welcome once again.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Raymond. Roberto, please.

ROBERTO GAETANO

Hi, people. I think you know me already. I participated in ICANN with many hats, but I'm currently, since quite a long time, affiliated with the At-Large Community. I think that we have to think the At-Large Community like the sort of the community of everybody. I mean, all of you NextGeners and Fellows are above everything. Individuals who are interested in participating to the debates and to the policy development process. You may have also some specific functions, let's say, in operators, in the security companies or in any business, but you are also individuals and individual users of the Internet. And as Internet users, you belong ideally to the At-

Large Community of Internet users. This is one of your homes in ICANN. Even if you then will participate to different communities and stakeholder groups and so on, you will still have some links with this community and you will be always welcome to come and share your concerns and ask your questions. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Roberto. Before we go to Q&A and listen to your questions, I see the hand in the Zoom. Edmon, please go ahead. Edmon Chung. Edmon, can you hear us? Please unmute yourself. Edmon, we cannot hear you if you are speaking. Okay, let's move forward. Any questions to At-Large folks? Yes, Umair, go ahead.

UMAIR SUHAIDI

Hello. Thank you so much, everyone, for your sharing. My name is Umair, one of the NextGen participants from Malaysia. I think this question can be answered by anyone who is felt like answering. Since RALOs are volunteer-based, from a leadership perspective, how do you guys ensure the long-term sustainability of the community by ensuring that the commitment from everyone is at the top level at every time? Because, I think, volunteer-base is very hard to maintain in terms of sustainability. Thank you so much for the floor, Siranush, and back to you.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Well, that's a great question without a simple answer. I think it's the ebbs and flows, the level of commitment and dedication and work,

etc., based on who's engaged when and whether they're interested in something in particular. I think keeping things at a high level all the time is an impossibility, right? You're trying to instead nurture new leaders so that the regional organizations and the ALAC for that matter don't stagnate. You try to nurture people that look like they have potential for leadership to fill those roles so that the same old people aren't around forever. But it's all flawed, right? I mean, we're always trying to improve the very thing you're describing, but I don't think we've come up with a magic answer just yet.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

By the way, the question comes from the guy who is the generation of one of the At-Large Structure representatives, Professor Suhaidi. He is his son. Probably he could see how his father was busy with At-Large when he was here. That's why the question came up. But thank you for your response.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

I would like to add something, Umair, if I understand your question. He's been an EPIGA person, very much involved in UA in Malaysia, so he's been pretty active. Just to answer your question, for the sustainability of a relationship between an ALS Structure with the At-Large Community or with the RALO they are involved in, I think it also depends upon what the ALS Structure wants to do or the

individual wants to do and whether it aligns with the goals what ALAC or At-Large or the RALO has.

For example, say, ISOC Malaysia wants to do a UA activity, which is important for that community, is it aligned with what APRALO's goals are? Yes, it is. Then you will feel like working apart from the other things of sustainability, whether you have the right kind of people who are coming even from the ALS. Because many times, it is passion driven by one single person, not the entire community. It's not the entire ISOC Malaysia membership which is doing, but maybe two or three people from there. It's very important that there is alignment between what the local level requirement is with what the goals which the RALO or At-Large is. That is why when the Outreach Engagement plans, etc. are made, your voices matter so that there is no gap in that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you for the question and for the answers. Any other questions? Maciek, please go ahead.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Hello. Maciek Piasecki here. I'm a Fellow and I'm coming to you with a bit of an identity crisis because I'm European, I was involved with human rights organizations for many years as a journalist, and I'm currently a cybersecurity educator. I'm still considering on what is the best way for me to get involved. But it's not only about me. I'm pretty sure a lot of us have different mixed identities, like having

a person who works with intellectual property in Africa or a cybersecurity expert from South America. How do you suggest we make this decision, which they call the group, to join what to take into consideration, and what are the windows for cooperation or maybe movement? I hear there are some, like from you Claire. Please help me make this decision and others in my situation.

CLAIRE CRAIG

There's no rush. Don't feel that you have to rush into it. Mingle, go to different meetings, go to different sessions. I started my Internet governance journey when I was an applications manager. I didn't know much about Internet governance, but there was an interest. And as long as you have an interest, just follow that passion and speak to people who are engaged in different things. Because sometimes you get into something and you're not sure of what are the lengths and breadth and how much you have to put into it. But when you speak to persons who are doing it, they can advise you and then you realize, "Okay, maybe human rights is the way that I need to go. Or maybe DNS abuse, cybersecurity, that's the way."

But as I said, don't rush into it. Get involved and talk to various people. And when you find the place that you feel that you fit, then start to work in small groups as well, and that will also help you to decide where you want to go. As Amrita is reminding me, join the mailing list so that you're aware of what's happening. And join your community. You can start with your RALO. Because there are a lot

of things that happen through your At-Large Structure, which is your ALS, and then you can be involved in different things.

GREG SHATAN

Thank you. It's Greg Shatan. I'm the chair of NARALO. I started my ICANN journey in the Intellectual Property Constituency. I am an intellectual property lawyer, but I'm not as interested in viewing ICANN through the IP lens as I was in 2005. I started being an At-Large person. Since Jonathan said at the beginning, we're all At-Large. But I'm still a member of the IPC. I don't participate much, but I keep my membership up. And there are people in this community in particular who wear two hats. These organizations are not mutually exclusive. You can be in At-Large individually or through an ALS and be participating in a stakeholder organization, or as well, if you have enough expertise, in the SSAC, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. You can be a kind of a card-carrying member of more than one organization. You can see where you settle in, where you find your passion, and then kind of take it from there. So, even if you do kind of make a decision or two decisions, it's not a final decision. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Okay. Thank you. Sameer, please go ahead, and then we'll go to you too.

SAMEER GAHLOT

Sameer, for the record, ICANN84 Fellow. One question that users are usually at the loggerheads when it comes to the policy adoption or when it comes to their voices are being addressed or not, how does ALAC ensure that their views are being addressed or adopted in the policy development process? And if possible, I would request you to cite some examples. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Ensuring that our views are made part of the process is, again, a little bit like ensuring we're operating on all cylinders all the time as well. That's strong language. But one of the things that we've done over the past number of years is really flesh out our participation in the general policy development processes of ICANN. In other words, when we were established as an organization, it was around giving advice to the Board directly. And there was some pushback from the policy development arm, if you will, of ICANN, which is a GNSO, that we would come in at the last minute with this advice instead of giving it to them early or participating directly. And so, we've made a real effort to put volunteers on GNSO working groups and making our voice heard in that way and only using advice as kind of a last gasp if we felt like we haven't been heard within those fora.

I'm not going to say we've always succeeded, but I think we've had a number of opportunities in the areas of DNS abuse, in the areas of Registrar Transfer Policy, and others where our input was well received and was implemented as part of those policies so that we

never needed to give advice. There're other instances where it wasn't, and we did. Sometimes that advice is accepted and sometimes it isn't. It's a charm offensive, it's not a power. We can't assure anything, but we at least make sure that we're part of the process from the beginning so that our voice is heard throughout the policy development process.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. And apologies, I forgot already that in At-Large, this means that the hand is raised. Sebastien, I just saw you raise your hand. Please go ahead.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET

Sebastien Bachollet speaking. I'm going to be speaking in French. First, because I wanted to thank the interpreters for their work but also because I would like for you to understand that ICANN is an organization where all diversities and specifically the language diversity be respected. You can also use these tools.

I wanted to answer the question that was asked previously. I will be the chair of the EURALO until Thursday night. Welcome to EURALO. You're a European, welcome and see us whenever you want. If you want to know more, you can turn on the right, you have the next EURALO chair next to you. You can discuss with him and find more about the decision you need to make. But if you don't only have one skill, that's good. We like people who have several skills and competencies and you will choose when to use one or the other.

People who have various skills are always welcome. So, welcome.
Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Thank you, Sebastien. Thank you very much. Ashutosh, please.

ASHUTOSH AKHILESH Thank you. I'm Ashutosh. I'm an ICANN84 Fellow. My question is
MAHARAJ how does ALAC handle language and cultural diversity when
engaging with Internet users globally? As I know, coming from
APAC region, our first language is not English. I mean, one of the
challenges, how is it handled? Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY Ashutosh, to respond to you, if you look at the interpretations, we
are very diverse. Let's not get into that story. The language
interpretation, which is given to APAC is just one, which is Chinese.
At this point, we are not using it much because we do not have—
the people of Chinese origin who are involved know how to speak
or write in English to some extent. And obviously, it's financially
difficult also these days. What we have is a compromise. I will
mention it as compromise is you have the caption text which
comes. If those who have an issue in understanding, every meeting
is recorded. You can hear it again at your own pace. You can read
the text. Nowadays, Google, etc. give you the translating facility
through which you can translate and read it. It's not a perfect
world, but at least those are the tools which you can use.

But in APAC—Sebastien, thank you for raising this point—we celebrate diversity. Because we are really diverse in languages and cultures, traditions, etc. We understand that, we recognize it, but we all have our limitations so we take the help of technology. I know that's not perfect but that's where we are.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Judith, I see your hand. Please go ahead. And then we'll come to you Tinuade.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Judith Hellerstein for the record. I want to address a couple of issues. One, to the point—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Can you speak closer to the mic, Judith?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN

Sorry. I want to address a couple of issues. One, to Ashutosh, also in our two policy working groups, the Consolidated Policy Working Group and then the Operations, Finance and Budget, as well as in the ALAC meeting, we have real-time captioning that is human captioning and that also is available through a stream text link so that people who are bandwidth challenged can also be listening in. Oftentimes, if your Zoom drops and then you miss up the whole chat, with this, it's less streamed so that it'll be easier.

To also answer the other question of Fellow over here, it's not only the PDPs that people are active into, it's also writing policy comments, whether it's for the Consolidated Policy Working Group or the OFBWG. And if you are not technically inclined, like I know many PDPs are very difficult or other CPWG, the policy issues are very, very technical, but we also have the Operations, Finance and Budget, which despite its name, mostly works on governance issues, on issues of multistakeholder, on anything that has to do with the operations budget. We work a lot with strategic planning. And with that in the planning, we meet regularly with planning. We're one of the few groups who actually work very closely with the Planning Team on the strategic priorities, on the other operational priorities. That's an easier step to becoming involved in a lot of the governance and other issues. I'm happy to talk to anyone about those issues. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Judith. Tinuade?

TINUADE ABOSEDE OGUNTUYI

Thank you. Tinuade Oguntuyi from Nigeria, ICANN84 Fellow. Thank you to the leadership of ALAC. I'm actually an individual member of AFRALO at the moment. I'm just curious, one of the previous sessions we had today, it was mentioned that we have over 200 At-Large Structures. As much as I'm a technical person in the Internet space, I'm also a social, impact-driven person who runs a tech foundation in Nigeria. I'm just curious, now that I'm an individual

member, what does it take to transition to becoming an At-Large Structure organization? Or what are some of the things I need to maybe include or just add? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Hadia wants to respond.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Thank you so much for your question. This is Hadia Elminiawi. I'm also AFRALO chair. I believe we talked briefly before the session. I did advise you to, first step, go ahead and apply as an individual member. At-Large Structures, in order to become a structure, there is also an application online that you can fill. But there's one thing here. If you are an At-Large Structure leader, you cannot also be an individual member. Each AFRALO At-Large Structure has two leaders, and those two leaders represent the structure. They also have a voting right when it comes to voting, for example, for leadership positions. If you're one of the two leaders, then remain as an At-Large Structure because you're participating in person as one of the leaders. Also, members are encouraged to and all members of At-Large Structures also should be participating equally as the leaders, but usually this does not happen. But also, you have a vote.

So, you can become an At-Large Structure. If you're currently an individual member, you can be an individual member, and the At-Large Structure can have two other leaders. If you would like to be

one of the two leaders, then it's not possible also to be an individual member. It will be redundant and then you will also have two voices when it comes to voting so it doesn't really work.

JONATHAN ZUCK

The rules vary from RALO to RALO.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Exactly.

JONATHAN ZUCK

So, this probably isn't the place to go into the details about each of them but—

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Yeah. But this is how it is. It's fine.

JONATHAN ZUCK

It's doable.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

It is doable. You can—

TINUADE ABOSEDE OGUNTUYI

Sorry. I guess I might have to clarify. I'm already an individual member. Can you hear me? Okay. I'm already an individual member. I'm saying based on what I heard from the previous class,

I know that there is an At-Large Structure which is more like an organization. I'm looking at how do I transition from being an individual member into an ALS, and what do I need?

HADIA ELMINIAWI

Let me explain. I would just say one thing without details. You're not yet an individual member. I know that. But there are two types of members. Any RALO, whether it's AFRALO or any other RALO, they have two types of members. You can either be an At-Large Structure member or an individual member. Those are two different types. There's no transition there.

FERNANDA IUNES

Hadia, you can take it later. There are more few questions.

HADIA ELMINIAWI

And that applies to all RALOs, not only to AFRALO. Thank you.

FERNANDA IUNES

I think we had a question there. Sadichchha, go ahead. If that one doesn't work, you can come use mine.

SADICHCHHA SILWAL

Hello, everyone. It's me, Sadichchha Silwal, NextGen, and I'm coming from Nepal. Given the original structure of ALAC, sometimes balancing the interest of all the countries across the region becomes very challenging. Coming from Nepal, which is a

landlock country and a small country, the issues of the landlock countries somehow subside or sometimes is not hard enough to be in a regional or the global platform. As me being a NextGen Fellow and coming from organization who is also ALAC member, that is Internet Society Nepal Chapter, how can I work in terms of making the issues of Nepal in terms of the policy level. Government of Nepal has recently introduced one bill that is Cybersecurity and Information Technology Bill, which has one provision that mentions all the DNS has to be registered in government mandatory. The policies mentioned that that bill's provision, that all the DNS has to be mandatorily registered within government system, which is not possible. By doing that, the government will have overarching control over the DNS, manipulation DNS or down and everything. The issue of Nepal, from the act of a banning 26 social media and introducing such types of bills, the issues is very critical and for us, it's big. But we somehow don't get that [inaudible] at the global platform. How can I, as a person, as a NextGen Fellow, work on this issue?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thanks, Sadichchha, for this question. There are two things. There is a very limited area in which ICANN works, but when issues of such comes in, if it is raised that, "Look, this is the issue, how do we address it or how can we make a submission?" you can make it as Internet Society Nepal. Because within the country, it is you who can make the submission. But if you want to discuss it more, say, for example, within the APRALO community, where you come in,

we can always have a discussion. But the content part, obviously, we can't go in, what was happening then. These are things which you will bring from the community. Because when we work anywhere, be it Africa or Latin America or Europe or North Africa, it's not what ICANN wants to say, it is what you from the community also bring. That's when the discussion's happening. If you don't have discussions, you will also not be interested. So it's going to be two ways.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Maureen, I saw you wanted to speak. Maureen, you wanted to speak? Okay. Jasmine, the last question probably.

JASMINE KO

Thank you. This is Jasmine. This time, I'm a Fellow. Thank you very much. My question, I've been reflecting getting engaged in APRALO support teams and work. Recently, we do have the CIP Working Group that we do Continuous Improvement Program. I find the structure itself is very useful to help the entire community reflect and also to make sure that we keep track what we are doing, activity, output, it's aligned with the organization's mission. Just trying to transfer into what if this come to a personal level? Like if any of the leader, if you have a way of doing how to—also, let's suggest our Fellows and also NextGen and whoever want to join, how do we participate, as an end user with our unique capacity and also our state of interest, how do maybe we can leverage this kind

of thinking mindset to contribute meaningfully into the At-Large Community? Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

How do we do it now, Jasmine? You can answer it yourself.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much. With that, I would like to thank my At-Large colleagues for this session. We all are looking forward to see you in a couple of minutes in the Level 3 foyer. And we invite you to interact with Fellows and NextGeners in our Networking Hour. With that, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

All Fellows and NextGeners and newcomers who are here, please go to Level 3 foyer. The community members are also invited to be there. See you there.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]