
ICANN84 | AGM – At-Large Open House - Talk with the ALAC
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MICHELLE DESMYTER

Hello and welcome everyone to the At-Large Open House Talk with the ALAC. My name is Michelle DeSmyter and I'm the remote participation manager for the 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. During the session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if it's submitted within the Q&A pod. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish.

If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak, if speaking a language other than English, and please speak at a reasonable pace. And I will now hand the floor over to Alan Greenberg, ALAC delegate to the NomCom.

ALAN GREENBERG

We're actually handing the floor over to Tom Barrett, the Chair of the NomCom.

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MICHELLE DESMYTER

And Tom Barrett.

TOM BARRETT

Thanks, Alan. Hi, everyone. Thank you for giving me a few minutes on the agenda. I would like to cover three items really quickly. We decided not to use any slides today. So, first of all, we already met with ALAC leadership yesterday. And so, we spent quite a bit of time talking about the type of background and capabilities that the NomCom should be looking for when it fills the ALAC positions for the next cycle.

And so, really quick, I want to run through the positions that the NomCom is looking to fill this year. First and foremost, we do have two Board openings that we're going to fill, as you know. And one of those, we have a term-limited director. And then we also have an existing director who's up for reapplication if they so choose. But those are two positions we'll be filling for the next cycle.

For At-Large, as you know, we have an opening for Europe and we have an opening for North America. For ccNSO, we have one opening. For the GNSO, we have one opening that's a non-voting opening. And finally, we also have an opening for the PTI Board of directors. I have one more item I wanted to talk about, but I'll pause there and see if there's any questions about the NomCom, what we're doing for you folks in terms of appointing two people,

and what we're doing for the other receiving bodies. Any questions, comments?

JONATHAN ZUCK

I'll ask a quick question, Tom. What kind of deadlines do you have if people have something to recommend for a Board seat or one of these other things you were talking about? When would that need to happen by?

TOM BARRETT

That's a great question. We are going to do a few things differently this year. The way the process works for any NomCom opening is we generally receive advice from the receiving body in terms of what they're looking for the candidates we're going to support. For example, we get advice from the Board, we get the advice from you folks, the GNSO. That's written advice about what you're looking for. We take that and create a job description.

And again, you're free to give us a draft job description as well. However, the NomCom is an independent body, and so we also seek other inputs for the positions we're trying to fill. So, we may, in fact, enhance and edit these job descriptions if you provide us with one. But then we'll publish the job descriptions and make it a signal to the community, here's what we're looking for this year. What's going to be different this year is that we want to have a

community feedback period and invite the community to provide us feedback on all of our openings.

And so, I invite the ALAC to think about not only your positions, but the Board positions, the PTI positions, et cetera. And this is not going to be a public forum. We don't have the time to do a three-month exercise. But we certainly want people to start thinking about, you know what, I think the Board advice we've seen before, it's not very different from year to year. But have you considered this particular skill set or this particular attribute, or you've noticed someone's term limited and perhaps there's a skills deficit being caused by that.

And so, what's new this year is we want to invite the community to give us some feedback on the job that the NomCom is doing. Question, go ahead, Claire.

CLAIRE CRAIG

You've mentioned the term twice. What do you mean by term limited and what length of term is there?

TOM BARRETT

It's a great question because I realize ALAC does not have term limits. The other receiving bodies do. All right. So, for example, the Board, which is elected for three years, is limited to three terms. Right? So, Director Becky Burr, this is her final week after nine years. Next year, Sarah Deutsch is term limited after nine years.

Leon is also term limited. Right? So, when you think about your skills matrix for your entire organization, you want to think about what skills will be walking out the door because of term limits.

And so, one of the other efforts we're also working on at a rapid pace is that we are developing a skills matrix for the receiving bodies. We're going to start with the Board. And again, this will help inform us not only where we think who's making the best contributions or the most contributions to the Board, but where there may be a skills deficit as directors leave for whatever reason, either not being reappointed or term limited or what have you.

And so, as I say, we're going to focus on the Board first. But we talked at our meeting yesterday with your leadership about perhaps developing a matrix for the ALAC. And this matrix isn't limited to just NomCom appointees. We want to create a matrix for the entire leadership team. In the case of the Board, it's 21 directors. Right? And so, we have a more holistic view about what the NomCom should be seeking on behalf of that receiving body.

So, that's actually all I had today. Are there any other questions? You asked about timing. So, we are striving to perhaps accelerate timing. As you know, it typically opens up in January and closes in March. Humans tend to procrastinate and wait till the last minute. We want to so but we would encourage you not to do that this year because we are hoping to accelerate the closing of the application window.

So, as you think about if you're interested in applying or know someone who might be, tell them to not to delay till the last minute because they may surprise. It will be different this year than it has been in the past. Any other questions?

ALAN GREENBERG

To translate that slightly, the chances of extending the application period at the very end are very slim.

TOM BARRETT

We will not be extending the deadline. In fact, we're moving it up. All right. Feel free to reach out to me. My leadership team also includes James Gannon. He's chair-elect. And Amir Qayyum is the associate chair who, of course, served as chair last year. So, thank you very much. You can find me on LinkedIn or walking around Dublin this week. Sebastien, last quick question.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET

It's not really a question for you, but maybe you have done that before I came into the room. Who has the five members in NomCom from At-Large? It would be good to share with everybody.

TOM BARRETT Yeah. Obviously, Alan is on the NomCom. We have Charles. We have A.K. No, A.K. is not, not A.K. He's RSSAC. Arinola? Eyitayo? Nope. Arinola?

ALAN GREENBERG Nope. I believe it is Bram, from Africa, me from North America, Anne-Marie from Europe, and now my mind, Charles Mok from Asia Pacific. And who have I lost? Christelle. And Christelle Vaval from Latin America.

TOM BARRETT You can tell I'm a bit foggy today.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET You see, if you don't know, I am sure that in this room nobody knows.

TOM BARRETT No one knows from this room?

JONATHAN ZUCK Except if you don't know, we don't know. That's what he said basically. All right. Thank you so much for coming. All right. So, are you guys next? All right. All right. So, Alan, Olivier is on Board Seat 15.

ALAN GREENBERG

All right. Thank you. I will get very close and annoy everyone. The process for selecting Seat 15 has started. As you're all aware, I presume the various committees that oversee the process and the evaluation of candidates were formed in September. We issued the call for expressions of interest for people who want to occupy the Seat 15, the seat selected by the At-Large community.

That was issued on the 17th of October. It closes on the 21st of November. We are currently scheduled to announce the initial slate of candidates in middle January. There're then a few weeks during which the RALOs may have an opportunity to add candidates. It's up to the candidate whether they want to publish their information or not.

So, some candidates may choose to remain anonymous if they're not selected by the BCEC. Others may make their name available and information available. And we are planning at this point, assuming there's no hiccups in the schedule, that we will have candidate some sort of interaction with the community during the Mumbai meeting and voting immediately afterwards. And that's about all there is to report.

The BMSPC has done most of its work already. The only exception is, we can't really come up with the detailed format of the candidate interaction until we know how many candidates there are. If there's 12 candidates, it's quite different than if there's two, just in terms of timing. And I'll turn it over to Olivier, who is chair of

the Board Candidate Evaluation Committee, the BCEC, which was charged with developing the application form and then will be charged with evaluating them once the applications come in.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND

Yes. Olivier Crepin-Leblond speaking. I guess Alan has said everything, so I can just agree with him. He's given you the dates, the start and end dates for the application period. I could just add one thing. The applications take place online using a Google Forms system, and you have to ask for access. So, you just go on it and click and staff will provide you with access pretty quickly.

And the reason why we're doing that is because in the past, we have had some instances of spamming that have taken place on totally open systems. So, unfortunately, we just do it. But there's no filtering or anything like that. You just ask for access and staff will provide it to you. And I hope that we'll get a good number of candidates.

The whole team has worked pretty hard already for preparing all the documents that you're seeing and the rules. And I just wanted to thank Alan for helping us through this as well, because he's the person who knows it all. He's got it all in his head. We've got it on the laptop. He's got it in his head. I don't know how he fits it all, but I think it's a good process.

And we look forward to receiving applications from community members and others. It is open for everyone. There is no

regulation as to who can apply. Obviously, you probably stand a better chance if you know about the At-Large community, but there is no rule regarding who can apply on this. So, that's pretty much it. Cheryl Langdon-Orr?

JONATHAN ZUCK

Can you help us understand the purpose?

ALAN GREENBERG

But before, the email address to ask for access to submit an EOI is bcec-staff@icann.org. It's in the email that we sent out announcing the opening of the expression of interest and in the announcement on the ICANN website.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND

Yeah, and it's Olivier speaking. And Jonathan just asked, what is the purpose of the BCEC? So, it's the Board Candidate Evaluation Committee. What it does is to take all the applications, and it will, I guess, score them, find out the suitability of the applications. And we doubt those that are not aligned with the At-Large, I guess, the At-Large values. It's an open committee.

So, we're not going to tell you what our scoring methods are, because that probably makes it too easy. But we're developing those, and it will come up with a slate that is manageable. So, in case, if we have 10 candidates, it would be very difficult to have a slate of 10 candidates, because you'd need, I don't know, how

many turns in the election process. So, we're reducing it to X number of candidates, where X can be anything between X, well, zero. No, one and X. No, maybe two and X, because one is a bit too small. So, that's the thing. Got it.

ALAN GREENBERG

Yeah. The election process will handle 12, by the way, because the first step is to reduce it to three. But the BCEC is charged with finding essentially excellent candidates. It's a judgment call, and hopefully, we will end up with a good set of options.

JONATHAN ZUCK

So, just to clarify, those excellent candidates end up being the only candidates, then? Part of your job is to eliminate some of the candidates that was open to everybody in your last five minutes ago.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND

So, yeah, that's Olivier speaking, and Alan did go through it, so it may be a bit fast. So, once the selection is made, and the first slate is being published, and there is the ability for the RALOs to suggest candidates that were not chosen, that made themselves available, made their application known that they've applied, they've not gotten selected, and so they're getting the RALOs to, or asking the RALOs to select them. There's a process by which this needs to happen.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR

And there's a critical mass of RALOs who are likely to apply it to make that happen.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND

And so, Cheryl, if you could turn your mic on, that would be helpful. And I guess you've had your card up.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR

I was prompting you to say that, not for me to say that. Cheryl Langdon-Orr, all for the record, to now use my microphone to share with you what I wanted Olivier to share with you, is that in the circumstances he was describing, you do in fact have to have I think it's three, pretty sure it's three, yeah. You have to have three RALOs to support a candidate who has applied to go back on the slate. It's not new entries, right? Yeah, it's not new entries, just to be really clear.

They have to have applied, they've had to put their expression of interest in. They then have petitioned probably their own RALO to say, but boo hoo, and then that RALO and they have convinced two other RALOs to support them to go back on the slate. So, just make sure you've got that clear because it is a little bit of a process.

Now, if I may ask what I wanted to ask, thank you. Why on earth are we still running open calls for this? I really don't care if Mary Smith from Ohio, who doesn't even spell ICANN correctly on her

expressions of interest, wants to be occupying Seat 15. That should be an immediate cull.

Now, rather than make that work for the BCEC to do, surely, we can say that there are certain characteristics and skill sets that are necessary, that are mandatory, and that have to be met before you can accept when they press send. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG

First, I'll go back to the first question and then the second. Olivier didn't answer about the RALO positions because that's not a BCEC responsibility, it's a BMSPC responsibility, and I didn't hear your question, so sorry. Okay, but just to reiterate and be precise with what Cheryl was talking about, if someone submits their application and they do not get selected by the BCEC and they choose to let it be known that they applied and were not selected, then it requires three RALOs to independently, independently is a critical part of it, petition to add them.

It has to be done through formal action of the RALOs, which means voting of ALSs and individual members according to the rules of the RALOs. We will be going into excruciating detail of that when we are actually at that stage of the process.

With regard to your second question of why are we allowing people who we've never heard of to apply, and it does happen on occasion, there's not usually a lot of them, the answer is because that wasn't written into the rules because at the time there was a belief we

should allow everyone to apply. If the ALAC wants to change the rules, the rules can be easily changed.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND

Yeah, thank you very much, Alan. It's Olivier speaking, and I should add one of a well-known expression about the internet back in the day, which was on the internet, nobody knows you're a dog, which effectively means you could be anyone, and we have to keep open. It's not for the BCC to reveal though, but we will find out.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR

Am I to assume that the final slate will be subject to due diligence, and how deep a dive of due diligence will this be at the final slate? Because to get to the Board, there will be a deep dive due diligence, and we shouldn't put forward for that very expensive and very intrusive due diligence, we shouldn't put candidates forward who we know are going to fail. So, is that being considered?

ALAN GREENBERG

We are discussing with ICANN Legal at what point do we submit candidates. If we wait too long, we have the possibility of putting names forward and not having the due diligence done until afterwards, and then having to say, oops, that person can't really do it. We're well aware of it, and we will be doing our best to make sure it is handled in a way which is as unintrusive as possible, yet

make sure that we don't have any embarrassing situations late in the game. Questions?

JONATHAN ZUCK

I'm just going to speak in your microphone. Thank you for coming, Alan and Olivier, and talking us through this Byzantine process. I need to keep my words to myself more, I guess. But anyways, thank you, and I look forward to getting out the popcorn for this. Let's move on to the ICANN Academy and Leadership Program with Sandra Hoferichter.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

Hello, everyone. Good to be back in this room. For those who don't know me, I was a member of the ALAC from 2010 until 2016, and then I was two years on the NomCom. Ever since I became the chair of the Board of EURID, I'm leaning a little bit more towards the ccNSO and what's going on there. But of course, it's always a pleasure to come back to the At-Large community, and there is at least one project that still keeps my feet in this community, which is a big name, ICANN Academy.

But to be honest, it never really developed as an academy. What is still there, and this since quite some years, is the Leadership Program, that was supposed to be one element of something that could be called academy. So, when you hear the term ICANN Academy and you expect something bigger behind it, well, that's yet to be filled, that big term with content. But if you then hear from

a Leadership Program where several community members are full of praise, and I say that with full pride, then you might get a link to the ICANN Academy because this is one of the projects of the academy.

And after it had to pause for one year due to financial restrictions in the organization that we were all aware of, the next Leadership Program is going to be scheduled for Mumbai in March, and it will take place right before the ICANN meeting. And we are looking, or the community is looking, it's a program open for all community members, and the community is now calling all constituencies to endorse their candidates.

Endorsement means that within the At-Large community, within EURALO, within the ALAC, it should be a consensus of whom is going to participate in this program. And can I maybe ask for a show of hands who was already participating in this program? Because there are quite some. Okay, so you see that you could basically reach out to those directly, asking a little bit for more details that you think I might not be able to give you. But of course, I'm also happy if you reach out to me asking your questions.

The program is designed for people who are incoming or current leaders. So, if you are in a position, I see over there we have a sign incoming EURALO share. So, this is something this program is designed for, for an incoming leader or for a current leader. Leader means leader of a constituency, of a Working Group, or whatsoever. You take responsibility at ICANN. And you will get two days of

training, which is a mixture of personal training to enhance your skills in sharing meetings, leading groups, producing results. But we will also have some sessions where we really talk about ICANN hot topics and in-depth of policy development processes and these kinds of things.

The purpose is that first of all, you enhance your personal skills. But on the other hand, you also get to know the other current ICANN leaders in a very safe environment. Basically, this program is kind of Chatham House rules. There's no remote participation or these kinds of things. And since we are discussing very personal experiences and asking for advice from others, there is a big element of building trust among this community.

And one of the benefits that participants tell us is possibly the biggest benefit is that when they walk along the corridor and they have a question about why a community or why a stakeholder group is taking that position that you or your group does hardly understand, they can reach out to someone of the other community directly saying, hey, could you let me know what the details are? Why is this position in a way that you are drafting it or why is this why are you taking that stance?

And this is possibly one of the biggest benefits that you get a network for your leadership term or terms. And since many of us and I am one of those are, yeah, are continuing at ICANN for quite a while, you can possibly consider this a lifelong network or at least a part of your life network, which is really, really very valuable. Just

very shortly on the history, we started, maybe we can have the second slide.

There are only two slides. And if you are interested in those slides, I have also old-fashionedly printed on paper. So, I leave some of the papers here so you can get them at Stafford from me. And we had the first program of this kind in 2013. And that was in Argentina at that time. And we had it every year apart from the Corona pandemic, of course, and apart from the year 2024 because of budget constraints. But ever since we had this program every year, and I think we are now in the 10th edition, if I'm not mistaken, I have to count it, but I could be the 10th. So, kind of an anniversary.

And it's up to you now to your RALOs and to the ALAC to endorse those people who are going to be participating and there is also a deadline involved which is, oops, unfortunately it's not here, but find that out or you can contact me or Fernanda from ICANN staff on this and we will give you the details. By the way, each chair has also the details on when the endorsement process is supposed to be finished. Once you are endorsed, you have to register via a special form, but this is a communication that goes through your communities, through your RALOs and through the ALAC.

Are there any questions that you might have that I could answer?
Yes, please, Hannah Frank.

HANNAH FRANK

Thank you, Hannah Frank for the record. It's the first time I heard about this program. My question is related to the people or the professionals who developed this program. Is this something like integrative with professionals from different backgrounds? And the other question I forgot was about...

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

Maybe I answer the first one and you have a little bit of time...

HANNAH FRANK

No, now I remember, but if you want to answer the first question.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

So, this is a program which was and is still designed from the community for the community, so there is a lot of community-driven engagement involved here, but indeed we're also working with a professional company since the very beginning with the same company that has also learned about this special community of ICANN and has designed the program particularly to our needs, and every year we are revisiting the program, tweaking it a little bit here, tweaking it a little bit there, so that we are always really covering the needs of our community and not doing something just out of the blue.

HANNAH FRANK

Thank you. And the other question was, do you use a specific platform to develop during the training or like, I don't know, like ICANN Learn courses or something like that?

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

That's a very good question. We ask participants that are endorsed indeed to take some mandatory courses on ICANN Learn and we also recommend some obligatory courses on ICANN Learn, so this is in the preparation phase, but during the meeting we really would like to put all energy on personal interaction, on one-on-one interaction, so the best would be you put your computer away for that two days and really fully dive into a personal exchange with the other participants and then this gives you the best benefit of the program, so we talk a lot basically.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO

Gracias, Jonathan. Sorry, just speaking. Thank you, Jonathan. Thank you, Sandra. I'm going to speak in Spanish. Could you please pick up your headphones? Can you hear me? Okay. Sandra, it's a pleasure to see you again. We have been working at ICANN for many years and it is always nice to see you and know that this program is still working and I have to ask you a question. This is a question that I always ask, but I have faith that at one point in time this has changed and this is the fact that we have a training and leadership structure with the goal of integrating those Spanish-speaking people or other languages.

So, I would like to know whether you have included in this new program or this new edition interpretation for so that some leaders of the Latin American region may be part of the program. We have always had many leaders of our regions that were not able to participate because we didn't have interpretation. Thank you.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

Thank you for the question, Sergio. No, the short answer is no. There is no interpretation and this is for a very practical reason. While we could possibly do the rounds where everyone is sitting together in translation, the most important part of the program basically is when you do your work into breakout groups and then you go in one corner of a corridor and you have a really in-depth discussion about a certain topic.

For instance, one of you is asked to be a troublemaker and the other one is asked to be a trouble solver and these kind of things and this works in very small groups, not in this kind of setting with technical infrastructure, no laptops, nothing, no headphones, so it's really on building trust in very small breakout groups and I could not imagine how this would work with technical infrastructure, cameras, microphones, headphones, etcetera. I have no idea how that would work out.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO

Thank you. Sorry to speak in. Thank you, Sandra. One more point, perhaps at one point in time and I don't know or this doesn't have

to be something continuous but perhaps you may think about something in Spanish so that those Spanish-speaking people may have a training course in Spanish. You can do that at one point in time and you will be giving possibilities to a great amount of people, so I'm just leaving you this idea, this is just food for thought. Thank you.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

Thank you, Sergio.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO

Okay.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

I want to speak in French, please. Okay. Hello, Sandra. Thank you very much for the presentation. I would like to ask two questions that go in the same direction of the big brother that is in front of me. First of all, I always say that in the world people speak English, French and Spanish most often. There are other languages, of course, but ideally there should be three trainings 100% French, 100% Spanish, 100% English.

Then I have another question. Up to now you've had many trainings. Did you have any feedback from non-English speakers? I'm taking my example. I understand some people who speak English. I am a French speaker. My first language is French. So, do you have any feedback from people whose native language is not

English and who were at your training and have they ever told you about how much they understood? I hope I was clear enough. Thank you.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

Thank you very much. I don't see your name for the question. I would like to make a small correction. There is a big portion in the world that speaks Chinese. So, if you say most of the people are speaking English, French or Spanish, I don't think that's right anymore, let alone India. This is the majority of the population. Looking into Spanish, French and English is possibly not sufficient anymore.

The question is where that brings us. I'm not a native speaker myself. I'm coming from a region that has close to 40 or even more different languages, Europe. So, for every European citizen, which is 500 million, it's not a native and no one will translate into German or Finnish or Hungarian or whatsoever. So, I have some comments on this language diversity.

I think it makes inequality even bigger, to be honest. Because we are catering for three languages or for two languages because most of us are speaking English somehow anyway. So, we are catering for some languages which are possibly French and Spanish. I know I'm really touching a hot point now here. But we are losing out a big portion of the world, which is Chinese, India, Europe, you name it.

And I have never heard from any participant who at the end demanded or said I cannot really understand and I cannot really participate in this particular program effectively because of language barriers. But I might have not gotten that message or that criticism. But I really invite you to ask those participants who have been here, who have been there and who are in this group to reach out to them and ask to understand. But be careful when you say the majority speaks French or Spanish. I think Chinese and India needs to be, Arabic too. Yeah, okay. Thank you.

LAURA MARGOLIS

Sorry, I think it's coming back to language barrier. I think it's the same problem when we want to participate in the small groups around all the constituencies. Unfortunately, we will not have translation for a very small group. So, I think your example is the same that goes on ICANN as well.

You can have translation on the big meetings, but then you go outside and you cannot speak with anyone because you will not have a personal translator. And that's why many people are out of small groups sometimes because of that. So, well, as you say, now it's Chinese, but I will keep it in English. Thank you.

SANDRA HOFERICHTER

And since you're mentioning it, I think the technical innovation will help us in the future.

JONATHAN ZUCK

I'm hoping these metaglasses will be part of the answer. All right. Thank you very much, Sandra. And I want to jump ahead here before we run out of time to Sarmad, who's going to talk to us a little bit about UA and IDNs and what's going on in that space.

SARMAD HUSSAIN

Thank you, Jonathan, and thank you for having us here. I'll try to make it quick since we're running a bit short on time. Next slide, please. So, I just wanted to point out that IDNs and UA remain a central part of ICANN's strategic plan for FY26-30. And you can basically read some of these details in the plan itself, which call for promoting the advancement of UA and IDNs. Next slide, please.

On the IDN side, I would like to raise some recent work. ICANN has been working on developing some string similarity evaluation data for all the different scripts we are supporting for the root zone. We recently published this data for public comment. And eventually, once this data is closed, it's going to be used along with the tool which we're developing by the string similarity evaluation panel, which makes its own independent determinations on string similarity for the next round of the New gTLDs.

So, we just want to make this process more transparent and therefore, the publication of this data. Please do take a look at this data, which is now available to the community, and please provide us feedback on the similarity details which are pointed out for the

script which you are obviously more aware or more comfortable with. Next slide, please.

We also continue to move forward with some of the initiatives we have been supporting at ICANN on both the UA Day and local initiatives. One of the changes which we are doing is that we are moving more towards what we call UA adoption kind of efforts, while we continue to support the awareness efforts.

So, for example, for UA Day, we've actually advertised UA adoption kind of events as well, which focus on, for example, somebody registering an actual IDN, deploying a website and an email system, going through those efforts, learning through the process and then actually sharing their experience with the rest of the community.

We also continue to support integration of UA curriculum in the technical coursework at universities as also one of the options, along with, of course, the awareness events as well as the strategy events which some of the RALOs organize each year. So, those are also available, but we are wanting to now focus more on actual adoption.

The call for participation or proposals for UA Day 2026 is out. Last day to apply is 9th November 2025. So, please share the information within ALAC channels and encourage ALSs and other RALOs to actually apply. They already constitute almost 50% of UA Day events over the last couple of years. So, we really look forward to continued participation from ALAC.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Sorry to interrupt you, but to that end, given that you're looking for more technical types of presentations and audiences, more adoption oriented, is there any way to extend that deadline? Because I think most of the people in this room will still be recovering from this meeting this coming week, and you probably won't get as many good applications as you would if we had a little more time.

SARMAD HUSSAIN

Sure. So, if you want us to look into extending the timeline for applying, we can certainly do that. That's not a problem. We can go back, discuss, and then share an updated timeline. Thanks.

JONATHAN ZUCK

I'm sorry? Sure.

CLAIRE CRAIG

Thanks. Thanks for agreeing to consider, this is Claire Craig for the record, to consider an extension, and we'd like to suggest that you put it at least two weeks, probably to the first week in December, because of travel and when our next meetings will be, because we would like to consult with our communities so that we could get some good projects in. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN

Thank you. Sure. Noted. So, we'll consult internally to see how it impacts the later dates as well, and then come up with the proposal, but your point's well taken.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Who is we? Now, that the UASG is gone? Because when we talked to Edmon about the experts group, it seemed to have a very different remit. So, who's we when you're talking about, we?

SARMAD HUSSAIN

Currently, the UA Day is obviously supported by ICANN and also by UNESCO. So, it's a collaboration, and we will also look at the opportunity to involve the community as well. So, as far as the local initiatives are concerned, these are ongoing initiatives in different countries and regions of the world. Normally, they've, so we've had one in China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India. There's one in Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe, for example.

So, we support these initiatives to basically promote UA locally in their region or in their country, and we're also now working with these local initiatives to make them more adoption-oriented and not just focusing on awareness. So, also working with the local industry to see what are adoption-related gaps and how those can be addressed. Can we go to the next slide? Thank you.

We continue to work in what we call the UA Curriculum Integration Program. We invite universities across the globe to look into integrating the UA curriculum suggestions we've made into their existing technical programs. Currently, we already have a couple of universities who have actually taken this up and integrating the process and actually teaching this in their current semesters. We would want to expand this. We are looking at working with some more universities in the LAC region, in Africa, of course, also in other regions as well. Please feel free to contact us if you'd like more information about it.

ICANN is actually now directly working towards addressing some of the technical gaps. So, we have team members who are actually prioritizing and fixing Open Source tools, and we are also talking with big tech organizations to address UA gaps. If you want to learn more about it, for example, we have somebody from Meta talking at the UA session on Monday on how they are working in collaboration with ICANN to address, for example, some of the gaps they have in their applications, including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.

So, that work is continuing. We also continue to upgrade our own systems. At a recent community update during the prep week, ICANN team shared that now 92% of the ICANN systems are UA ready, and we continue to work on other systems. The most recent update included support for UA in the ICANN sign-on, which was in some ways a blocker to get access many of the ICANN applications. So, that part is now resolved. ICANN email systems are already

supporting incoming and outgoing emails from internationalized email addresses.

And finally, Edmon already shared an update on the UA expert Working Group. This Working Group was put together by the ICANN organization to further guide ICANN's work on what can be done in different areas, which Edmon had shared earlier in the session. They are included in the charter, which is linked from here.

That Working Group has been formed and is currently working well on its way. There are 10 questions we want to address. We've already had a discussion in drafting initial recommendations for the first five items, and the idea eventually is to close these recommendations or guidelines by March of next year and publish them for public comment from everyone, and then close that, and once those are published, ICANN will take on those guidelines for implementation. And that's all from my end. I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK

I think we're going to move on, but thank you very much for the presentation, and looking forward to being engaged and getting the community engaged in the UA day activities. Expert group activities as they evolve. So, thanks a lot. Thanks.

Margarita, she's sat. All right, there you are. So, we have managed to go late here, so I'd love to get some kind of overview from you, but probably we should probably follow up with some kind of a

webinar or something as well to get the details. Thank you very much.

MARGARITA VALDES

Hello, everybody. I would like to shake the room because perhaps you are falling asleep, and you can move this. Come on, with me. Come on, come on, come on. Yeah, I'm the last presentation before dinner, I think.

Well, this phase is quite different to Humberto, but Humberto had to be here, but he couldn't, so here I am. Thank you for inviting me. And this is an update of our STAR program about to help people and users in particular when they faced a UDRP conflicts or disputes. So, perhaps some of you heard me in Prague, I think, and basically these slices are about the project in summary. So, the idea is education and advisory support.

So, as you see there, outputs are workshops, guides, templates, and case library, and our intention is to grow a global network with academia and practicing people, probably mostly lawyers or law students.

So, next one, please. We are very keen to offer perhaps at the middle of December an online course that the idea is to all the people that would love to work with us have to have this online course in order to learn about how to deal with disputes, how to defend end users, and all the material law or how to make an argument in order to defend the rights of the end user facing an

UDRP dispute. So, you can see we are launching very soon the website with all this information and also the materials and the online course. Next, please.

The idea is these models that you are seeing, fundamentals on the context, filing and defense procedures, because you can see in the website of ICANN, for example, all the providers, UDRP providers, that they have different process in order to follow the complaint in terms of the complaints about domain names that use UDRP in particular. And advanced disputes strategies in terms of the defendant or the rights or all the arguments that you need in order to defend your rights or the end user rights in this case.

And clinic and practice, the idea is that people will have, the end users will have the help of an academic and probably law students in order to face and build the arguments to face an UDRP dispute about domain names. Next, please.

We are looking for you. We are looking for academic partnership. We are looking for pro bono advisory networks. Practitioners are invited to join as a pro bono advisory network offering expert guidance and support to the range of the projects. In some cases, we are also possible to provide modest financial contribution in terms of capacity building projects and activities.

We look for a student engagement and organizational participation in terms of the universities in particular that are very interested to build these capacities in law schools in particular or maybe in other kind of specialties in the students that could follow this dispute

system and also the defend, all the activities to defend end users and for their rights about domain names. Next one, please.

Basically, we look for, we are a stakeholder participation at the UDRP empowering respondents through the education and inclusive dispute resolution. Support for ICANN grant is expanded and fairness and access making dispute resolution processes more inclusive for diverse communities. Next one. This is so important for us. If you want to know more or have more information about this project, please follow this QR. It's a survey that we need in order to have more data about the impact of the project. And next one.

And if you want to be involved in this project, please follow this QR. We have a Google forms, of course, that we collect your information and we are very keen in order to have you in our project. Thank you very much.

JONATHAN ZUCK

We can do one question, but I think we're going to try to schedule a webinar or something so that we can have a more extensive conversation since we were so short on time. So, Sergio, go ahead.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO

I will be very brief. I would like to congratulate Margarita, Humberto and the entire team. I will speak in Spanish. As I said, first of all, I would like to congratulate you and Humberto for this

initiative because having access to justice regarding UDRP is very important. Then I would like to say that in Argentina, in view of this project, we started discussing with the University of Mar del Plata, the School of Law.

We undertook the responsibility with a course that is called Law and Artificial Intelligence. We have involved more than 30 young students that are very eager to be part of this project. So, I hope that there is room for us Argentinians to speak there, to be there in the seminar, to speak in Spanish. Most who are finishing their studies in Argentina, their law studies, are not English-speaking students, so we are very grateful for this opportunity.

We hope that we will move forward very quickly and join your project. Thank you very much.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET

Jonathan, I will be very short. Sebastien Bachollet speaking. There is already a Cross RALO webinar on that topic already set-up. There is already a meeting. Therefore, I hope that the next chairs of the RALO will take into account that already done work and it's easy to do I guess but thank you margarita for your presentation and thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK

Thank you for coming and thank all of you, you know this open house is an experiment and we're trying to you know make the best

use of it. I hope you enjoyed these presentations, these micro presentations and this particular meeting is adjourned. Oh, thanks to the interpreters.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]