
ICANN84 | AGM – Get to Know the ICANN Community: NCSG, NCUC, NPOC
Saturday, October 25, 2025 – 15:00 to 16:00 IST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much. Can we start the recording, please? Thank you. And before we start, I will give the floor to my colleague, Fernanda, to read the script.

FERNANDA IUNES

Hello, and welcome to the Get to Know the ICANN Community ALAC session. ALAC stands for At-Large Advisory Group. Oh, non-commercial, sorry. Wrong group. Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group, NCSG. My name is Fernanda Iunes, and I'm a participation manager for the session.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much, Fernanda. We start with Get to Know ICANN Community series of sessions. And our first session we will cover the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. This is NCSG, and we will learn about two more communities within Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group is NCUC, which is Non-Commercial Users Constituency and then NPOC, which is Not-for-Profit Organizations. But the guys here, it's great pleasure to see. They will introduce you more in details, and they will also explain what they are doing, what are their main purpose, and how you can get engaged.

And my immense pleasure to introduce you the Chair of Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, Rafik Dammak, who will later

introduce all the other groups within this community and our presenters here. Rafik, without further ado, the floor is yours.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Siranush, and thanks also, Fernanda for this opportunity to talk to newcomers following NextGen to introduce about one part of the ICANN community and the Generic Names Supporting Organization, or GNSO. So, we are here with other colleagues to represent the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, and we are aiming to explain what we do, why we are here, how we are structured, and happy to answer your question and to interact with you later on.

So, let's start with the first slide. Okay. As I said, the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, or NCSG, it's a part of the GNSO, which is the policymaking body responsible for the gTLD domains. And the GNSO is structured in a particular multistakeholder model, and the split between what we call the contracted party and the non-contracted party house. The contracted party house represents the registries and registrars, and just always we want to highlight here, it means those who have contractor relation with ICANN, because they are operating and selling domain names.

In our case, we belong to the non-contracted party house. We are mostly or more a user of domain. We don't have any relation to the DNS business per se. So, under the non-contracted party house, we will find two groups. The first is the Commercial Stakeholder Group, the business constituency, intellectual property interests

constituency, and the ISP and connectivity provider constituency. Usually, we use more acronyms, and you will hear a lot of acronyms in ICANN. So, those are the commercial side, they are user, but they're having commercial interest when they are using the domain name.

Moving to the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, and that's the important keyword here, the non-commercial. We have no financial interest or commercial interest when we are using the domain name. And for that, we represent civil society in GNSO and also, all the non-commercial users. And we tend to have kind of both type of membership, individuals and organization. So, the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group is kind of the umbrella here because under it, we have two structure, the Non-Commercial Users Constituency and the Not-for-Profit Organizations Constituency.

We'll hear more in details about each from my colleagues. They will explain what those constituency are about and what they are doing. I understand that you can be confused in terms of structure, but maybe it's something to learn here is how this model was constructed and how we are trying to represent the different interests and group. We needed to have those two house to create that balance between the contracted and non-contract party. And then in the same house, how we are having the commercial, non-commercial, to create also the balance here in the term of voting and representation.

The stakeholder group, in particular for the case of NCSG, we try to operate as one group. The constituency is more like to allow for specific interest for people to organize themselves. But in term of work or involvement in ICANN, we do that mostly as a stakeholder group. I want to emphasize that. I know still it's confusing, but we will discuss later how we operate.

In term, again, as we said, for membership, we have individuals and organization, and we tend also to be quite diverse in term here from geographical standpoint. Here, sharing some numbers. And you can see there are some balance. We have tried to be present in many of the regions, and we also have several of fellows or NextGen, they joined us to become active and to get involved in ICANN process. So, that's, I think, one of the latest number, but we always have people who want to join, and we are happy to welcome them if they match our eligibility criteria.

Okay, moving to the next. Most important is discussed about membership, but what's important here is what is our mission, what we stand for. And one of our focus, and maybe if you had a chance to attend our first session this morning, it was about DNS blocking, and then just before, we had the session about human rights impact assessment, which is kind of specific policy matter.

But here, just to show that as a group, we advocate for the human rights standpoint or viewpoint on domain names. And just here too maybe, it's not the exhaustive list, but just to kind of highlight what we are trying to advocate here. It's really about the implication of

whatever we have in work or policy in ICANN on human rights and end user. So, we need to understand that there is always kind of that externality of the process that's developed in ICANN or being developed.

And so, we try to view that from several human rights. Again, it's not exhaustive like freedom of expression. Privacy is something quite important. And maybe you have several session on this. You can see several session during this ICANN meeting week. Like maybe some acronyms like RDRS and so on. It's all related to those information that are linked to domain name, and the question, how to access them and under which reason. Other than that, there is from other human rights is access to knowledge. And here it's like how we can balance between that and the trademark rights. It's always about balance between the rights and liberties and also other reason.

On other hand, we also focus in other type of human rights like here, economic and social, and this about development. So, for example, if you might be aware, we have the program about adding a new top level domain name and that's all the process that was developed. And we care here about the aspect like how we can get more applicant from developing country or underserved region to join that program and to have that diversity. Something we advocate for.

Other than that, we care about matter can be related to the governance like accountability and transparency and so on,

because wherever you have an organization, you need to be ensured that it's, in term of process, governance is going to be transparent and accountable to those stakeholders who are involved but also to outside. Moving now to kind of this more about representation, because we said that we are part of the GNSO, that means that we have to be represented in one of the important structure within GNSO, the council, where the council is the manager of the process of the PDP for generic domain name.

And as you remember, I shared about this idea of houses. So, there is kind of balance in term of the number of representatives. So, we have six representative from the NCSG who are in the GNSO council, where we call them councilor. On other hand, in term of how we are kind of trying to organize ourselves in term of office and roles. We have the executive committee, which is more about managing the membership and kind of the engagement and so on.

On the other hand, we try to kind of split or kind of division of work and you have the policy committee. So, it's about policy discussion, shaping policy position for NCSG. And not going into detail, but it's composed of GNSO councilor that we have those representative, and also, representative from each constituency. There is one committee missing here that the finance committee can understand that it's about dealing with any financial matter related to NCSG. So, moving to the next slide.

Okay, we are going back here. So, that was just kind of short overview in term of structure, what we are trying to do, what our

membership. And just maybe to conclude here for this part before moving, again, we accept individual and organization. They have to be non-commercial, that's important. They have interest in the domain name policy, but they should have no commercial interest. And we are also the space for civil societies, and we have several organizations that they are involved like Article 19, global partners. I think even Wikimedia, et cetera.

So, we try to be that vehicle or space for civil society from outside to follow what's going on in term of policy that's impacting users and the registrant. And also, again, to represent all those points from human rights standpoint.

We can discuss later about how you can join. NCSG will have an application form. We can share the link later in the chat, so you can apply and go through a process for review by the executive committee to check if this individual or organization match our eligibility criteria that is in our charter.

Okay, so saying that, now more to go about the constituencies. So, we can start with NCUC. And for this, I will ask Amin, representing the executive committee to explain about NCUC.

AMINE HACHA

Thank you, Rafik. My name is Amine Hacha. I represent Europe in the executive committee of NCUC. And as a briefing about NCUC, it's Non-Commercial Users Constituency. And our mission is to represent individual and organization that use DNS for non-

commercial purpose. In general, NCUC is the home for the civil society organization and individual and the ICANN GNSO. Okay.

As you can see, the executive committee, it's for additional of the chair. There are representatives from Europe, from Asia Pacific, and Australia, from Africa, and from North America, and Latin America, Caribbean, Iceland. I have here in the room Pedro, who represent Latin and Caribbean and Iceland. And the next.

What we do in briefing also, we mobilize civil society actors and group to participate in ICANN. Also, we send member to ICANN three meeting per year. We have also additional some part which is NCUC outreach. Sometimes we do it locally or during the ICANN meeting. We help elect the NCSG representatives to the GNSO council. Also, we appoint representatives to ICANN nominating committee. We develop and advocate policy position. We collaborate and interact with other stakeholders in ICANN.

Also, we organize conference and even exploring global internet governance issue. Sorry, I missed something. Okay. Our topics of interest is in human right impact assessment. New gTLD, these program, applicant support program, AST and DNS abuse, and also, meeting with the board, privacy and WHOIS, geopolitical and regulatory issue affecting ICANN.

Next step, feel free to attend our NCUC or NCSG or NPOC session during this week. Also, feel free to meet any member of NCUC to get more close to our work and how to join us. And you can go to our website, apply for joining us and we'll be happy to collaborate with

all who are interesting in our mission. I think this, in briefing, all what I have. We are here also after for any question to answer. Thank you.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Amine, for this overview about NCUC. As you share, Amine, you asked people to join our session. In fact, with Siranush, I think we conveyed the message. We are inviting you to join us on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. So, we try to allocate some time for you. In 9:00 p.m. will be a party, but 9:00 a.m. I guess...

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Just to make sure.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Yeah, yeah, 9:00 a.m. Okay, 9:00 a.m. Which will be maybe 9:00 p.m. somewhere else on planet Earth. Anyway, 9:00 a.m. So, we try to allocate some time for you for introduction. So, it's our first session on Tuesday, which is kind of used to be the constituency day. And we will have whole day for NCSG and NCUC and NPOC. We will go through several topics between policy and also, kind of ICANN matters. We will have a session at the end about the WSIS+20 review. But when you join us in the first session, we're welcoming you. We'll also have the co-facilitator from WSIS+20 review.

So, just wanted to invite you again. And I think the information was shared by Siranush, and maybe you can send a reminder later. Anyway, just wanted to take opportunity to say this before moving

to colleagues from NPOC. So, I think it's Juan who will make the introduction.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

So, just to make sure, Rafik, you are talking about Tuesday 9:00 a.m. The session names on the schedule, GNSO, NCSG welcome session, correct? Okay. So that's the way how you will find in the agenda. It says GNSO and then NCSG welcome session. So, don't confuse with any other sessions. Thank you. Juan, the floor is yours.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS

Thank you, Siranush. And we will have session all day, so maybe they can join us every time of the day. So, welcome, everyone. My name is Juan Manuel Rojas. I am the chair for Not-for-Profit Organization Constituency. Also known as NPOC. Our mission is represent the not-for-profit organization. We are just addressing the part about a generic top level domains through the ICANN policy process development, PDP, in the scope of the GNSO that you know, it's about generic names.

Who and why can join us? You can join us if you are a not-for-profit organization or even a non-governmental organization. Also, if your organization could be one of these, you need to register. You have to have your own domain name and have an ability or maybe interest to learn how the domain name system affect your organization or in this case, our organization, our environment. So

that's why we are doing our topics, priorities according to our charter. It's the similar from NCUC that Amine has talked before.

We are talking about DNS abuse, about transfer domain registration, privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property abuse. And also, we are advocating for small communities or now representing communities in vulnerabilities. Communities are mainly in South, global. For this link, you can see in the screen, you can join as a member. In the process of the application, you can fill the registration form and you can ask to be member for NCSG, NCUC and NPOC if you are an organization at the same time. You don't need to do more than one application. With just one application, you can be member of NCSG and NCUC and NPOC in the same application. So that's why we are sharing this link.

Yeah, yeah. So, I lost something in the slides, sorry. So, maybe here, no. Let me check, sorry. No. Okay. No worries. So, I think we are working right now. We were working right now in SubPro meeting, SubPro IRT. It's subsequent procedures, implementation review team with I am saying about these communities.

We are talking more specifically what we did in our session on Tuesday, not in the morning, but in the afternoon. We have one session in both constituencies at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday. If you can join us, we will be talking in there about what we did, what we thought about for small communities. It's on topic inside the applicant guidebook, specifically about community priority evaluations. So, you can join us if you want to know about that. So,

for the next thing—no, you can say something. You can add something maybe I forgot.

CALEB OGUNDELE

Okay. So, my name is Caleb Ogundele, and I am the outreach and engagement chair with NPOC. And I would say this probably because I used to be a fellow, and I understand my growth within the community. So, I can relate with you from where you're standing right now. I know that most of the abbreviations you're seeing on the screen, NPOC, NCUC, GNSO, NCSG, it might send you a little bit very crazy. But hey, don't worry, it's your first meeting. You don't have to know everything.

But one of the things that has helped me within the community specifically from my first meeting starting from here before I went into leadership is that, I started by asking some of the stupid questions on the corridors. Sorry, for using that word. Probably for lack of better word that I said, stupid questions, but they are not really stupid questions. They are genuine questions, right? It might seem like they were amateur questions, right? But those questions were very important for my growth.

And one of the things I want to suggest to you is that when you finally become a member of NPOC and NCUC, join the mailing list. There are a lot of engagement and communication on the mailing list. Don't be in a rush to always respond on the mailing list if I were you. You have mentors here. Ask them if you have something, ask them questions. Is this a good feedback or a good response to

maybe a public comment that is currently ongoing? Do lots of research on some of those things. I'm pretty sure you're going to have a very smooth ride within the community.

And trust me, if you want to join, all you just need to do is just after this meeting, walk up to any of us, we'll be able to guide you on how to join, how to become very active within the community. And we have lots of councilors in the room, NCSG councilors on the GNSO council, as well as NCUC leadership members in the room. I see Bruna. I see Wisdom. I don't know, Trapani. Oh, I also see our policy chair, Tomslin.

So, there is someone who can actually help you. All you need to do is just walk up to that person and ask any question and we are here to help you grow. I used to be a fellow with Tomslin and we were in the same batch and both of us are in [inaudible] today. So, I do hope that our story can inspire you to be active and become better in the community as you continue to serve, so thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much. And we have time for questions, please. Oh, they have questions first for you. Okay, let's go.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Let's start. It's kind of quiz, I think. Okay, to which house belong NCSG, so you have a choice. Who want to try? Don't be shy. Yeah, please go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE The non-contracted party house.

RAFIK DAMMAK That's correct. Yes, the non-contracted party house. Okay, we can go to next. What NCSG stand for?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Yes, go.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE The non-commercial stakeholder group.

RAFIK DAMMAK That's correct. That's good. Okay. That will be hard to count, but okay. Okay, NCSG representative of society in GNSO. So, this is true or false question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE True.

RAFIK DAMMAK True, okay. I think we have all the same page here. Next, who can join us?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN You mean to NCSG?

RAFIK DAMMAK Yes, NCSG.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Yes, Ignacio, go.

IGNACIO A. SÁNCHEZ All of the above.
GONZÁLEZ

RAFIK DAMMAK That's correct. Okay, next. How many councilors do we elect?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE Six.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Who knows how many councilors? Yes, please go, [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE Six.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Six, that's correct. Wow, we have good strike here. Oh, that's good. You got all the answer correct. Thanks. So, now the time is to get question from you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yes, now it's the hard time from us. Questions coming to you. Yeah, we'll go this way, then we have Dipsy, then we have Om, then we have Tinuade and the lady over here. And then we'll see.

DIPSY DESAI

Hi, my name is Dipsy. I'm an ICANN84 fellow. A very stupid question. Why is the website with a .is, the Iceland TLD? Is there a specific reason you chose this?

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay. First, there is no stupid question. It's good to clarify because why we choose the ccTLD instead of gTLD. I think that was quite a long time ago. And yeah, Tapani want to—okay, please go ahead Tapani.

TAPANI TARVAINEN

That's a long historical reason, but the key point was that the NCSG.org, which would have been the national and obvious one is all taken by the National Chimney Sweepers Guild of America. And we kind of wanted to avoid sounding like chimney sweepers. And then it was kind of a [inaudible] that we are, well, NCSG is the non-commercial, whatever. So, it was a convenient choice. I wasn't

there at the time. This was very long time ago, but still that's the story I've heard.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Tapani. And I think also in term of policy, .is is quite good in term of [inaudible] protection and so on. Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Just to let you know, our participants are very attentive to all details. So, thank you, and we'll go to you.

OM PRAKASH SHARMA

Hi, my name is Om. I'm with NextGen. My question is, how is the ASP program different from the ICANN's ASP program? To give the scenario, I'm seeing if an indigenous group of a particular country wants to have their domain set up just to promote the unique culture and different languages, how can the NCSG support them? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Just to clarify, at the beginning, you said what project, ASP?

OM PRAKASH SHARMA

Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

So African Support Program, different from what?

OM PRAKASH SHARMA

Different from the one you mentioned in the presentation?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Okay, okay. Thank you for—

RAFIK DAMMAK

It's the same. It's the same. What we are saying here is we have this program and we advocated even from when it was the first new gTLD program in 2012. And just before at that time, we advocated to provide applicant support because we did observe or see how it was to build or designed, it created a lot of barriers from those who are not familiar with the program or who are not in command.

And it was not just about the application fee, but it's about all the kind of the barrier like non-financial like legal, technical, et cetera. And we pushed in how to provide that kind of applicant. And so, for this round, we also worked hard. For more details, I will ask maybe Pedro to provide more information on what we advocated specifically about the applicant support program.

PEDRO LANA

Pedro Lana for the record, NCUC EC LAC representative. What we did more concretely to reach [inaudible] is we had, besides the two sessions in ICANN where we produced material, simplifying the ASP guide. They are already very accessible language, but we simplified even more. So, the members of our community could share it with

their community, their circles, their groups of civil society in their regions. And also present themselves as people that could provide more guidance when needed.

So, if someone will have, of course, problems dealing with ICANN language and now these complexities of dealing with this ecosystem need some help on understanding some specific step or the overall process of the new gTLD rounds and specifically the ASP applications, the people from NCSG will be there to help.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Tinuade? We have the line. I will come to you.

TINUADE OGUNTUYI

Okay, thank you so much. Tinuade Oguntuyi from Nigeria, ICANN84 fellow for the record. As a [inaudible], I wear kind of two hats. I work professionally and what pays my bills is I work with an indigenous ISP in Nigeria. However, I also run a tech foundation to help girls and women bring them into STEM. So, when the announcement for fellowship came out, somebody that is in ICANN, like in ICANN for a while, saw my profile and he said, "When I saw that you had business and you also had civil society, I was confused. Why do you have both?"

And honestly, because of that first conversation, I did not even take the pain to look so much into what the non-commercial segment has. But as you speak now, I feel, is it possible? I mean, I'm ISPCP right now, which is the commercial constituency. Can I also still join

the NPOC? Will there be any form of conflict? No [inaudible]. I do vote. Thank you.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Yeah, that's a good question. I think the GNSO operating procedure doesn't allow you to be a member of two constituency, two stakeholder group in the same time. I mean, the case [inaudible] conflict of interest because when you join constituency or stakeholder group, you will participate in the discussion, but also the voting.

So, I think here we ask people really to select where they think it's fit to them and they want to participate. That usually in particular for organizations. Also, same for individual, but I think for the ISPCP, it's only for organizations. It cannot be individual member there. I mean, that's kind of limitation to avoid conflict of interest like how you can be really into different side and how you can really participate in voting or policy discussion. Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Lady in the middle, please go ahead. Yes.

JASMINE KO

Hi, this is Jasmine Ko for the record. So, I am an ICANN84 fellow. So, I'm actually transitioning into a non-profit dedicated to diversity and inclusion. So, I'm very interested to learn more about your groups. So, I just wonder for those topics that you listed, is there a way for you guys to prioritize what to be discussed first and how

actually agenda setting is being decided in the groups to understand the dynamic. Thank you.

RAFIK DAMMAK

That's a really good question because there are too many topics, and it's something we try to work hard on is to prioritize because there is limitation of resources, all volunteers. And we try to prioritize. In fact, it's something we discuss in our mailing list and our calls because that's how we organize ourselves. We have calls I think every three weeks, and we discuss a lot in the mailing list. So, we try because since we are in GNSO, and we have Tomslin. Maybe he can add more background.

Since we are involved in GNSO, we know kind of what's coming in term of work. What's the policy discussion or work stream that is coming. And we try to prioritize what we think is really most important, and it can be different from the other group. So, when we do that and we try also to develop, kind of have people who take the lead. So, let's be [inaudible] to be practical here. So, we have several PDP that look for a long time from when they start discussing about the policy and now it's about implementation.

For example, about the SubPro implementation, we have Juan involved there. We know it's a priority for us to follow because that will have impact. There is also topic like DNS abuse. We know that's coming and for that we have some lead people who are working to shape our position and even lately, we developed a position paper or discussion paper to try to summarize our thinking about the

issue, and what we are proposing to help us when this process will start. We don't know when. Just to be ready. But yes, we try to prioritize and that's based what we have as volunteers to put them to participate in working groups to develop a position.

But again, just the term of how the participation in the policy discussion happened, mostly in two ways. You participate the work, so we can send representative or encourage depending on the [inaudible] or encourage our members to join and to ask them to share update. And there is also the public comment. So, at the end is that the prioritization is what matters to us. What we think it's important like from that human rights perspective that the position is different.

And then also, to see what is coming in term of work. If we talk about here, gTLD [inaudible], but also, there are other things that can come from the ICANN org on itself like the review of review. That's not a policy, that's more governance issues and we have to prioritize that. But maybe I will ask here, Tomslin, if he want to think about the priorities.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR

Thanks, Rafik. I think you've covered most of how we prioritize stuff, but often it's really driven by what's happening in the GNSO council because we are a policymaking stakeholder group. So, we must prioritize and contribute to that process. But it's driven by our interest really. So, not every topic will we be able to resource or if

interested in it, we'll have minimal resource into it but our interest plus what's priority in the council.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Tomslin and thank you, Jasmine for the question. Charbel?

CHARBEL HAJJ

Hello, again. My name is Charbel. I'm a fellow. I have a question to the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. How do Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group influence ICANN policy's decisions compared to commercial groups? And what unique challenges do you face?

RAFIK DAMMAK

How we influence? Okay, that's a really good question.

CHARBEL HAJJ

Welcome.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Good. So, since we are in the—again, we said we are in the GNSO. So, that's the first layer or level where we are influencing anything about the gTLD policy. We are participating and managing the process like to start a PDP or not, or what they are the priority. So, we can share our position and we try to influence by voting, in fact, and also working in the different small teams.

In the other way, I said the PDP, it's basically we have working groups. One way for us is to appoint a representative there. They participate in the discussion to advocate for some position, to have a bigger consensus and that will end up with the policy recommendations. So, we are using that kind of [inaudible] where we can participate and we can participate because we are part of the GNSO. The kind of that formal part allow us to have influence.

The other is, since we are like here, as NCSG, we can participate in those meetings. So, we can organize [inaudible] like what we have. Like today, we had about DNS blocking and just before, about the RDRS that allow us to discuss with other parts in the ICANN community, to build common position or also to hear from them and try to influence. That's another way.

The other way is that we have the ability like any party in ICANN community and also outside, to send the formal communication to the board to ask them a question or to tell them maybe they are wrong. That happen often. So, there are different approach, different way. But again, being a part of GNSO, it's kind of recognized that the party in the ICANN bylaws give us a say in many of those discussions.

And finally, another way is with the Commercial Stakeholder Group. Under the same house, we appoint a board member. So, we have those different way. What's the difference or the challenge compared to the commercial versus term of resources? Because the Commercial Stakeholder Group represent business. They have

much more resources. It's their job to be here in ICANN and to defend position. We are volunteers. Most of us take that in their free time. And even we try to get civil society organization to join. DNS is not one of the really highest priority even for those working in the internet governance or digital rights. They know it's important, but they have a lot of priority and they need to see where they can put their efforts.

So, we are happy when we get some to join us like Article 19, and to help in term of building a position, et cetera. So, that's the kind of difference is term of resource and compare it to them. But I believe we are doing our best. That's why we always welcome any volunteers to join us because that's a good experience to learn how we can participate, to advocate, to push for some position, even if we—I'm not saying it's David and Goliath. It's not the point, but it's how with those limited resource, we can have so much influence, and we can [inaudible] in the agenda.

For example, one thing is about the human rights impact assessment. It's because we were vocal about this. We advocated. We are organizing session. In many ICANN meetings, it's become a topic of interest and people say, "Oh, yeah, we surely have to do it." We should add that to the working group process and so on. We ask if anyone want to add something? Yes, Pedro?

PEDRO LANA

Just as a quick example. Pedro Lana for the record again. A quick example on a specific object, DNS abuse. I saw that a lot of people

from NextGen are working on this subject on their representation. And NCSG, it is a lot about registrant's rights and the possibility of the DNS abuse mitigation mechanism being used in an abusive manner.

For example, being instrumentalized for censorship, causing risks to freedom of expression and so on. You can see the same thing, for example, [inaudible] for people trying to get information of registrants, so they can also do some kind of censorship to pursue activists who are fighting for freedom of expression in their countries. And this is the kind of concern that NCSG has that you won't find in say the other parts of the community.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Pedro. Did I miss any hands here? Yes, Hamzoz, is the right pronunciation, I hope.

HAYDER HAMZUZ

Thank you so much. I'm Hamzoz, but very close. Thank you so much. I'm Hayder Hamzoz from Iraq. Newcomers too. I'm representing INSM for digital rights organization. It's a non-profit too. And I have a question related to the impact. So, my question is, do you have something like recent policies issued where NCUC played a strong role or tangible impacts on ICANN decisions, like a story you can share?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN	Whom you ask? Which constituency you specifically—
HAYDER HAMZOZ	This is NCUC.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN	NCUC. Okay, Amine?
AMINE HACHA	Amine. I will give to Pedro or Wisdom if they want to answer. Our chair is here.
PEDRO LANA	Could you just repeat the question then?
TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR	Tomslin for the record.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN	Tomslin, go ahead, please.
TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR	All right, thanks. So, I'll attempt to answer on behalf of NCUC, and that's because NCUC does policy under the umbrella of NCSG. They do not directly do policy as just NCUC. The way NCSG operates is that, of course, it will work together under the umbrella of NCSG to actually work on policy. And that's why we just have only a single

policy committee, which I chair. So, in terms of a specific tangible work that NCSG with NCUC has influenced.

I'll give an example that has been mentioned already, which is the GNSO now is required to do human rights impact assessment on every policy development process working group work or recommendations as part of its process. And that is something that NCSG actually developed and made the proposal to GNSO and was [inaudible] as a working process, a working method going forward. So, that's one example.

We have examples like the transfer policy review that was recently adopted by the council and is currently seated with the board for adoption as well. So, there are a couple of examples. Even the SubPro itself that was mentioned here, which is where the applicant support program came from, one of the coaches at some point was an NCUC member. So, those are some examples.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Do I see any hands? Do I see any hands? Yes, we'll take the last question. Maciek, please go ahead.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Hello, Maciek Piasecki, current fellow and formerly a human rights journalist. I've got a broad question with no specific—none of you to use specifically. I wanted to ask what do you see as the biggest threats to human rights currently regarding internet policy, and

which of them fall under ICANN's remit and on which you have to pass?

RAFIK DAMMAK

I mean, let's see if someone want to give a try. Okay, Bruna.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Bruna, yeah.

BRUNA SANTOS

Hi, taking the chance of jumping on to this question. My name is Bruna Santos. I'm also part of NCSG and one of the councilors at Generic Names Supporting Organization as well. I also work with human rights, so that's why. I think at ICANN, one of the clearest risk is these good old tensions between intellectual property and speech, I would say, or even commercial interests over speech and the good old attempts of restriction to freedom of expression and so on.

Content is really outside of ICANN's remit, but it's not as if it doesn't happen here. It's not as if other stakeholder groups don't try to discuss it or don't try to change it. And one good example would be some groups within the GNSO trying to change the definition of domain name, DNS abuse, domain name abuse to include content in it, to include things like [CSM] and other things like that.

Another point that I would just say is privacy. Privacy remains a relevant conversation here, especially for the differences in

jurisdictions and how many different businesses and countries that are a member of the GAC. They tend to see the relevance of these issues and so on. So, just quote the two, maybe freedom of expression and privacy, because they're really about a lot of the things NCSG has been fighting on for years and also, our constituencies in that sense.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yes, please go ahead, Sameer.

SAMEER GAHLOT

Yeah, Sameer for the report. I have one question. I just want to confirm the eligibility to join NPOC. So, you are a NPO or NGO. You are organization who owns domain name. What do you mean by this part? An organization which owns a gTLD or...?

CALEB OGUNDELE

Okay, so I'm the outreach and engagement chair, so we can have more conversation about that after this meeting. However, I would just give you just a brief overview. If you own like a .org or something, and basically when we check you are the representative of your organization. When we get to check your website and you fit into having interest in the DNS ecosystem, then you have those chances of being our member, right? So, I'm happy to have more conversations with you as long as you're not-for-profit. Usually, most not-for-profit use the .org, right? And so, we

can have that conversation and see how you can be a member. So, yeah, reach out after this meeting. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Miracle?

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

Thank you very much. My name is Miracle, ICANN 84 fellow. I've just been worried that perhaps you'd help me shed more light. But I'm curious to know how you work with the other side of the DNS so that the contracted party or the commercial interest. So, for things like DNS abuse mitigation, I know that's probably a touch point, how you manage that, and also maintain freedom of expression. Could you sort of walk me through when you have middle ground issues like that? Because I know the NCUC, you guys are always going to be on this sort of free expression. And I'm guessing that the commercial side would be focused on preventing DNS abuse.

How do you [inaudible] through which you reach a consensus? And the reason why I'm asking is just so I know, because I'm probably most likely interested in things like that. I want to know if NCUC is the right place to join to advance the courses that I'm passionate about, or if there are other channels that would be more suitable for that? So, I'm curious to know how that process works when you have middle ground issues. Thank you very much.

RAFIK DAMMAK

I think this question for NCSG. So again, we have to work with other groups to cooperate. But of course, they can have different position. So, for DNS abuse, I think it's clear we don't have so much common ground in terms of what they are pushing and what we are articulating. But here, it's an exercise to find a balance and build consensus.

For example, we had a meeting with them yesterday, and we discussed about this topic. So, they shared their viewpoints why they are pushing for that, what they see as issues. And we shared from our side. So, we can acknowledge there are some risks, but we want to balance in terms of rights. But this is all discussion, because in terms of policy making, it will happen in the working group. But for now, it's more like discussion, sharing information, sharing position, so to build that mutual understanding.

And then, let's say, this policy is initiated in PDP with working group and we have representative in that working group, they will start from the chart to discuss, and they have to find the common ground there in terms of the policy recommendation. And each group will try to make proposal, et cetera. So that's how it works. We know that we cannot have common ground or we are consistent in all the topics, and that's natural. That's something expected.

The point here is how we can build consensus to find something we can agree on. Sometimes it's impossible. It cannot happen. But we need to acknowledge that. So, what we are trying to do is to build

our position, to share with other group, to expand. And I think with the template they can get is we are not—for example, denying there are some issues, but we are telling you have to balance. You have to build all the safe [inaudible] or safe check, et cetera, to protect the rights and to ensure that there is a due process and so on. And step by step, we try to find something we can agree on.

I mean, to join which group, of course, it's by position. And also, if you match the criteria. So, I don't know about the [CHG] or the different criteria. But for us, it's quite simple. It's that you have no commercial interest. In particular, if you are joined as individual, if you have a domain name or et cetera. So, you can join the application. We explain what we expect. We can discuss about to know more about your background. And we can find out to which group you can join. But that's the point is really, I think, the advice I can give. Just try to know about a different group and see where you think you can do your best.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Rafik. And thank you, everyone for wonderful questions. Rafik, just last words. We'll close the session.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Yeah, I wondering maybe if from NCUC and NPOC they want to say last word just to—

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- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Thirty seconds from each.
- RAFIK DAMMAK So maybe we can ask each one of them. I mean, Juan, you want to say...
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN Juan?
- JUAN MANUEL ROJAS Yeah. So if you want to join membership, I will be at the back there just after this meeting and then you can just walk up to me and we can just have a quick chat before your next session. And we'll sort it out. Feel free to just engage with us. And there are a lot of NCUC and NPOC folks here you can engage with.
- AMINE HACHA I just want to say thank you for giving us from your time to listen to us. And you are welcome to join us. Thank you.
- RAFIK DAMMAK Okay, yeah. Thanks, everyone. Join us on Tuesday. We have whole day of discussion, several sessions. You will find probably a topic of interest for you. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. So, I want to thanks for this opportunity. And also, if you want to discuss with us here in this table, but also those we [inaudible] or they intervened

or any NCSG member, please feel free to do so and we will happy to have a long discussion with you. Thanks again.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Rafik. And thank you very much. We have a lot of representatives of Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group here. If I can ask you to stand up, so all our newcomers can see your faces. Please, Wisdom. Yes, Bruna, Tomslin, Pedro, and guys, yeah, over there, Wale. And guys, all these people are fellows. They are coming from the fellowship program, so know what you may need. So, please go. Stop them. Ask them. Ask questions and join the sessions. And if you find your best sector of interest is there, join this community.

And with that, we are closing our session, and we meet for our last session today with At-Large Community. And we will learn about the end-users. And we will go to their room, next to the room where we had been today in the morning. So downstairs, the music was coming from that room, if you remember. So, we are going directly to At-Large room. See you there in 30 minutes. Thank you, and the meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]