UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. Good morning, I hope you all had a good evening and good night, and enjoyed your stay. And today's our last day, last day of one week, long week of meetings. And we'll be having our last presenter for today, Chuck Gomes. Am I pronouncing it? So, he will tell us a bit about what is new to be engaged in different working groups, and how we're dealing with policy stuff here.

So, it's an important part of ICANN development, and we are encouraging you to become part of a working group. So, you will now hear what does it mean to be a part of a working group and how it works. So, the floor is yours.

CHUCK GOMES: Thank you. As just said, my name's Chuck Gomes. I'm with VeriSign, and have been involved in the ICANN policy-making world since the very beginning. This is my 54th ICANN meeting. I have been in dozens of working groups over the years, and chaired several.

I'm currently chair of the Registration Directory Services PDP working group for the GNSO. And I'm here to answer your questions. So, I hope you have a lot of them, and I'll do my best to answer them to the extent that I can. Okay, go ahead.

So again, welcome to ICANN. Now I know some fellows are returning. How many of you are first-time fellows here? Would you raise your hand? Good. How many second-times? Are there any that have been to more than two meetings? Okay.

Have any of you, especially those that have been around for a while, have you participated in a policy development working group? Oh, I recognize you. So, okay. So, just one has participated in a working group. Hopefully all of you have learned enough about the multi-stakeholder model to know that policy development working groups are really the foundation of what ICANN's all about.

And those only work if there's good, broad participation from all interested stakeholders. It doesn't matter how long they've been in the ICANN world. We need new people. We need experienced people. We need people with different kinds of expertise.

So, let me stop there, because I don't want to—I want to respond to your questions, not just talk on my own. So, I'm going to keep that brief. Certainly, if you need more information about me, I'd

be glad to provide it, but I think it'd be better if I respond to your questions.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, we have first question from Paul.

PAUL: Okay, Paul, ICANN fellow from Kenya. My question is can you join a working group if you're not a member of a constituency? And then number two is how do working groups or communities within ICANN announce working groups or call to join a working group, and how can you get such a list?

CHUCK GOMES: Great question, Paul. Questions. First of all, can anybody join a work group? In the GNSO, and I assume I don't have to explain that acronym to you, so the Generic Name Supported Organization. But in that, anybody can join a working group and participate.

You do not have to be a member of a GNSO stakeholder group or a constituency. Certainly, we want those groups to be represented, but anybody, individual or a part of another organization, or an individual that isn't a part of an organization,

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whether it be ICANN or not, may join a working group and participate.

Typically, now in the GNSO, we allow for members and observers, and it's your choice what you want to be. Observers are those who just want to watch what's going on and not actively participate.

But an observer, at any time, can switch their membership to a member status and then they can participate actively in the calls, not just listen to the recordings and things like that. They can participate actively in the working group. Email list, which is a big part of where work goes on. Now, remind me your second question.

PAUL: So, my second question is concerning how the alerts and notifications for joining a working group, where is it? Where can I get such a list? So, if there's a call to join a working group, how will I maybe be alerted?

CHUCK GOMES: That's a good question, and I'm trying to think. Is there one spot where you can see those? Certainly, the GNSO has a website, and it lists all the working groups. Typically, what happens is announcements of working groups that have been approved by

the GNSO council, and the council's the managed—policy management body.

They don't make policy, they manage it. So, when an issues report has been approved by the council, they will initiate a working group and send out a request for volunteers. Now, you don't have to volunteer right at the beginning. Like for example, I mentioned I'm the chair of the RDSPDP working group, next-gen WHOIS, right?

And we allow people to join any time they want. Now we expect them, if they join late, to take the responsibility of coming up to speed so that those who have been involved for months and months don't have to rehash everything for that person.

But you can join at any time. Now so, the first thing that happens is a request for volunteers goes out, and I'm speaking from GNSO perspective. The ccNSO also develops policy. So, does the ASO. And their procedures, I can't speak to those because I'm not involved in those.

So, a call for volunteers will go out to all the stakeholder groups and constituencies in the GNSO. It will go out to the At-Large. We send the request out to the GAC. We send it out to the SSAC. In other words, all the advisory committees too.

And typically, there will be an announcement on the ICANN website to look at that, and to involve anybody who wants to. So now, you raise a good question. Should we maybe have a page just for working groups? I mean on the GNSO website, you can look to see what working groups are active, and each one of them has a Wiki page, and you can find that out, too. So, there's a variety of ways. But you make me think about the fact, maybe we should even make that clearer.

PAUL: I think it is. So, if you had maybe just a web page saying that "Okay, here's this working group, and you can join here." It's just a link just showing that these are the current working groups looking for volunteers. Because it's very difficult to tell, unless maybe you are on the mailing lists that you're getting all that.

CHUCK GOMES: And certainly, ICANN staff may be able to help me here, because I haven't looked at it in a while, but I know the ICANN website has information on how to get involved, and I'm sure that includes how to get involved in a working group and so forth. Now there are working groups not only in the GNSO, there are working groups, like I said, on the ccNSO and also in the ASO. So…

ALBERT DANIELS: Actually, Albert Daniels, ICANN GNC staff, the very first link on the ICANN menu is Getting Started, and there's a list of options that newcomers and those who are interested can use to get ready to participate in policy development. So, you're absolutely right.

CHUCK GOMES: I have seen it many times. I just haven't looked at it lately. So, thanks a lot. I appreciate that. I knew you guys could help me.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi, I have a question, more than a question. This might be maybe more informative for me to ask. I've seen working groups that have chairs, that have vice-chairs, and some groups there are rapporteurs instead of chairs and vice-chairs.

I don't know what the difference is. And also, I don't know who builds the paper, because maybe there is a conversation or there is an exchange in the mailing list, and I don't know who is the one in charge of making the Wiki working actively, in [INAUDIBLE] accountability and transparency. And you find out that the rapporteur, at the end, makes the paper. But I don't know if he has to do it or someone, or who is in charge of that?

CHUCK GOMES: Good question. Let me come back to the leaders of the working group first. The GNSO council has working group procedures that have been approved, but it doesn't specify how the leadership team needs to be composed. So, if you look at the working groups that are going on in the GNSO right now, some of them just have several co-chairs, and no vice-chairs.

The one I mentioned that I'm chair of right now, we actually explored the option of a chair and vice-chairs, or multiple co-chairs, and the working group itself decided to have a chair and vice-chairs. Now, after they requested me to chair it, I said "I would like to have a vice-chair from the other three stakeholder groups in the GNSO."

I'm from the Registries stakeholder group, so I have that covered, not that there aren't other representatives in the Registries. So, I wanted one from the Non-Commercial stakeholder group, one from the Commercial stakeholder group, and one from the Registrars stakeholder group.

So, the three vice-chairs on the one I'm chairing are from those other three. And my motivation there, WHOIS, as probably most of you know, has been a hugely controversial subject in ICANN, almost from its existence, certainly the last 15 years, and I

wanted to have on my leadership team somebody from each of those groups, because they represent different perspectives.

So, we, as a leadership team, can work together to try and be fair to all of those groups. So, it can vary different ways. Now the GNSO working group procedures give a lot of the details, so you can—in terms of how a working group operates. As far as the documents that are produced, it's up to the working group as a whole to decide on any recommendations for policy that they make.

And that will involve lots of documents over the history of the working group. Ultimately, leading to a final report that the GNSO council has to approve. As far as who produces that, staff is tremendously helpful. In fact, those of us that have been in the GNSO for a while, we love the policy support staff team.

They provide fantastic support. And they don't put in their own ideas, although we welcome those too. They're there to provide services to make our job easier. I could never chair the group I'm doing without the help of the policy staff. So, policy staff does a lot of that.

ICANN is experimenting with something right now, it's a pilot project, where for constituencies or stakeholder groups that would like it, they're providing a part-time person that will assist

them in preparing documents. That's more for responses to requests for comments from the working groups.

So, for example, I'm in the Registries stakeholder group. We try to respond to as many of the requests for public comments as we can, especially those that are related to our businesses. And having someone to help us do some research, or help prepare the final comments from the Registries stakeholder group, that can be useful. But it's primarily staff that produces the reports that come out of there.

RHYMA: Hello, my name is Rhyma. I'm from Algeria. I'm a member of SCOC, and I wanted to ask, can we as a new member start a working group? Because sometimes it is hard to induct yourself into the discussion that's already happening, and you don't even find yourself, how to place yourself in the discussion and how to react to this, all the topics that have—and work that have been done. So, is it possible, like for a member to create a new working group?

CHUCK GOMES: Okay, it depends on the type of working group you're talking about. If it's a policy development working group, that could result in consensus policy, that Registries and Registrars will be

required to follow if the GNSO council and the board approves the recommendations, then there are very defined procedures as to who can start one of those working groups.

The GNSO council itself can. One of the advisory committees, the At-Large, or the GAC, or the SSOC, they could request one being initiated, and if they do, the council still has to approve it. The board, without council approval, can initiate a working group.

The board actually initiated the one that I'm chairing right now. So, there are various ways. Now anybody could request that one be considered for a policy development working group and go through whatever organization you're in, you go to your GNSO council rep, or if you're in the At-Large, you could suggest to the leadership of the At-Large, "I think this would be a good idea."

So, there's that option. But there are lots of other kinds of working groups that happen all the time within stakeholder groups and constituencies, or the At-Large, or the GAC, or the— they can form a working group themselves within their own organization, and they do that all the time.

We have a working group in the Registries right now that we formed—excuse me—to provide input into the [INAUBIBLE] procedures, new gTLD PDP that's going on. So, that happens all the time. And if you're in a particular organization, depending on how you're fitting into the whole structure, you can form a

working group however you like and provide input into the process. Does that answer your question?

RHYMA: Yeah.

ALAN: This is Alan. First, I would like to just speak up from the question proposed last. What are the specific requirements or criteria to charter a new working group? And once a working group is chartered, will it run forever, or there is a possibility to phase out?

CHUCK GOMES: Great questions—

ALAN: And I have some experience with the ITF. Before a new—

CHUCK GOMES: Did you say ITF?

ALAN: Yeah. Before a new working group is chartered, first off there is a meeting that takes place to convince people from the—people

higher up in [INAUDIBLE] to convince that the task really needs the formation of a working group. Is that the same in ICANN, or you have a different procedure?

CHUCK GOMES: Kind of the same. Okay? The ITF doesn't operate exactly the same way that ICANN does, and you may have to come back and remind me of some of the questions because you had quite a few of them in there. The—as far as the getting interest, one of the things that happens in the GNSO before a working group is initiated is somebody identifies an issue that may benefit from having policy development, and that's surfaced through whatever mechanism works for that person.

If they're in an SG or a constituency that they can work through their group to suggest it through their council or to the GNSO council, or the board might become aware of an issue that people have brought up that they want to do. That happens a lot of ways.

What then happens if there's possible interest in a topic for policy development, is staff is asked to develop an issues report. And they get input from the community. In fact, the issues report will get public comment and so forth, to find out whether this is something that the community really does have an interest in.

And then, that issues report has to be approved by the GNSO council, the manager of gTLD policy, and if they approve an issues report, again, after public comment, then there would be the initiation of a working group to work on that.

So, by that time, you've pretty much established that this is a need that's supported by a lot of the community, and then hopefully you'll be able to get volunteers for the working group that will do the work. Because it's a lot of work.

Now, you asked about how long. Do they last forever? Sometimes we think they do. The one I'm chairing right now is going to be a long one, because it's a very controversial issue. It's divided into three phases. Each phase will take probably multiple years.

Don't let that scare you away. I hope it doesn't. But when you're working in a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder model and you're really allowing adequate time and opportunity for everybody to contribute, that's slow, and it gets messy. We're getting better at it.

I mean the two cross-community working groups, and that's a totally different type of working group, that just happened were beautiful representations of the multi-stakeholder model working on very important and critical issues, like the IANA transition and accountability for ICANN.

So, now I probably didn't cover all your questions. Oh, and by the way, we try to set, in a work plan, at the beginning of a working group, we try to set out a timeline, an estimate. It's really hard to do, to be very specific in the early stages.

All we've tried to do in the next-generation WHOIS working group is to map out the first part of phase one, and even that, it's virtually impossible to set time targets. As we get closer, we will start providing estimates as to when we're going to complete certain elements of that, but it's really hard to do.

Some working groups are much easier, and they don't take quite as long. But because it's bottom-up, it's slower than if somebody was dictating what's going to happen. Now which questions did I miss? Is that good? Okay.

TODD: Thank you. My name is Todd [INAUDIBLE] from South Africa. And my question, it's around diversity in structures that are within the GNSO. Because as you had communicated, that the enrollment of different working groups to ensure that there is representation.

But now, we're looking at the regional integration as much as there's also that multi-stakeholder approach, and the main thing that I'm asking is avoiding the situation whereby you've

got an executive or a board that maybe is dominated by one region in terms of representation, about particular leadership. Thank you.

CHUCK GOMES: And if I didn't understand it all fully, you can add more later. But let me take a stab at that. In the issues report that's developed by staff and then commented on by the community and then ultimately approved by the GNSO council, one of the elements of that that's supposed to be included is what type of expertise is needed and what type of stakeholders might be particularly impacted by something.

A policy that went many years and was divided into about five different parts was an Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy review, and that particular policy especially needed Registrar participation because they're the ones that implement it, and didn't have very broad participation.

Ultimately, it had to be approved by all of the interested parties in the GNSO and the community. The working group I'm chairing right now needs representation of just about everybody. And one of the things we did very early on was to make—to check our membership lists and what their affiliations were to make sure we had broad participation.

And as we go through, especially since it's going to take a long time, we will continually look at that list and make sure that all the identified impacted parties have representation there, and if not, we will reach out to try and get representation on those.

Sometimes it becomes very obvious. You're working on an issue that involves maybe At-Large participants, and nobody from At-Large is participating. We'll reach out to the At-Large and try to get some participation there, or maybe they have members, but they're not actively participating.

So, we'll try and spur that on. You can't force people to participate, but you try to keep that in there and make sure. Sometimes we need technical people, and you referred a little bit to that. And there's a couple ways we can do that. Certainly, we would like technical people to be involved all the way through the working group, but sometimes that's not feasible.

They may not have the time to do it, but we still need their technical expertise. So, working groups have the option of bringing in technical experts for certain parts of their work, or other kinds of experts. And with regard to WHOIS, we're going to need data protection experts.

Now fortunately we have a few in the working group. We're going to need law enforcement experts and so on. So, if we don't have a skillset represented in the working group, we can reach

out and get experts to help us, either on just a part-time, short-term basis, or whatever fits the need. Do you want to follow up?

TODD: Yes. I think you've answered most of the questions that I asked. But the main thing, it's regional representation in boards. As much as you're saying that different working groups are considered when you are formalizing or forming the leadership or an executive board, but now I'm talking about regional representation at each and every level.

Because you find—you might find that in a particular leadership or executive level, there is not that much integration of different regions, and not necessarily on the focus. Like maybe someone being [INAUDIBLE] type of working group, but now integration of different regions to make sure that there is always representation as much as you're looking at also different working groups.

CHUCK GOMES: And another thing to be aware of is the needs of who needs to be represented may change over time, and so you have to be attuned to that. For example, once you get into implementation of policy, a lot of times you need some operational people from the Registry and Registrar side because they're going to have to

implement it, and they may not be the same people that are policy development people. Now hopefully they're all communicating with one another throughout, but—so, it's dynamic. It changes.

ALBERT DANIELS: For the record, Albert Daniels. Since you mentioned Inter-Registry Transfer Protocol working group, I just wanted to repeat—mention that we have a very unique situation in this fellowship group in that we have a fellow, first-time fellow too, and first-time ICANN meeting, who has actually been working on that working group for a long time, in the question of Bartlett Morgan, who is Jamaican, but lives in works in Barbados.

So, it's a unique situation, where you have someone from the community who has been working for a very extended period and making substantive contributions to policy development but is only now, through the fellowship program, coming to his first ICANN meeting.

CHUCK GOMES: So, I have to ask you a question. Do you know Barbara Knight, who's been working on that?

ALBERT DANIELS: Well, know is relative. In a virtual sense, yeah.

CHUCK GOMES: That's what I mean. I didn't mean know her in person, face to face. Well, she's from my company, and she, throughout that whole process, represented the Registry stakeholder group, not just us as a company, but the Registry stakeholder group, and in fact, has been involved recently as some questions have come up with part C on that, and you're probably aware of those. So, thank you. That's great.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Any—yes, Jason.

JASON HINES: Yes, Jason Hines here. I was wondering if you could give us an idea of the volunteer commitment in terms of time it takes for sustained engagement, in PDP working groups. Maybe a first-name fellow could also give us some tips.

CHUCK GOMES: I think that's a very good idea. But you have to promise me something, if I answer your question, and that is that I won't scare you off. First of all, it varies by the topic in the working group. Okay? And the GNSO is now kind of considering could we

break some of these things up so it could be shorter time periods than others?

That has its pros and cons, and I won't go into those today. But one of the recommendations for GNSO improvements that's being considered right now is to make that time commitment much clearer right up front so people know. Okay?

It can be very significant, and that's the part I didn't want to scare you off. Some of these things, the more complicated the policy development process, can easily take years. Now do you have to stay involved if you can't anymore? No. I mean people drop.

There's people dropping off and joining all the time. So, it's not as if you're forced. But you really need to be—and let me say something else, first. Sometimes working group meetings, and they're usually teleconference calls, and then lots of list work, sometimes they're per weekly, sometimes every other week.

Some, this isn't too common, but maybe once a month. And you might be in a call for an hour or 90 minutes. Not too many of them go longer than that on a regular basis, except on a special need where there's something urgent. You need to be—have time to participate on the email list in between meetings.

Because if you just wait for the meetings, it takes too long in the meetings. So, it can vary a lot by working group, and the reality of it is, most of us have full-time jobs, or are full-time students, or something else. And so, you can commit more time at certain periods of your life than others, and that happens.

We're all in that boat. So, there's certainly flexibility. Sometimes you have to do some catch-up because you've had to miss a few meetings or haven't been able to be on the list. But it can be significant. At the same time, it's in your hands, in your control, how much you will participate.

Now if you're a delegated representative from another group, a constituency, a stakeholder group, the At-Large or something, and you have the responsibility of keeping them informed and getting their input and bringing it back in, you should be prepared to spend a little bit more time, because your group's depending on you. Now what groups will do is they'll often have an alternate that can fill in for you when you can. Now I said a lot on that, but let me let you follow up.

JASON HINES: Yeah, so—Jason Hines again. So, how do we become Chuck Gomes, award winning ICANN contributor?

CHUCK GOMES:	How did I do that? Well, I didn't set out to do that. That wasn't an objective, okay? Because I'd been involved and contrib—the reward, I think, or the award, was a result of the—my involvement over a long period of time and being able to work effectively with people.

And regardless of differing viewpoints and so forth. So, that's another issue. But the GNSO—one of the things the GNSO is, there's some training that's going on now for possible chairs and vice-chairs and so forth. That's going to—again, the GNSO improvement recommendations suggest for more training to be developed because—

And in fact, there's some training, online training going on between now and the meeting in Denmark that some it's going to be like, for example, training for leading a meeting, a telephone meeting, and some training for just leading a working group and how do you deal with differences of opinion and how do you effectively do that.

So, it's challenging. And the first thing you need—and this question was asked of me, I forget in which session this week, but my recommendation is, is that get started in a working group. Just get started. Even if it's at a low level at first, it's not very effective to try and become a leader of a working if you

haven't participated in one, because you don't understand and there's nothing like first-hand experience.

And I see heads nodding all over. You know that. That's not any earth-shattering fact, right? So, for you guys here, get involved in a working group. Now does that mean you have to attend all the in-person meetings? No. That's why we have remote participation.

And let me tell you, since—I think since the ICANN meeting in Nairobi, whatever year that was, they all blend together for me, is when ICANN really started making good progress in facilitating remote participation. So, don't think you have to be there in person.

It's nice. It's good to meet people face to face, isn't it? And people that you've been working with online. But if you can't, you can still participate, and I encourage that. But get started somewhere. Find one that you're interested in that maybe you have some expertise, but even if you don't have some expertise and you want to learn, it's a topic you're interested in, just get involved to the extent that you can.

And please do not think that because you're new, or you don't know a lot, or you don't—haven't had much experience in the very complicated ICANN world, that you can't contribute. You

can, and it happens all the time, and I've seen it over and over again.

But get started somewhere. And test it out, and don't be afraid to ask questions. You're going to find most of the people that get involved in these working groups are really willing to help you and answer your questions. And that brings me back to you. Why don't you comment on it?

TODD: So, I really want to echo pretty much most of what you've said in the last 45 seconds or so. Certainly, if you stop and think about this in a broader sense, why are you here? Why are you fellows? Why are you at ICANN right now? It's ultimately, as far as I'm concerned, to ultimately get involved with the policy process itself.

That, in my mind, has to be the end game. And so, for me, speaking to my experience, I mean I may be a bit radical with how I approach things, but my approach is if I want to figure out, I just jump right in. I'll bruise myself up a bit, but ultimately at some point, I'll figure it out.

So, to use the IRTP part D as an example, that was the first working group I got involved with. I literally came across it on the GNSO website, I said "Well, this looks kind of interesting." I

found the email, sent an email and said "Hey, I'm really interested in this thing.

I have no experience. I have no idea what this is about, but it looks interesting. Can I be involved?" And the working group, they kind of welcomed me with open arms. Mike and the others, eventually James, I think took over leadership of the working group.

And the attitude that I met was "I know you don't understand, but we'll help you." So, I'd reach out to staff every now and again saying "Okay, well how does this thing work? What does this mean?" They'd send me documentation. They'd send me videos.

They'd send me stuff to bring me up to speed. To a specific question that was asked about—I think it was time consideration. I think that was you, Jason? So, I mean I don't know if you've been involved in any of these working groups in your time here, but I mean one of the things that you'll come to appreciate is that it's how much you have to give.

You can only give your best. So, if you have three hours to dedicate, then you can. If you don't, you simply can't. So, what I would say in more of a way of a recommendation is to be realistic that there's only so much that you know at first jump

and there's only so much you can, by extension, contribute for your first jump.

But don't feel as if, just because you've just got into a working group, that you can't give these long 10-minute Obama-esque speeches, that your contribution or your space there isn't valid. Do what you can. Just listen. Eventually, just it will seep into your subconscious. Eventually you will have an opinion on something. So, I say all of that, I guess, to encourage all of you to do what we came here to do, to get involved in the policy process itself.

CHUCK GOMES: And keep in mind what I said earlier. There are a couple ways you can participate. First of all, I encourage you not to be leery about jumping in and sharing comments. Sometimes we really need the perspective of somebody that's not biased by all the experience.

So, that can be very valuable. But also, a more cautious way to get involved is at least join as an observer. And that allows you to listen to the recordings of the meetings. It allows you to monitor the email list. And then if you get to a point where, "You know, I think I want to jump in and be more active," I hope you do that, you can just switch it by letting the secretariat know, or

the chairs know, or the staff know, "Hey, I want to switch from observer to member."

Now the only thing different really for a member, other than the added participation capability, is you have to submit a statement of interest. And the GNSO website has a form for that that makes it really easy. And all that is, is so that others working together know if you have any particular interest.

So, what do I have to say in my statement of interest? Well, I work for VeriSign. So, if there's an issue that affects VeriSign, you're going to know that I'm biased. It doesn't mean I can't participate, but everybody knows what my special interest is, or I'm a Registry and the Registries are impacted by this, or I own stock in this Registrar over here, things like that. Does that prevent you from participating? Absolutely not. It's just so that we're all aware of our—any particular conflicts of interest we have, and that's very helpful.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: We have one question from remote participant, Albert Bliss.

ALBERT BLISS: Yeah, it was interesting that you spoke about remote participation, because we are actually being followed by the Brazil remote hub, where there's one member also from the

Latin American Caribbean team. The question is from [INAUDIBLE].

I hope I didn't mangle that pronunciation too much. "In Brazil, and in Latin America, one of the major barriers to on-site participation is the income and socioeconomic aspects. In other regions of the world, are the limitations to regional representation the same? What are the principal challenges to enable more regional diversity at these meetings?"

CHUCK GOMES: Thanks. That's a really important area, and one that's not an easy one to fix but that we're always trying to get better at. And ICANN as an organization has gotten better. But we have a long way to go. There are all kinds of barriers. There's a language barrier, and that's, again, coming back to the GNSO improvements that I've been involved in, that's one of the things we're focusing on.

Because if you're not a Native English speaker, it's a lot harder, isn't it, to participate. So, we're looking at how can we improve on that? It can be expensive, but it's important for them. Distance, connectivity is a big issue. And that comes up all the time for some of our working group participants in developing regions, where they don't have very good connectivity.

And that's still a problem. They may not be able to get good access. And we try to work with them. The staff on a working group call, if somebody has difficulty calling in, or maybe it's too expensive to call in, staff will do a callout to them. Have we completely solved this problem? No.

One of the reasons that ICANN meetings are rotated around different parts of the world is so that those that would like to attend in person don't always have to travel long distances. So, we move that around. Another thing we try to do, time zones is an issue. Okay?

And so, meetings will be rotated so that one group from one region, or a big region, doesn't always have these ridiculous times of the day or night to participate. In the RDSPDP working group, we only rotate one of our meetings, because we analyzed our membership in terms of geographical location, and it was a relatively small group that had—needed an adjustment.

So, we do our third meeting of every month. A lot of groups, and this is true of the GNSO council, they rotate their meetings maybe three different times, rotate all the times so that people from regions that are not as convenient aren't always handicapped in terms of the time.

I just touched on some of the regional challenges we have, but if we want those people to be involved, and we do, we've got to try

and get better and better at making it easier for them, and we're working on that.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Any last questions to Chuck? No? With that, I would like to thank you, Chuck, for coming here and taking the time to speak to us. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

CHUCK GOMES: And just a parting comment. Your questions were great.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thanks. They were great in general. Thank you. Okay, guys. So, we have a couple of logistics, which I would like to share with you. We are expecting our last guest from board, two ladies, two beautiful ladies from the board, Rinalia Abdul Rahim and Asha Hemrajani, who both are from Asia-Pacific, and they are members of the board coming to us at 12:15.

And I hope that we'll have a lot of discussion with them, what does it mean to be a board member. And you know that we already have a fellow who is a board member, Lito, from Latin America. So, it's the place where we can go there.

So, they will speak to us. But before that, at 12:00 we are expecting, I hope all fellows except those who left during the night, are here, ICANN 57 fellows. We are going to have official group photo, which will be posted online for all. So, 12:00, no one is leaving. 1:00, we'll be having lunch here in this room. We'll have time to sit and to talk a bit in very non-official environment.

At 2:00 pm, there is a special shuttle organized for fellows to go to [INAUDIBLE]. For those who want to be back [INAUDIBLE], at 2:00 pm, there is an additional shuttle planned for you. There are a couple of other logistics, which staff is finalizing.

I know you're all worried about these transfers from hotel to airports, to have some money exchange issues. They are clarifying and they will be back to us by 1:00 pm. So, while we will be finishing our workshop today, we'll be having some news from them coming, so new information coming to you.

Related to our follow-up after this. So, we came to the last day. We're done. We want to go with Albert to the—so chart this multi-stakeholder model, and go through all the constituencies we had since the first day, just to remind ourselves what we passed, what we saw, what we heard.

So, the model of participation is made up of supporting organizations, SOs, and advisory committees. So, we have supporting organizations, three, ccNSO, country codes name

supporting organization, GNSO, which is generic name supporting organization, and ASO, which is address supporting organizations.

And we have advisory committees. So, we have four advisory committees, who are root server system advisory committee, RSAC, and Albert is showing on the screen, so please follow him where they are. RSAC, root server advisory committee.

Security and stability advisory committee, SSAC. Government advisory committee, GAC. And At-Large advisory committee, ALAC. So, we have met all of their leaders, either chairs or vice-chairs, who came here, who provided presentations.

There will be follow-up email coming to you about the people who came, with their contact information, so you'll be getting this follow-up email from me at the end of next week. So… Related to your reports. So, each and every first-time fellow/mentee, within three weeks, should be submitting their report to their mentor, not to us, not to me, not to Janice, but to your mentor, and, it's not or it's and, uploading to the system.

You know the links. You know how to do that. So, your main report should be about work and the sessions you like, what worked well, what didn't work well, network opportunities, your vote participation, your coaches support, so how you got that support.

So, within three weeks, you are sending this to your coach and uploading to the system. And as soon as you upload into the system, we are getting automatic message that the report is there, and we give confirmation to our travel team to wire your second part of the stipend.

So, after that, our coaches, within one or two weeks, compiling all of your suggestions, adding their own suggestions, and sending to us the final report. So, each coach is responsible to send us the final report, where all your comments will be included.

So, each and every mentee is responsible to send their report to mentor, and mentor/coach is responsible to send it to us. That's about the report. As I told during the first day, there is no template. So, you can find the best way for you to do reporting and send your comments, your ideas, your participation results.

And follow-up. What do you envision, how do you envision the follow-up steps? How you would like to be supported by your coaches, by the program itself, by the fellowship program itself. Please include this. Make it separate sections in your report.

This may be helpful for you. What has been done, what worked well, what didn't work well, what you would like to change. So, like some kind of diagram for you to think about. And I hope you were taking notes during the week, just to put this in your report

as well. Include there also the logistical part, I mean lunch, breakfast, hotels, travels, any challenges you faced.

After you submit your reports and we— [SKIP IN AUDIO]—so, getting certificates. So, in some cases, you may get certificates of your participation in two months. In some cases, you may get in three weeks, after your report submission. So, be patient. Every single person will get their certificate. No worries. Yes, Tato?

TATO: Question is around the report. Is there any guide in terms of how many pages we're looking at?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Absolutely no guidance, and this is not a matter of number of pages. It is a matter of content. If you can, in two sentences, put all your valuable input there in your report, and you think that this is all you wanted to tell, that was it, it can be that much.

But think constructively. Think—I mean whatever you did here, put this in the report. Any participation in any other workshops. Any participation in the booths. Any pictures you would like to attach to this. So, make it visible. Nigera and Lucas.

NIGERA: This is just one addition regarding to the reports, and it will be also good for us, as you mentioned, last word, the visibility of our fellows. Just if they have a blog, and they can blog it, and then the report, they can blog it online, and they can share their URL in the report. It doesn't have to be a hard copy, sorry, a soft copy to upload. But also, you can take the link and upload it to the application form for your report.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. Lucas?

LUCAS: Lucas, for the record. Actually, my question is related to what Nigera's saying. It's okay if I want to share my report with my fells?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Of course. We—you can already become [INAUDIBLE] to that many blogs have been shared by our fellows about their experience of participation. So, it's open. It's your decision if you want to make it public. You are free to do it. Some of you got full stipends, but that's only because you had a problem, real serious problem in your banks to get money.

So, we just support this to make it happen for you not to face any challenges for the second half part. But it doesn't mean that you are not supposed to submit your reports on time. Otherwise, you will not be getting your certificates. Okay? And I think that you all will like to get your certificates. Yes, please?

ASHRAF: Ashraf, from Afghanistan. So, when all of these reports are taken and get together, would we be able to sort of have an overview of how each and everybody else felt? Because it might be interesting to sort of compare "I got these things out of this gathering. What did they get?" And then sort of reach out to different people in the fellowship to sort of have a follow-up discussion and stuff.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I think that by the time when coaches will compile all your suggestions, and it will come back to us, we will go through all those reports, trying to find out the challenges, the successes, and I'm not sure if there will be any special follow-up Skype or follow-up call organized.

But we will be making sure that this will be all considered for the program itself for the future. But if there are any specific concerns that you would like for us to follow up with you

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directly, you are always free to send an email asking about that. Okay?

So, you all have my email address. You all have Janice's email address. You are now in the fellowship family. You will be subscribed to the fellowship mailing list, and you'll be getting the information which is coming through that. So, you can share your concerns with all—through that fellowship mailing list.

I also would like you to expect a new survey, which we are planning to conduct among all fellows. So, you will be getting a survey link to fill in. This will be a survey related why—so you are a fellow. What it gave to you and how you are involved, where you are involved, why you left and what can bring you back.

So, we are now more than 850 fellows since the first one in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 207. So, we are now more than 800. But not all of us got engaged. Not all of us—and it's not expected that 100 percent excellency will be here. But we would like to know, those who are out, how we can help them bring back, and those who are in, how we can help them keep going. You see?

So, the survey will be coming to you, and please take the time to respond and put your thoughts there. We need your feedback to work on the follow-up. Okay? Any other questions? No. So, it's 12:00, and I am supposed to—we are supposed to, actually, to have the camera man here very soon.

If we just not—stop recording for 15 minutes. We'll be back by 12:15 for our board members coming here, and we will be continuing our remote streaming. For this period, just for 15 minutes, we are having a break to have a group photo for ICANN57, and then we'll continue. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Just a moment. In any of the hotels, if the hotel officials are not accepting your cash payments, please speak to Albert. He will take care of it.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Which Albert?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Our Albert. He mentioned in the morning. They would compile it and tell the [SKIP IN AUDIO].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So, we are in the process of expecting new information. So, there might be the way that you can arrange the busses from hotel, which will be added to your room account. So, don't panic now. We'll come back to you by the end of this event.

UNNOWN SPEAKER: [INAUDIBLE], this is part of the settlement, in case they have. So, Albert wanted this information in case there is any fellow who faced an issue. He needs to go to Albert and speak.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, I may ask also if there are any fellows who have 500 and 1000 cash and would like to make change. Yes, that's good. So, we are trying to solve all issues now. Please, be patient. We'll be back to you. I know that by 1:00 we are finishing, but we still have a couple of—one hour to have lunch all together. So, I will try to make it happen. If no, you will be receiving emails from me. So, don't worry. Everything will be great. I'm sure.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Guys, Albert is here. If anyone faced any issue in paying to the hotel, please speak to him immediately. There was some fellow who mentioned he could not—his money was not accepted at the hotel. Please speak to Albert now. Whoever has faced any issue, please come up and speak to Albert.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Everybody please, follow us. We are going outside, this way. Put your stuff here, your luggage here. We are just quickly going outside to have outdoor photo and then coming back. Quick,

please. We have no time. Guys, move out please. We don't have much time.

Can you leave your bags and move out for the photograph, please? You can come for the photograph. It's a fellow photo. Okay. Thank you, everyone, for coming back. Omar, thank you for joining us. Take your seat, please. You're most welcome to be with us.

Whenever I tell, you can just put the recording. Not now. Okay, guys, take your—no records now, eh? We are not on record. Yeah, whenever our guests come, I will tell you. Thank you. So, any questions which left unanswered? No questions? No issues? No problem? Hurray! Well done.

Okay, we still have a couple of minutes to wait for our board members. One of them, we were expecting to have three board members, but Luisa, she had to leave yesterday because of some family issues, so we'll be having two of them, but two amazing women.

One from Singapore and one was from Malaysia but then moved to Germany now, I think. But they both are really—are doing amazing job. I don't know, Rinalia was selected through the At-Large committee. There was a seat, number 15.

The new seat, which At-Large promoted for themselves to have a board member from At-Large community, and a couple of years, they got this seat 15. And we had first board member selected from At-Large. At that time, I was in At-Large.

That's my—I know that Sebastian [INAUDIBLE], who served for four years in the—for three years in the board, and then the second time the selection, Rinalia Abdul Rahim was selected. She came to ICANN through nomination committee.

She was selected by NomCom to come to serve in ALAC, At-Large advisory committee, and then she became—yeah, we have Rinalia Abdul Rahim here. Welcome. We can start recording. We can start recording. Hello, welcome Rinalia.

We were just—I was explaining how you came, the process how you became a board member, about seat 15 from end users. And we will start the—we will just ask you to tell us a bit what does it mean for you to be as a board member here, and what kind of work is there. And then we may go for Q&As from our people. Thank you for coming.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you for the invitation. It's actually the first one that I've had from the fellows. The last time was a few years ago, and Janice was around, and I just asked to just have a peep inside

the room to see what's going on. I have to say that the fellowship program is the envy of a lot of people in ICANN.

And the reason is, when you come into ICANN, you are so well-looked after. Your introduction to ICANN is structured and facilitated. You get a briefing and overview of everything in terms of the high level, and you have a better understanding of rules and who is doing what in terms of structures.

Not everyone at ICANN gets this special treatment, so I want you to know how special you are. But the expectation is also quite high. Once you get into the system and you somehow get a sense of ICANN, and you feel that you might want to contribute to it and serve the global public interests, then the expectation is that you come back to ICANN and become part of the stakeholder group, whichever one that you feel closest to, or even just participate in public comments if you cannot contribute more.

So, that's just one point to say, that you are a very special bunch of people. [INAUDIBLE] happens to be the best chair for the regional At-Large organization. You've had briefings on the At-Large, I gather?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Yes? So, you know about the RALO structures? So, she was the chair for my region, and she was the best at it. And we lost her in that structure, and we gained her in the ICANN organization. So, it's not a loss. It's sort of like a win-win for everyone concerned.

Now, you asked me about my journey into the board. I had done—well, my first job was with the Malaysian government, and it was essentially helping the government to formulate national ICT strategies, to figure out how the country can develop economically, socially, politically, and so on and so forth.

My leveraging on the strategic tool of information communications technologies, including the internet. I did that for about four years, and then the government of Switzerland asked if my government would loan me to lead this global multi-stakeholder organization called The Global Knowledge Partnership.

And that was my introduction into this global multi-stakeholder community practice, dynamism, complexity. And it was probably the best years of my life, and I learned a lot, and I understood that it's actually quite challenging to practice the multi-stakeholder model, but it can be very rewarding as well,

especially if we manage to go through the bottom-up process well.

Since then, I have stepped out and I have my own consulting company, but I still have in me the need to serve the global public interest. And the INCANN NomCom head approached me for several years asking me to consider a leadership position in ICANN, and I kept saying no every year because I was busy.

And then in one year, in 2011, I had a weak moment and I said yes. And so, I didn't know much about ICANN well. I didn't know well ICANN at the time, and I asked for advice in terms of "Well, which position do you think I should apply for?"

And the response from the NomCom chair was "Given your profile, you should consider applying for the board or the ALAC." And they asked me to choose. And I chose the ALAC.

And the reason that I chose the ALAC is because I understand that global multi-stakeholder organization and system can be very complex, and I don't presume to come into a system as complex as that with the presumption that I'm going to govern, as a board director, and that a good understanding of what the system is from the bottom up and how the organization works, and how the structures interface, and how the people relate to each other in terms of stakeholder groups.

So, I spent two years on the ALAC. That was one term, working in a transition with my colleagues, and [INAUDILBE] was there with me. And then after that, I decided to step forward and stand for board elections. Not through the NomCom process, but through the community process, which for me, I felt was more meaningful to represent this—the interests of this community in the board.

And I was lucky. I won the election. I was also the only woman, the only one from a developing country, against the incumbents and the stalwarts in the group. I mean the final list of candidates were a former board director, the incumbent board director, the chair of the ALAC and the vice-chair of the ALAC.

So, if you can just imagine how intimidating that could be for anyone, but I was really lucky. I had the support. And now that I've been on the board, the responsibility is a very serious one.

And I have to tell you that my motivation for stepping forward to the board was one: the interest and need to serve the global public interest and to serve the At-Large community. Two: to my eyes, while I was in ICANN, the board was a black box.

I didn't understand what they were doing and I didn't understand why they made certain decisions. And so, I wanted to step forward. It was also an opportunity for me to work with

some of the individuals who I considered to be my role models, like Steve Crocker and George Sadoski.

George, I have known George Sadoski, I think for 15 years, or more than that, actually. We met in the year 2000. So, we've had a relationship all this time, but this is the only time where I actually get to work with him as a colleague, and that's important to me.

And of course, Steve Crocker, he wrote RFC-1, and it's a privilege to work with him. So, being a board director, you have fiduciary duty and obligation to the corporation, ICANN the corporation. But we also have the duty of loyalty to the ICANN mission, which is enshrined in our bylaws.

And pat of it is basically—and I also include the articles of incorporation for ICANN, which is to serve the global internet community. So, whenever the ICANN corporation and organization is moving in a direction where it does not serve the global internet community, which is all of us, then ICANN is not doing the right thing.

So, fiduciary duty and obligations of a corporate director, that's something that I have to take on very seriously. In addition to that, I have to look how the policy development process of ICANN itself is coming out, because policies are recommended and the board has to make a decision whether to adopt or to

reject, and if we reject it, then we need to have a very good reason, and we have to explain it, and also give a chance for a discussion to see if there are different ways of moving forward.

It's not an easy job. It's extremely time-consuming, extremely challenging. You have to be able to give time to this work, and it has to be a commitment, more than just a job. And you have to be in control of your own time, because otherwise you won't be able to do a good job. I think I'll just stop there and field questions.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Any questions to Rinalia? Yeah, let's start with Angola. By the way, Angola is not—I was impressed with his participation. Rinalia and I are going to share it with you. He is not a fellow. He is not from the list. But he came for the first day and stayed with us to the end. So, he was so warmly welcomed by the fellowship team that we love seeing him here with us.

[APPLAUSE]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And he became an active participant in our group. So, Angola, please.

ANGOLA: Thank you very much. I just have to be a jolly good fellow instead. [SPEAKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE]. My perception of the single biggest challenge I would have with ICANN is patience in very, very long-winded meetings. What would you say is the single, maybe top three challenges of working your way through the ICANN process at different levels? [SPEAKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE]. Thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Can you still hear? Is it still recording?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's not. It will be back soon, yeah? Is it recording now?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Shall I wait? I think we're back. [SPEAKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE] Thank you for the question. He wished me good morning in my language, which is Malay, and he also said thank you, which is wonderful. Your question about how to get through—is it the ICANN week? Is it how to get through the ICANN meeting week, or the ICANN system itself? Okay.

So, anyone who comes into the ICANN system will be overwhelmed. Some people describe it as drinking from the fire

hose. And it's not possible to retain a lot when it's like that. So, to manage in moving forward, if you want to sustain your participation, is that one: you have to pick the issues that you are really interested in and follow that path into ICANN.

And from there, once you have a good understanding, you will have very good, very effective engagement. And after that, you will be able to have the capacity to branch out and address all the other issues. If you try to address too many issues, you won't be able to have the background in terms of the knowledge to engage effectively, and that's not going to be good or encouraging for you to move forward because you'll just be disappointed or discouraged.

That's one. The second aspect of how to navigate that is to find a mentor in the system, maybe more than one, because you might need a mentor for different parts of ICANN, understanding the structures, or understanding specific issues. That, for me, has always been very useful.

The third aspect is that you must do your homework. You cannot come into the system and expect to be able to contribute, participate and draw out of it if you haven't done your homework, if you haven't read the documents.

And also, if you don't ask around in terms of what are other perspectives on this topic. Without doing all those three things, I

think you'd just be attending a meeting and enjoying the environment, and then moving off. Welcome.

RADA: Hello, my name is Rada, from [INAUDIBLE]. I do not really have a question, but I just want to compliment you on the way you talked, and you just told us about your experience and journey. It was really clear, concise, and honest. And it feels nice to see more ladies in such role, and coming and talking to us. That's it.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you, Rada. And I appreciate that very much. And I also want to convey a hope that as you become part of the community, that you also encourage more women to step up into leadership roles or just working with the teams, because we are suffering from too small a pool to move up in the organization. Since [INAUDIBLE] is not here, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, go ahead.

MUNIT: Thank you. This is Munit, ICANN fellow and part of the NomCom 2 working party. Just there's no question as such, Rada just brought it up that it's good to see more female participation. My

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recommendation was that there were less participation from the female committee at the top leadership positions.

So, we are considering that then, of course, more similar leadership positions will be available for the female participation, and we would be looking at the applications from the female participants.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: That's great! Other questions or comments?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's not often that we get board members to come to speak to us here actually face to face. So, fellows, please take advantage of the opportunity that you have right now to ask questions. Any more questions?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: What are the main—sorry [INAUDIBLE]. What are the main issues that you see we're going to be reading about in the next year? Like what are the things we have to be aware of, like this is coming into the board to be discussed in the next six months, a year, especially after [INAUDIBLE]?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you much, and I don't see you there. I met Martin during the leadership training program for when I came in for my official appointment on the board. There's a training program for leaders across the ICANN structures, and he was there with me, and I really enjoyed having him there. I also want to point out my board colleague, [INAUDIBLE] is here. He's from Japan, and he's a new board director.

[APPLAUSE]

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: So, if you want to ask questions of him, that would be great as well, so that I'm not the only one on the spot. In terms of issues that are emerging, I would say the US election is going to give us a serious issue to deal with, which is if we get a new president and it is a Republican president, they will, again, probably resurface this question of "We want to regain the internet back."

And that's going to be a major item of discussion on the board. Another thing, moving forward, is—and it's a perennial issue, is that we always have to be vigilant about issues that pertain to the security and stability of the domain name system.

Akinori and I just came in from a meeting with the board meeting with the SSAC. They advised the board on what ICANN

should be doing to maintain that stability and security, and there are issues that are coming up in our system whereby different parts of ICANN are not really thinking about that aspect, and they are moving forward.

And advice from the SSAC is coming in a little bit late. And so, we have to reconcile that, bring the ones that's going forward back and say "Here's the advice coming from the security and stability group, and it's quite an important one. We do not want to destabilize the DNS, and we need to reconcile this, and that needs to be facilitated."

Also, issues moving forward, is because now ICANN has enhanced accountability mechanism, and I think that we will be tested moving forward. There are organizations with resources who will want to just test the system, to see whether or not we're able to cope.

Sometimes it's legitimate. Sometimes it is not. And the litigation that ICANN corporation faces is always a challenge to the organization. It's not always visible to a lot of people, but it happens all the time. I'll stop there.

BARTLETT MARVIN: Bartlett Marvin, for the record. So, my question has to do with prioritization. You are from the developing world, and so am I. I

am from the Caribbean. And in a broader context, most of us in the developing world, many of our neighbors and friends don't even have access to the internet.

How—what—do you have any ideas on how—forget ICANN, how we in the developing world, ourselves, what initiatives we can take to increase our participation or our voice so that there can be more presence from the developing world on the board or in the leadership and so on to kind of balance the voices that are heard in these forums?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Speaking about ICANN or the internet governance forum as a whole?

BARTLETT MARVIN: I say in ICANN, but if you want to speak more broadly, go ahead.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Okay, so participation is a challenge. If you look at statistics, there is a difference between participation in just ICANN itself, vis-à-vis policy topics. Policy topics is quite challenging. In the year 2013, there was a report generated by the review team on accountability and transparency.

This is the second review team. And attached to that report is basically a study on the policy development process of ICANN, focused on the GNSO. And they looked at statistics of participation in policy working groups, and it was absolutely abysmal in terms of input from the developing regions, abysmal.

And forget about gender parity. The challenge is how do we increase that? And the barriers are quite high. One is language. Two is the technical nature of what ICANN deals with. So, even if you understand English a little bit, understanding the technical aspect of ICANN's work requires quite a bit of effort on your own part, and talking to different people, and reading about it.

And then participating in the process is also challenging because sometimes the calls are not according to your time zone. And when public comments come up for an opportunity to provide input online, sometimes you don't notice it. You're not aware.

The timing is not appropriate because you're busy. And then sometimes you just cannot come to an ICANN meeting to provide the input at the time itself. And so, the challenges are high, and I think ICANN organization understands it, which is why they try to come up with the regional strategy and also the stakeholder engagement strategy as well.

And the ideal way for me is actually rather than trying to get input in and then centralized is actually to go out to the regions

and try to have those discussions at the regional level, and then bring it up to the global level. In the past, there has been resistance from policy-oriented groups.

They're saying that ICANN policies are global. We cannot deal with it at the regional level. I disagree. I think that you can have a global policy and have regional input. And I think that if you have this two-layered process, you stand a good chance of bringing in the voices from the developing world while building their capacity to understand the issues. Yeah.

MUNIT: Hi, thank you for the opportunity. Munit, ICANN fellow and NomCom 2 member. I've asked this question already to a couple of board directors, and there was a little conflict in the statement that I just heard from you, so I just wanted to ask this question to you now.

It was Garand that I asked this question, Thomas Schneider I asked this question. So, the question, of course, is that now that [INAUDIBLE] transition is locked, and I was told that the transition is locked, both ICANN as an independent body. There cannot be an outside interference. You just mentioned that looking at the US elections with the new president coming on board, there could be a problem. How?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: So, the transition is done. ICANN is independent now. There will be, I expect, political pressure from the new US government leadership, the executive in particular, to say that will make things difficult for us. The press could be involved.

And it brings into question the problem—or not the problem, the issue of jurisdiction. We made it clear in the transition process that jurisdiction for ICANN is basically we're governed by US law, California law. And I would expect that it will just be made difficult for us.

We will experience challenges. It will create pressure. We would have to devote resources to deal with it, and it will just distract us from what we're doing. That's how.

MUNIT: Okay, I'm sorry. The follow-up question to this is related. So, I asked this to Garand. How is ICANN board going to try and make sure the transparent functioning of the board? Garand's answer was "I'm going to be cautious. I'm Swedish." Thomas said "ICANN board does not make laws. It's from the ground that starts and then recommendations start up, come to the board." How do you think you're going to, as a board director, make sure that it's transparent?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: At the moment, there is transparency, because the outcomes of the board meetings are shared with the public, and it's shared with the public at multiple levels. Two days after a board meeting—well, before the board meeting there's notice on agenda items, and then the board meeting happens. And then two days after the board meeting, there is a requirement for the resolutions to be posted.

So, you know what the decisions are. And then a few days after, I can't remember exactly how many days, the minutes are published. So, in that regard, there is transparency on what happened, you're just not seeing it live. And part of the challenge is in making board meetings fully transparent is that sometimes the topic that we talk about have liability consideration.

People can use the information that we discuss to basically sue ICANN, take us to court, and that just creates more challenges for us. And we're trying to be cautious. So, we agree that we need to be more transparent in what we do, apart from sharing and publishing information about our decisions, providing a rationale for it.

We are also starting to open up aspects of our workshops and our proceedings. We're doing it gradually, because as I said, it's

not easy to do this. If it were easy, it would have been done already. So, I look forward to moving forward, to having more open sessions. And if there is a lack of clarity in terms of why the board is making certain decisions, I hope that that will be addressed as well.

MUNIT: Okay.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: I have just lost—my chair of the session is missing. So, go ahead.

PAUL: So, Paul again, for the record. My question is what new opportunities exist for participants, including fellows, in the new post-[INAUDIBLE] transition? Because the new structures, and so how can we fellows, and also new participants, engage more and participate?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you very much for this question. It's a very important one. What we struggle with in ICANN is we need a continuous infusion of new people in the system. And the reason is that is to ensure that there is always challenge to how people are thinking, making sure that we're not stuck in a particular mind frame, also

to get a fresh injection of new ideas on how to address problems.

So, there are different ways in which you can do this. You can become members of a stakeholder group. You could run for positions, let's say on the ALAC. The regions appoint two individuals, and NomCom appoints one for each region. So, you could try to get into that process, although they—I think there is an expectation that you show some track record, because before you get the support from your community, before they endorse you as their representative to a body.

So, engage, participate in issues discussion, become visible. And I'll cite one stellar example that I have seen that came out of Africa, in the person of [INAUDIBLE]. I don't know if you know him. If you don't, please get to know him. He, for me, came out of nowhere and started engaging in all the different lists that mattered to him, and he was providing some very thought-provoking questions, and also contributing to the discussions.

And that was very exemplary and a really good model for others to follow. But I also understand that for him, it's a huge time investment on his part. So, you need to have a very good understanding of how much you can contribute, and then figure out where you want to engage and do it in a very focused manner.

And once you do that, people will realize that you are present, you are contributing, you have value, and then you will be able to move up in the system.

ALBERT DANIELS: Okay, so we'll go to the back of the room, the gentleman in the back row, and then we'll come back to the front and then we'll come back to the back.

LAURENCE: Good afternoon. My name is Laurence, an alumni of the fellowship program and a member of the BC. Apparently, it appears that very soon in the future we might have to look for another name for the new gTLD program, suspecting that new rounds might happen soon.

Again, we see that ICANN has had to commission studies in Latin America, Middle East, and the African one is on the way towards looking into why the program hasn't been so successful and why we haven't had so much outtake from the underserved regions.

So, my question to you, representing the board, is learning from what's currently—what we currently have on ground, what is the board doing to ensure that when the next round opens, our regions will have some active participation, and the challenges that we presently see will be mitigated? Thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: So, thank you very much for the question. Regarding the new gTLD program, it's a controversial program. When it was introduced, there were forces that wanted it and there were forces that did not want it. There were people who felt that the world does not need this.

Why do we need to expand the domain name space? And that debate continues today. Nonetheless, we do have the new gTLD program, and more than 1,000 names have been delegated into the root. And right now, what we need to do is we need to assess the success of that, and also the problems that came up from that.

And we should not expect to move forward with the next round until we know and especially fix the problems that have emerged from the current round. And this is very important, and that's also why you're seeing many reviews being conducted, including the CCTC review, the competition consumer trust and choice review team, that's a very important one.

And what they're struggling with right now is data, relevant data. And that's why you're also seeing all the studies being commissioned to supplement that. And so, I haven't really seen a particular launch date for next round. Discussions are underway in terms of—in different groups, in terms of if there is

to be a next round, and if there is agreement in the community that there should be a next round, what should that next round focus on?

Should it be focused on underserved regions? Should it be focused on brand TLDs? And these discussions are ongoing. So, I, as a board director, I will not have an opinion on this. I will actually wait to hear the views coming from the community to guide the board. Yeah? Okay.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm sorry. I just left for a couple of minutes to solve some financial issues for fellows. I'm back. So, Fadi, and we have one more question from Amal, and then we'll—

FADI: Hi, Fadi. I'm from Syria. So, my question, you've answered part of it, but maybe there's another part to that. With what's happening in the elections, almost certain in the US that there will be a Republican president, congress and maybe a Senate as well.

And as part of the discussions in the post-[INAUDIBLE] transition, there has been a politicization of the losing control of ICANN or the internet in general in the US, and that can emerge again, or reemerge again in the process of making America great again.

And in addition to other areas in the world where there's additional control over, or aim to take control over many things, including control of the internet, do you see a threat of fragmentation, in a worst case, perfect storm scenario of the internet? There has been also a discussion going on probably in ICANN. What's your view on this?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you. You guys don't ask easy questions, do you? I just want to make sure that I'm speaking in my individual capacity. I do not speak for the board. Okay? I speak as Rinalia. So, please don't misquote me. There is always the threat from the external environment that there are forces that want to take away the function that ICANN has now.

These threats have existed before. It exists now. And it will continue to exist moving forward. That's why when you go into discussions about internet governance, there is always this discussion about the ITU, like sort of what is the ITU doing?

And it's less about the ITU as a structure or organization than it is about the individual governments participating in the ITU and trying to instrumentalize that for their own national interests. And this is a normal way of national interests and sovereign playing in international organizations. In terms of threat of

internet fragmentation, it actually already exists, and I think that there is possibility that it may be more going forward.

It just depends on how much control individual leaders of certain countries can push or impose that for their country moving forward, and I don't want to speak too much about that. But we already know that it exists. There is the possibility that it is moving forward, and we may end up no longer having one internet, single, open, interoperable internet.

And this is not going to benefit anyone if we lose this, because what will end up is I won't be able to communicate with you because you are on a separate network. And it will demolish every progress that we've made in human society since the internet was created and unleased onto the world population.

And if you believe that the internet has been a good force for development, then it is something that's worth fighting for, and to maintain, single, open, interoperable internet.

ANNALISA: Hi Rinalia, it's Annalisa [INAUDIBLE]. At first, I want to agree with the dialogue. You really present a perfect role model for all ladies here, and we thank you for—are lucky for having you here. My question is do you think the commercial bodies have louder voices in ICANN board than the public interest voices, especially

in terms of wellbeing, in terms of the number of seats of commercial bodies and governments?

Do you think that ALAC and NCSG have to have more seats to represent the public interest? My second question is do you think that after the [INAUDIBLE] transition, there will be claims or a need for an external monitoring and evaluation mechanism?

Not from the new ICANN structure, I mean claims from the government or just end users for ICANN. Because now ICANN controls the whole—not the ICANN [INAUDIBLE] It's multistakeholder model controls the whole internet governance issues. Should there be an external body for monitoring, evaluation and review? Thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Monitoring, evaluation and review of ICANN, you mean? Yeah, okay. So, thank you for the question. The balance of interest in ICANN is a very interesting topic, actually, and I'm sure you've been presented with structures of ICANN organizations and how many seats are allocated, for example, to GNSO councilors.

And the very complex, I would say, voting system that they have, weighted voting system on different issues and topics. There is always a resistance to change, and if at the start, the system has

been developed in such a way where for-profit entities have more say, when you try to take that away from them in having a more balanced system, there is naturally always resistance.

I'm speaking about this in general, not specifically. I'm just saying that there's always inertia in a system for progress, because you already have it. Why would you want to lose it, even to promote public interests? It's just human nature. But to move forward, I would say that in the board, the discussion is collegial, and we discuss things from an individual perspective.

If you have a conflict of interest, let's say a decision is on the table and we have to discuss it, if you or your organization benefits from that, you have to recuse yourself, meaning that you do not participate in that discussion. So, conflict of interest is taken very seriously at the board level, especially when decisions come into play. In terms of balance of stakeholder interest, it's interesting, because this also came up in the discussion with the GAC.

And the GAC was trying to say that they need more support to reach out to underserved regions, to supplement GAC participation in ICANN. And the interest is to have a strong GAC so that it can also serve as a balance to the other forces.

The same argument would apply to the ALAC and to the non-commercial groups. They would want to have more

participation, more strength in coming in. So, I'm not answering you very directly, but I think for-profit entities have an edge coming into the system because it could be that it's their industry and it's their job.

So, they are paid with a day job to do this, and they come in, and they can come in with force. They have numbers, and so they can have a lot of influence, because they can be in every policy working group and every activity that ICANN does that is of benefit to them.

So, in order to put balance into the system, we have to ensure that the other parts of ICANN are also supported, and that's why I'm encouraging you to engage and to support, let's say the non-commercial entities, as well as the At-Large, because they need this help in maintaining the balance in the system.

And forget about sort of like voting, or number of vote directors, and whatever it is. The influence actually comes in when you do the policy discussion and when you want to reach consensus.

And because there are voices, the weights of the voices around the table, if you are not present to argue for the alternative point of view, that point of view is not going to be captured, and it's probably just going to be ignored. And that's why we need to reinforce participation in ICANN. I hope I answered your question.

APRIL: Hi, I'm April, and I'm one of the new tribal ambassadors. I have a question about just being a board director. It's been my experience that most boards, you're responsible for raising funds, and then you're also sort of the visionaries of taking the missions of the organizations and advancing them forward. Is that the same for ICANN board members?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you. We are responsible for financial oversight, but we don't do fundraising. Because ICANN has revenue and support coming in from the TLD registrations, through the fees generated from the registries and the registrars.

In terms of mission, I think the board has a responsibility to ensure that the organization is sustainable going into the future, and that requires that we're able to deliver on our mission, really. Really have the full capacity to deliver on our mission and in my view, also to ensure that we have a robust, multi-stakeholder practice, based on the model that ICANN has chosen.

Because if we don't have that, we can't proceed in delivering our mission. So, the full capacity to deliver technical excellence, operational excellence, but also maintaining the multi-

stakeholder model, because that's how we generate our policies in moving forward. So, ICANN is slightly different than the traditional and conventional boards that you are familiar with. But I appreciate having you here, April. It's great to have tribal ambassadors.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Valerie, you have the question. This is our second tribal ambassador. So, we have two.

VALERIE FASTHORSE: Valerie Fasthorse, [INAUDIBLE] tribe from Idaho, the second tribal ambassador. I'm very interested in what you had said about the balance approach, and I understand the big corporate interests, they have the deep pockets. And like you said, they do—they can show up in force and pay for every single meeting, and just because it's their day job, where the rest of us, we have day jobs.

This is something we have to do on the side. One of my questions is I know that there's multiple parts of ICANN that I would like to send my staff to so that each of us, if we want to participate in the future, that we can focus, like you said. That's a good point.

But how do we know which ones are funded or paid for and which ones aren't, or is it the—should I just assume that we will be paying for our own participation from here forward?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you, Valerie, and welcome also, together with April. I actually don't know, and I'd have to check on what the policy and level of support would be. In terms of knowing what to focus on, it requires a bit of work on your part to figure that out. It also helps if you just talk to the different leaders of each one of the groups to make sure that your interests are indeed within the structures that you are interested in.

So, if you don't mind, I'll take it back and just ask what the situation is on support, because I really don't know. That's something that I will pass to Yuron.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: If I can add, each and every constituency has different approach of people to be funded. So, this may be probably important for you to do a little bit more research on their websites to go and find out. Because GAC has some slots for funding. ccNSO and SO, they have slots for funding, but it's all different.

They are all different. So, I don't think Rinalia will be able to go back and find out all this information. It would be better if you

go and do a bit of research through their own websites and find more information. And if you have the questions for specific ones, you can tell us and we'll be able to find out. Albert?

ALBERT DANIELS: Yes, and this absolutely correct. The One Global Program is what we are in right now, the fellowship program, which ICANN supports financially to all constituents. But the governmental advisory committee gives travel support, which is a competitive process, to developing countries, ones who have not been to an ICANN meeting before.

The ccNSO, the country code name supporting organization, also has some facilities. The At-Large has facilitates. The most important point, I think, to you fellows is that you will find that if you volunteer for working groups, if you get involved in what is happening within the ICANN community, there is a far higher likelihood that there would be some financial support, even though it's not part of a formal system, that would be offered to you.

So, if you are doing some work in the ccNSO, in the At-Large, or in any one of the constituencies, then they would realize, "Oh my goodness, April has to be at the meeting. We need to get her to the meeting." You may get some financial support. There are some formal ones, fellowship program, the GAC, the ccNSO and

so one, but you need to do some work in terms of research to find out what happens.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Narine? We have so many questions. I'm sorry, Rinalia. We put all the hard work on you because of Asha couldn't make it, and Louisa has already left, so you were the only—so you are taking the hard part of all our questions. Narine?

NARINE: Narine, Armenia. Rinalia, you are a member of the board on behalf of At-Large community, and ultimately you are representing end users. So, my question is, what are the working mechanisms at ICANN to protect the interests of end users and ultimately the public interests? Thank you very much.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: This is a very difficult question. What are the mechanisms to defend public interests? One of the mechanisms is when an issue or a recommendation comes up to the board for decision-making, we have to assess that based on whether or not it fits within ICANN's mission and bylaw requirements.

So, we have the mission statement. We have the core values and commitments. And other things, for example, if we fail in

ensuring an initiative is compliant with security and stability of the DNS, that's not in the public interests. That's number one.

That's what ICANN has to deliver to make sure that DNS works perfectly, and you would know immediately. The other part of it is compliance with laws and regulations that are applicable to us. And whenever we fail in that regard, we will get sued.

And then you would see litigation happen. And finally, I think possibly something that we can put in place, particularly in relation to the end user aspect, because essentially, when you take off your hats, your multiple hats of what you do professionally, in the end, we're all end users. It's all our interest.

And I think to just insert a question on whether or not this policy recommendation, in the end, creates value for the internet end users. And if we have that, then I think we would be definitely heading in the right direction. Thank you.

SALIN: Okay, thank you. This is Salin, first-time fellow. I have been a silent subscriber of most mailing lists of ICANN's, and I recently have seen that ICANN is now fighting developing this abuse, or I don't know how to call it, procedures or rules to prevent abuses. Are there any specific incidents which led ICANN to develop

these new procedures? If you can tell us of one or two. Thank you.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: I'm not sure I can right now. I'm sorry. On the abuse one, I think I'm still looking into it, to see what the positions could be and how improvements can be done, but I haven't really seen anything concrete that I can share with you. Next time we talk, we can probably talk about it again. I hope that's okay.

JASON HINES: Hi, Jason Hines. I was wondering to what degree is it a challenge to maintain the fiduciary responsibility for the board members given that a lot of the direction is coming from the community? So, I was thinking that some activities and projects could really strain the operational budget as well as the new gTLD program would enhance it.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Okay, so basically, strain emerging from community initiatives on the fiduciary obligations of corporate directors, basically? It comes about once in a while. We've had it tested during the transition process, where the CCWG legal fees and associated fees actually shot up.

It's at a level that nobody expected, and that was a challenge for us in trying to manage it, because it was unexpected and it wasn't clear to us how it would emerge, or how it would evolve. I think there was learning in the system, and I think moving forward, there is better mechanisms in place to make sure that in terms of the financial oversight, that at the start, we state what the parameters are for financing activities.

An example would be—and it's not a common example, but it's the auction funds example. A community is determining how those funds will be distributed and what the rules would be, and what ICANN organization and the directors are trying to impress upon the process is please be aware of our legal and financial obligations that will be compliant with the law.

And if the community takes that into account, then they will not run astray and they will actually fall within the parameter. And if there's alignment, we won't have a problem. If there is a misalignment, I think the board will come forward and say "We have a problem. We need to resolve it. We'd like to talk to you and discuss how to move forward on this."

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay, Rinalia. Last words to our fellows? Your message.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: So, my message to you is please sustain your engagement in ICANN. We desperately need more diversity, new voices, new ideas. When you come into the system, please don't be discouraged. You will encounter challenges. This is very normal in ICANN, but you must be resilient.

Because it's not just for you, but it's for everyone, and if you are really serious about public interests, this is something that's really worthwhile to contribute. And also, just acknowledge that it is a voluntary effort on your part. It will take up your time, resources, take time away from your family. So, understand the sacrifices that you would be making and make a conscious decision, and manage it properly. Okay? Thank you for your time.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You are resilient. Thank you very much in having this opportunity. I also would like to congratulate our new incoming board member, [INAUDIBLE]. Thank you very much for being with us. Rinalia, thank you for coming, and all the best to our new board.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thanks, [INAUDIBLE]. Bye.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay, guys. Done. I have, during the session, the meeting is adjourned, so the official part of the meeting is adjourned, and please, we'll stop here recording. I wish you all safe trip back, and I hope you enjoyed this week here. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So, the recording is not there anymore. Okay. So, I was trying to find out during this session, simultaneously, how approximately—how much approximately you have in cash—

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]