
HYDERABAD – Fellowship Daily Sessions
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ICANN57 | Hyderabad, India

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: ...Fellowship Daily Sessions, starting at 11 AM.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. We are starting now. I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of you for the first actual Fellowship daily session. And today we'll be having a couple of presentations and guests. And we will be starting on the presentation on At-Large, advisory committee.

It's the one that deals with end users. I will present our presenters a bit later, but I would also like to thank [inaudible] she will be doing remote moderation for today's session. And please be ready for asking questions to our guests. It's great pleasure for me to introduce you, one of the excellent Fellows who is now vice-chair for At-Large advisory committee, who is our first guest, Tijani Ben Jemaa.

Give your applause to him. [APPLAUSE] A good friend with whom we were Fellows in [inaudible]. So, it's great pleasure for me that he will be presenting, and tell us about At-Large. And

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those of you who will be interested in joining At-Large are more than welcome to contact this guy and ask questions.

Tijani, the floor is yours.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much Siranush. It is always a pleasure for me to come to the Fellows. I will not forget the meeting of ICANN in Cairo when I used to be a Fellow, together with her. And the Fellowship program was one way for all of this community to become leaders. All those leaders, most of them used to be Fellows.

Some of the staff member also, she's one. So, the Fellowship program, in my point of view, is a wonderful tool, a wonderful, how to say, construction that Janice did, and she did it very well. So well that it becomes now one of the most important tool of recruitment for ICANN, for the community of ICANN.

Yesterday, or day before, someone told us that we need now for those old people to step down and let newcomers and young takeover. This is a very good suggestion, I approved it, but I said also that we need the young and the newcomers to step, to come and to takeover, but we are also concerned about the result of the work.

So, even if you want someone to become leader, he will not become leader if he is not interested. If he doesn't invest. If he doesn't read the documentation he receives. If he doesn't attend the calls. So, if you want to be leaders, you have to make a big effort. And it is our duty to help you. Our duty also to step down and let you take over.

So, before we can do that, you have to invest, you have to work. I am coming from the end users, from At-Large. So, At-Large, as by the bylaw of ICANN is, if you want, is the representative of the interest of the end users. So, as you know, in this community, in this ICANN community, each part of the ICANN community has its own interests.

Some have financial interests. That's normal. Others have political interest. And that's normal too. For example, the GAC, the governments, have political interests. For example, in the GNSO, the registries registrar have financial interest. We have only the public interest to defend. So we don't have any other interest to defend other than the public interest.

I find that the At-Large community is more or less part of the whole community who doesn't have a specific interest, and the volunteers in At-Large are really investing from their effort, from their time, without any objective, any material objective, if you want. And they are necessary in this community, because

otherwise, it would become a community of interests only, of personal or narrow interest.

At-Large community is composed of five parts, and this is one of the strengths of this community. We are spread all over the world. So, each region of ICANN, ICANN has five regions, has, At-Large is represented there by a RALO. RALO is a Regional At-Large Organization. I am from Africa, so I am from AFRALO. African Regional At-Large Organization.

And all of the other regions have their own RALOs. And those RALOs are composed of ALSs. At-Large Structures. What are those At-Large Structures? Those are organizations or associations that represent, or not represent, that deal with the end users interest. So, you can become member of At-Large, member of one of those RALOs, if you have such organization or association.

In some regions, they accept also individuals as members. So for example, from my region, it is not adopted, but for other regions, members can be also, individual persons can be also members of the RALOs. I would like to invite you to come to At-Large and to see how we are working.

We are a wonderful community because we are absolutely diverse. The most diverse part of the ICANN community is At-Large, because first we are regionally very well balanced,

because we have more or less, as women as men. In the leadership, we have a lot of women, and also because we have, if you want, a common way to address the ICANN work, which is the public interest.

We have the public interest to defend, so we have this in common. Maureen came, and Maureen is also a member of ALAC, she's from APRALO. I will give her the floor, she will continue.

[SPEAKER OFF MICROPHONE]

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

I'll just let you know that ALAC is a part of At-Large. So, there are representatives... I think you can talk about what is ALAC, first, how it comes from At-Large. And Maureen is one of another talented Fellows who is taking the role in Asia-Pacific. And she's also member of ALAC from Asia-Pacific. And she's also ccNSO liaison from At-Large.

And she is from Pacific Island, and has a great experience of bringing a female voice from developing country here into ICANN. So Maureen, it's a pleasure having you with us. The floor is yours.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you very much. I'm so sorry I'm late. I couldn't find the room. Well yes, I think one of the interesting things about the ALAC is that anybody can actually become a member of the ALAC, eventually. One of the things about... Have you mentioned the fact that there are 15 people? No. Okay.

The ALAC consists, of course, of 15 people. Three of each from the different regional At-Large organizations. And as Siranush said, I'm actually from the Asia-Pacific, well it's actually the Asian, Austra-Asian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization. So APRALO, sorry, we just have to use the acronym because it's a lot easier to say.

But within the Asia-Pacific region, there are three of us. And two are elected by the members. The ALS members of each regional organization, two are elected. And the third one is appointed by the NomCom, and that's an organization that no doubt you will...

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: NomCom is Nomination Committee. And ALAC is advisory committee. At-Large, advisory committee. So there is At-Large community, and there are 15 people who makes this At-Large committee.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Advisory committee, yeah. And as, within the 15 members, of course, Tijani is from, represents, is a representative from the African region. And I mean, it's a pretty broad, inclusive, representation. But of course, we can't say we actually represent... We sort of like represent the interests of the people within our region.

I mean, I can't say that I actually represent, you know, that I am sort of like the representative of all of the people in the Pacific. 22 countries, each with their own language. I mean, I speak English. For my sins, I don't even speak the language of my own country. I wasn't born there.

But within one of the countries, and I think, Papua New Guinea is represented here, and there is about, there is hundreds of different dialects within one country. So, to sort of like say that we represent the interests of all of the end users, is really [inaudible].

But, so we've got, we have the 15 people on the ALAC. We represent a lot of different interest areas. And as Siranush said, I am the liaison for the ccNSO, which is the country code naming supporting organization. And so, my interests are in the areas of ccTLDs, and country code top level domains.

I must remember that I'll try not to say the acronyms as often as we do. They just trip off your tongue because we say them so

often. But it is, like I mean, when we're talking about the, like the multistakeholder model here, you know, we are a whole lot of people all contributing voices to policy development process.

What were you going to talk about, Tijani?

Is there anything else that you want me to focus on?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If you can specifically tell about APRALO events taking place this week, and then we'll go for questions.

MAUREEN HILYARD: We would love you to come to the APRALO events that we are holding this week. We've spent a lot of time preparing for this meeting, and well, you know, when we think about it, it was pretty [inaudible] because it normally takes... When Siranush was our leader, we would actually start preparing at least over a year before a meeting took place.

This time, of course, we were given only a few months when we heard that it was actually not going to be held in Puerto Rico, which we were really looking forward to, I must admit. But, it's a real honor to actually be able to host all the people of the world within our region.

And remembering that our region goes from Armenia and the Middle East, right across to Japan, right down including New Zealand and Australia, and all of the countries in the Pacific. It's an enormous organization. And our motto is celebrating diversity, because we're probably the most diverse region of all of the regions.

And so, we have our showcase, which is on tomorrow night. Tomorrow night, 5:00, 6:00, check your... 6:30. Thank you. So, at 6:30, come along. It's really a networking opportunity. A chance for you to sort of like meet people from the APRALO region. And that will be the people who are wearing this badge saying, ask me about APRALO.

And we want to just sort of like... What you learn about APRALO would be [inaudible] sort of things that are in the other regions as well, except we do them a little bit differently. And so, we celebrate diversity. There is the APRALO showcase. And then, starting at lunchtime today, again, times, they'll be in the schedule. But today and... There will be four session, capacity building sessions.

If you want to know, probably to support the sort of thing that you're actually learning in your sessions with Siranush, but we'll probably be looking just a little bit more in sort of like a practical

sense, about what is ICANN, what is the ALAC, what is an ALS, and how you can contribute to the workings of ICANN.

And I think the full session is, where to from now, after the transition? And how can you contribute to the new order of things, you know, post-transition? So, those are the four areas, and it just means that you miss half of your lunch. It's best if you can pick up a bit of lunch, get out to lunch early, have a bit of lunch, and then come into our capacity building sessions.

We'd love to see you there. And they're going to be taken by people within the APRALO system.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much. As you know, ICANN has three meetings a year. And each time, the meeting is in one different region of ICANN. And each time, ICANN hold the meeting in one region, At-Large, the part of At-Large from this region, which is the RALO of this region, organize the showcase. And the showcase is a social event.

It's more a networking area, networking event, so that people come together, and there is always music, always food, always

drink, etc. And it is also a way for this RALO to showcase their work or their ALSs. So what said Maureen is very important. I really invite you to come to this event, because it is a way for you to see how At-Large is diverse, how At-Large is working, and it is a way also to see the culture of this region.

This is one thing. The second thing I wanted to say, the African community, the African At-Large community, hold in each ICANN meeting, a joint meeting between the At-Large African community, and the other part of the ICANN community from Africa. So that they meet together and they discuss a hot topic of ICANN.

And at the end, they send a statement to the Board. So, I invite you also to come to the AFRALO ICANN meeting, that will be held on 7 of November. I don't know the room exactly, but please come. See the schedule and come to this event too. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Tijani. So, we have 10 minutes to go with questions. Please. And don't forget to state your name before asking your question for our remote people to know who is speaking.

LUCAS: Lucas from Brazil. So Tijani talked about a big effort in building leadership, and now we have in front of us three leaders, and often come from At-Large and also come from Fellow. And could you list more specifically about these big efforts? Like you have initiatives, or you have like a [capacity?] building focus on leadership? I don't know.

Like, what kind of initiatives you do to build this kind of leadership?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you for raising that. We too, have been very... I think that, when we lost Siranush from our system, we realized that we were like, you know, I mean, it was going to leave a big gap in our leadership program. And so what we have done... To be truthful, we have been thinking of it for a while.

But, what we decided to do is to introduce a mentoring program within our region. And the mentors are our leadership team, our current leadership team. And what we did is we asked for, within the ALS system, we asked for people who would actually would like to consider some leadership role.

It might be a leadership role for a personal reason, or it might be leadership role within ICANN or within APRALO, it didn't necessarily have to be in At-Large. But it might, just to offer

them an opportunity to develop themselves and readiness for a leadership role somewhere. And we've actually just started, we actually just introduced it, just before we came to Hyderabad.

And, we have, I have two of my mentees are actually coaches, that was in your system here. And, so you know, they're already sort of like demonstrating that they have the skills, and also that.... In preparation for next year, which will be the end of the term for some of our positions in our leadership team, there will be opportunities for people to apply for some leadership roles.

And so what we're doing is we're actually providing those opportunities for each, yeah, I have the, my two... As I've said, I've got two mentees from within our ALS system, but I have also, of course, the two tribal ambassadors who are here. And we are really hoping to encourage the ICANN system to grow that, to enable some leadership within another part of ICANN as well.

So, I mean, this is something that APRALO is doing, and I'm sure that AFRALO has a similar sort of program.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Another way to prepare people for leadership positions, is the capacity building. And At-Large has a working group on capacity building, that everyone can attend. It is not restricted to the

members of ICANN, of At-Large. It is open to everyone, even people who are not ICANN yet. So, you can attend all of those webinar. We hold 12 webinars per year.

And we give basic knowledge about topics that are of interest here in ICANN.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Sorry, I would just like to just say that Tijani is the leader of that capacity building working group, and I'm a member.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Paul.

PAUL: Okay. Paul from Kenya. I have a question to Tijani, concerning individual membership in ALAC, because traditionally, you actually only submit members who are part of the At-Large structure. And this a usual organization, so particularly Internet Society Chapters. So with regard to Africa and AFRALO, are you in the process, or are there any exercises you're doing to consider individual membership?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much for this question. We have already a working group on the review of our, not bylaws, but our rules, if

you want, of AFRALO rules. And one of the points that is discussed now is, we call it, unaffiliated members. Means that members that are, that doesn't have organization or associations.

And this was discussed. And unfortunately in AFRALO, people are not yet convinced they see a lot of problems in accepting individual members. But since I was the leader of this working group too, I pushed toward making it happen, but now with some conditions. Not now, next year, individual members can come to AFRALO, but they don't have the right to vote.

In the future, I am sure we will reach another kind of agreement to make them vote, but we will find a way because it's normal. An organization is representing people. An individual is representing himself. So the weight is not the same, and you will find how to make them represented. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please.

JAMES: I'm James [inaudible] from South Sudan. Tijani mentioned before that the role of the At-Large deals with the end users. And that is something similar to what we are doing. Of course, we do engage the end users on how to make them understand

that the internet is a common place that can be used for reflecting diverse voices. And in that note, I just want to know like, partially we belong to the [inaudible] region, and if there is a specific community for that, for the [inaudible] region.

And also, for a specific country to become a member of that country, is there some other requirements? Like for South Sudan, I think, in most cases, is excluded. Is there anything that we have to do in order to qualify to become a member of the At-Large community?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you for this question. First of all, ICANN is organized in five regions. And [inaudible] is not an official region. It is a region inside of ICANN, but not, how to say? Not in the official regional distribution. So, we have Africa. You belong to Africa. I belong to Africa. I belong to the Middle East too, but the Middle East is not an official region in ICANN.

So, you can come to AFRALO. You can come as an association, if you have an association organization, we don't care if your country is recognized or not. Any organization, any association can be member of AFRALO.

And I think that the most important thing is the engagement. If you have the will to understand and to participate, you can

already participate to our monthly calls. There are open to everyone. And you can discuss everything with us. You can even participate in the decision inside this call.

But, to be official member, you will need to make an application. There is an online application. Siranush, I don't know if you can display the link to this application. And everyone can apply to one of the regions, one of the RALOs as an ALS, or as an individual for some regions. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If you can send me the link through email, I will disseminate to our Fellowship mailing list. Ines?

INES: Hello. Ines [inaudible] for the record. In keeping with my colleagues, I was always wondering why individuals can join in our region as individuals. And I was wondering also, the reasons behind this disagreement. Is it like a feeling, or a fear, to kind of overlap with another constituency? And I have in mind, NCUC. Just wondering. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Every regional organization has its own set of rules and procedures. So, yeah, they actually operate differently. Within

the APRALO region, we actually do accept individual members. We actually have it in our rules of procedure, but as Tijani said, they can apply to become a member of At-Large, and they can participate in any working groups, and stuff, and be part of that whole decision making within a working group thing.

It's really just when it comes to formal voting, which is very rare, I must admit. That's the thing, there is no formal, yeah, they just can't make a formal vote. I can't even think of when we've used a vote in APRALO, actually, to be honest, because most of our decisions are by consensus. So, as an individual meeting, if you were part of a meeting, and we made a decision, you would be able to participate in that decision. Go figure.

But, it's sort of like, yeah... I mean, for example... We were just talking about the Middle East, I mean, we have people, you know, ALSs from Saudi Arabia and [inaudible] who are members of APRALO. There is sort of like this fine line within the Middle East that can actually be, whether you want to identify with AFRALO or with APRALO.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. We will take one more question because our next speaker is already here, so last one, [inaudible].

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I have a question in terms of the regional communities.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can you introduce yourself [inaudible]?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I am [inaudible], I am from India. And I have a question in terms of regional distribution, or regional committees. You have, at this moment, five committees, regional committees. So, do you have any plan to increase the number of regional committees? For example, he has mentioned the [inaudible] group, and I would like to talk about South Asia. So...?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes. ICANN had this concern, especially ccNSO raised this point, because some said that the regional distribution is not fair. So ICANN created a working group to address this issue. And this working group worked now, I think, three or four years. It issued three reports, I think, and now they have their final report, and I think ICANN would decide very, very soon on the final decision on that.

But the final decision would be, as I will tell you, because this is the consensus, more or less. People think that the regional distribution is fair now. If there are some regions, or some

countries, or some [inaudible] that are not happy with their belonging to one region, they can ask to move to another region. It is possible. Because the proposal... There is a lot of interest, contradiction interests, and we cannot find a common ground.

So, the best we said, we have to keep the actual distribution, but give people, give regions, give territories, the ability to change from a region to another. There is a lot of problems. Maureen can tell you a lot about that, because she is coming from a region that really need some improvement.

But the situation is this now.

SIRANUSH VARDANAYN: Thank you very much. And once again, a big applause to our At-Large people for coming to us. [Applause]

And please send us the link for application, which we'll be sharing, and if you have any questions, see these people in the corridors, just ask them. They are really very open.

And it's my pleasure to introduce our next speaker, Sherwood Moore, who actually, those who have been here today for the newcomer's day, heard his presentation on ICANN reviews. Sherwood will go through this a bit again, provide you the detailed information, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions here in our room. The floor is yours.

SHERWOOD MOORE: Yeah, well thank you for having me, and to anybody who heard me yesterday, because I'm going to go through it again, but you'll pick up more information, hopefully this time. Right, so before I get into reviews and what they are, what I want to do is speak a little bit about the ICANN organizational goal, right? And specifically the stakeholder model.

So ICANN is responsible for maintaining a single interoperable internet, supported by stable, secure, and resilient, unique identifier systems. So what does that mean in English? It's to keep the internet free and open as it is today. Right? For ourselves and for future generations. And that turns out to be a pretty big job, because the internet itself is not a single network, it's many networks, spread across the globe, with many different languages, connecting billions of different devices, and all at the same time, being faced with different technological challenges and innovations, potentially security risks and changes to the infrastructure.

I'll go to the next slide. So, in all of this, I think, what we're doing, or how we're doing this work, is just as important as what we're doing. And that's because the multistakeholder model that we use is kind of representative of the fact that nobody owns the internet. The internet is built of stakeholders from

across the globe, for profits, non-profits, city governments, local citizens like you and me, who are all coming together in this bottom up approach to decision making.

And I look at it as a form of this kind of vast experiment, that we're all involved in making work together. And I really, I try to highlight that it really is an experiment, and the results are not totally conclusive. This is not something that we should take for granted.

It's really, ICANN's mission to support you the community in making sure that we're able to meet our commitments, because the world is watching. And there are organizations and there are people out there who would love to take over kind of running the show. And maybe potentially not approach it from a bottom up form of decision making.

So, that's my little kind of pitch about kind of the goal, and really the importance of the work that you're doing. And thank you all for being here. So I'll launch into what reviews are about now.

So reviews, at a very high level, look at past performance of the multistakeholder decision making model. We look at processes. We look at actions. We look at different outcomes. And then we make recommendations to improve future performance. And so, in this way, you can think of reviews as the ICANN, like the learning center for ICANN. You can go to the next slide.

So essentially, what we're doing is we're looking at industry best practices. We're looking at business trends. We're looking at new innovations that are coming down the pipeline, and we're trying to... When I say we, I mean you the community, you are using reviews at the mechanism, to ensure that we are on the strategic path that's been laid out for us.

And just that we're making smart decisions. Another key component that reviews allow us to do is, improve transparency and accountability. And this is a really fundamental, crucial piece to the stakeholder model. And the way it works is, reviews, essentially, they're audits. You know, they ask really hard questions. And they take a data driven approach to coming up with answers to those questions, and then they share them with the global community. And this really does three things for us.

It allows us to be more efficient across the organization. It allows us to build trust between all of the stakeholder groups and the ICANN organization and the ICANN Board. And ultimately, what I think probably is one of the most important things that reviews help us achieve, is accountability. And you'll hear that language a lot because you know, without accountability, the multistakeholder model doesn't work.

I mean, obviously it's important that we all reach the commitments and the goals that we set forth, and they're all kind of moving forward together. There are two basic types of reviews. There are specific reviews, which are purely community driven. And then there are organizational reviews. Both are moderated by bylaws. The organizational reviews are a bit different in that they are conducted by independent reviewers.

I'm going to go through some specific examples. But can you go back really quickly to that one? Yeah, the one thing I want to point out about organizational reviews, while I have it up is, essentially, these are conducted by independent reviewers, and essentially these are independent auditors that are hired, and they look at the different ICANN structures. So ASO, GNSO, ccNSO, these are all organizations that I'm sure you've heard plenty of about.

But I just wanted to kind of... On the next slide, I don't go into what... I use the language organizational structures, and I just wanted to be clear that this is what I mean when I say organizational structures. Okay, thanks.

Yeah, so the different types of reviews. So, the first one I wanted to go through, is the security, stability, and resiliency of the domain name system. And that's basically what it sounds like. It's all about looking at, you know, how we make the internet

system of unique identifiers resilient to shocks of the system, how we make sure it's secure, how we make sure it's stable.

And it's all about mitigating risk. RDS, or WHOIS, is making sure that public access, that there is public access to accurate and complete domain registrant information. So, if you've ever created a website, you've shared information, and if you made the mistake that I made the first time that I start, created a website, I immediately started getting spammed with, my email, my phone, started getting calls from all over the place.

Well, this is part of the issue, right? It's a question of balancing the data security and the privacy of the individuals who are creating the website and creating the applications, with the legitimate needs of law enforcement. So that's a big question.

Another one that we focus on is accountability and transparency. And this is a huge question. And the question is, are there robust mechanisms in place for public input? Is decision making reflective of the public interest? And you know, is ICANN, and is it being held accountable to all stakeholders?

The last one for specific reviews, and again, just to remind you, the blue ones are specific reviews of the ones that are driven purely by the community. There is competition, consumer trust, and consumer choice. And this is focusing on the impact from

the introduction and the expansion of top level domains, which is kind of... There is a lot of buzz around this one right now.

There is... So this is like dot com, dot org, dot ink, there literally is a dot buzz coming out. Dot Google, this is an entirely new marketplace... Well, not entirely new marketplace, but there are changes to the marketplace, and the question is, is it functioning in a way that there is optimal competition, consumer trust, and choice within that marketplace?

Last but definitely not least, are the organizational reviews. And so again, that's looking at the individual structures, the supporting organizations, and the advisory committees, and making sure that they are fulfilling their purpose, and that they're operating effectively, and that they are being held accountable to their stakeholders.

So, this is a really busy slide, and I made it busy on purpose, because it's basically showing what we have coming down the pipeline. We've got a lot. And I can't speak to all of them, because we'd be here all day. But the ones I did want to highlight are these specific reviews that we have coming down.

So right now, CCT review is actually in the process of developing their recommendations. And so it's a really exciting time because in the next probably four to six weeks, they're going to be opening up their recommendations for public comment. So

that's a really good opportunity for people to kind of get involved in, to have interest in that area.

We also have the security, stability, and resiliency review coming down the pipeline. We just finished up, we wrapped up our call for volunteers. We have a good number of applicants, we'll be announcing them soon, but that review will be launching, and there will be a lot of opportunity for public input and public participation. And I'm going to share some specifics in a little bit, but that's coming up as well.

And then RDS, which is formally known as WHOIS, and this is all about the information behind the registrants for the websites. So this one has a call for volunteers, that's opened right now. And you can actually go to ICANN announcements, and you can see the call for volunteers. And it's a really good exercise because you can get a good feel for what the application process is like, what specific skill sets we're looking for, and what you can expect in the process of actually conducting the review.

The last one I wanted to bring up was ATRT accountability and transparency. That's a really important one, and that call for volunteers will go out the door, I can't say exactly when, but within the next month.

Right. So, becoming active in ICANN reviews. The first recommendation that I would make is join your community. The specific reviews are the people, the review team members who are being chosen for that are actually being chosen by the different SOs and ACs. And they're probably much more likely to choose somebody that actually know, right?

So the first step, for any kind of participation in ICANN, is just a really good recommendation to find that community and go ahead and join it. How to actively participate in reviews? Obviously, there is joining a review team. But you can also observe review team meetings, and you can share input. And there are a lot of different review teams meetings, especially with all the reviews we have coming up.

So, it's really about finding which review interests you, getting kind of plugged in, listening and learning what the issues that they're focused on, maybe finding a subgroup that you're particularly interested in. And there are ways that we have set up, that you can learn about, that are on the Wiki, that I'll kind of direct you to, that you can actually provide direct input, and start making an impact immediately, building relationships with the community, and developing that subject matter expertise that's so valuable, to the entire process.

So, why...? Actually, could you go back one real quick? Make sure... Yeah, the last one is taking surveys. That's obviously an easy way to connect and get involved, but review activities, where they are promoted.

There is a mailing list I'll be passing around a list where you can sign up, and you'll have information to all of the upcoming activities. If you've already signed up, you don't need to sign up twice. We also promote through social media channels and the Wiki pages. There is a calendar that we'll have for each individual review, where you can go in and see the different, that's where you find out all of the meeting information and how to participate virtually.

So, why the community members participate. Well, there are a lot of reasons. There is the larger, higher purpose of building and protecting the future of the internet for everyone. There is an opportunity to develop a lot of really important valuable skills and expertise that can help you in your professional career.

There is a really good opportunity. I mean, ICANN is a very tight knit community, and joining the review is a great way to start building those relationships with a global network of professionals, and all of the benefits that come from that. There is also the ability to contribute your unique skill sets. I mean, one of the things that we're looking for, you know, obviously

every review has different needs, but the opportunity to kind of bring those skill sets to the table, is a really great opportunity.

And last but not least, ensuring that the interests of your community, or your region, or your industry are represented. So, how to become review enthusiasts. We're really trying to build a very active community of people. And so the first thing, obviously, is to sign up the sheet that I'm going to pass around. I would recommend maybe visiting ICANN dot org forward slash resources forward slash reviews.

Or just go to ICANN and type in reviews. It's going to probably take you to organizational reviews first, but you can find specific reviews there as well. But do a little bit of digging. We have a lot of information that kind of shares about the process, and that there is just a ton of information. And you can quickly find your area and what interests you, and there is a lot of kind of supporting resources there.

But the main thing I would say is just kind of start getting active. There are a lot of different ways to get active. Some of them I just shared. But just getting involved, rolling up your sleeves and kind of taking a chance and throwing a comment out. I think it's just a matter of kind of taking that first step.

So, I think that's all I have. I'm going to be passing around the sheet. One thing I wanted to recommend too is we have a

session this afternoon. On the sheets that I'm passing around, there is the information of when it is. I think it's in this room. I'm forgetting the time. But it's like an introduction to reviews, and we're actually going to have three different community members who have been doing this for a long time.

And then we're going to speak specifically to how to get involved, and get their feedback on, you know, what it is to participate on a review team. Yeah. So with that, I guess if I have any time leftover, I don't know if I do.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We have a time for a couple of questions. Thank you Sherwood. I just want to tell you that one of our Fellows, [inaudible], he is in review for NomCom, for Nomination Committee this year. So, yeah. You may also ask him. I'm not sure if he is now here. First we'll go, we have one question from remote participants, and then we'll have, we'll take three questions here.

So, Ricardo, [inaudible] yeah. [Inaudible], please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] commented that he really liked the discussion. And he wants to know if this is a closed process.

SHERWOOD MOORE: Definitely not. All the different, the meetings are open to the community to observe. There are ways that you can provide your feedback directly. I think it's an email address. So that they can address that. The entire process is designed to have community input. Anybody can apply to join a review, not everybody is accepted, but it's open to anybody to apply to join the review team. So, very much open.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Ricardo?

[SPEAKER OFF MICROPHONE]

Yes, can you come close to the mic and tell your name?

RICARDO: Hi, Ricardo, a Fellow. I have two questions. The first one is, why this takes too much, every report, every review you have in your schedule, is about two years. For me, [inaudible] is a long time. The second question is, is there any obligation from the top down, or for the bottom up, to, once the review is done, to have the recommendation accepted, or not accepted, or take it, or not take it?

And this is based in the work stream two of accountability. I'm in the group of transparency. We're looking for one of the

reviews. And I feel that not all the recommendations made by the review are taken into account, and also [inaudible] questioning it. So after two years of work, in the review, then nobody takes care, or I don't know if everybody takes care of the review. Thanks, thank you.

SHERWOOD MOORE:

This are all great questions, and I want to address each one of them. Timeframe. Yeah, reviews do take a long time. The actual process for the review team to actually execute it is supposed to be 12 months. Usually there is about three months of pre-planning, and the review team will take about 12 months to execute on that.

They're executing a recommendation, right? So, they provide recommendations to the Board. The Board will then accept, reject, or they'll accept with changes, those recommendations. That takes about six months. After that, that goes into implementation. The implementation planning takes three to six months, and then actually implementing before it becomes operational, like, standards, can be six to 18.

And that's just dependent on what we're implementing, right? Because some of these are pretty big changes to the system. Your observation that recommendations aren't always easy to track, is something that's been voiced by the community. In

response to that, at least for the reviews in particular, we have developed a process through which we're able to provide kind of summary highlights, based on the different recommendations, and we're... So we've just basically developed the template to provide a way for community members to track, especially, you know, it's about motivation too.

You put all of this work in, and then you don't want it to disappear. You want it to be able to see the results, obviously. So that's something that we've heard. And we're actively, we've developed the system, and we're in the process of rolling that out. So, did I answer all of your questions? Okay, great.

FADI:

Thank you very much. Fadi [inaudible], I'm a Fellow as well. Building on that question, can you give us an example of finding or actions that were recommended by an organizational review, and how it was enforced? Let's take a GAC member, for example. And just for us to understand the enforcement mechanism, if it exists.

And, another question is, the reviewers, or the review body, is there any process for reviewing its performance? And what is, finally, the criteria for selecting the reviewers in the selection process? Thanks.

SHERWOOD MOORE: Right. So, for an example, I think a really good one was, for the first RDS WHOIS, there was just a lot of difficulty for people to find out, you know, who is actually the person who had the information behind the website. And so, one of the recommendations was for ICANN to develop a mechanism to make that very easy for the global community.

And so, ICANN actually built a site where you can go to, and type in the information of the website, and find all of the information for that. So essentially just kind of centralizing that process. Right? Criteria. Another one you said, enforcement, oh, of the review team members.

It's a really good question. So, there is ATRT, which looks at the transparency and accountability of the organization. Reviews are a part of that process. So that mechanism is in place. I don't know whether that has been applied to reviews, but that mechanism is in place. So, I think there are the tools. I mean, I think you kind of asked me like, who watches the watchers, right?

And so essentially you're asking about, is the community being held accountable...? Is there a mechanism in place to keep the community members who are conducting the review accountable to the community? Kind of.

[SPEAKER OFF MICROPHONE]

Organizational reviews. So, the organizational reviews have, they're not kind of just done in just some kind of silent environment. Like those are actually, they have independent experts, but those reviews are also designed the scope, and scoped out by the community. So, yes, that's, I think the accountability comes from community members who are actively participating in all of those reviews, absolutely.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If this is an example of this Fellowship. So, when we reviewed the Fellowship, and it was open for public comment. One of the suggestions was make inclusive, Fellowship program. And as a result of this, starting from the last, from the previous application round, Fellows... So, people from all around the globe can apply for Fellowship.

So, there is no limitations for countries anymore because it was limited only to developing countries, now it's inclusive, and every country representative can apply. So, this is one of the impacts of reviews, which are taken into consideration, and which are coming from the community. Am I right Sherwood?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you...

SHERWOOD MOORE: One more question about criteria. Yes, especially the specific reviews. We line out kind of general skill sets that we're looking for, not that we're looking for, but that would be conducive in being able to conduct the review. And then specific skill sets. But ultimately again, just to remind, or kind of be clear that with specific reviews, the community is the one who are making decisions on who the applicants are that are accepted.

I'm kind of not saying that in a very clear way, but you know.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. Thanks Sherwood, for your informative introduction to ICANN reviews. You mentioned that one of the focus areas is RDS and WHOIS. Would you explain what is the approach that you are taking to balancing the needs of data security and privacy with regard to needs of law enforcement? Thank you.

SHERWOOD MOORE: Right. So actually, I haven't been responsible for managing RDS and WHOIS review. From a general review standpoint, essentially those are, from the review standpoint, the community is responsible for looking at those processes and making decisions about whether they're being conducted, I know, in a reasonable fashion.

And I know there is a question about the actual process and whether that's going to change. But I really don't have that subject matter expertise. Like, that's really expertise that comes from the community. I'm a little bit higher level altitude. Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Do we have any...? Amon, please, okay, and then you. And then we'll have another speaker. Yeah, he's here.

BARTLETT MORGAN: I'm Bartlett Morgan. So, my question is, who does the selecting of the persons who eventually end up on these review teams? Is it... It's not specific, but is it you guys, yourselves? Or is a committee put together, and if so, from where?

SHERWOOD MOORE: Right. So, with the transition, that changed. It used to be that ICANN was responsible for selecting review team members with input from the community. Now that's something that's wholly owned by the SOs and the ACs. So, we promote it. We put the word out. And then we hand over a list of the candidates to the SOs and ACs, and they make, they're working on the process right now, actually.

But they make the selections of who the review team members are going to be. So that is a power now, that's totally owned and kind of executed by the community. Yup.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] from Yemen. I don't know if... I'm sure that the review, or ICANN reviews, feedbacks and reports has effected the IANA transition for sure, I don't know it's right or not. But for the second of the post-transition stage, will the review, or ICANN reviews, be the only tool for evaluation or monitoring of ICANN role? Or, is there any body or working group for monitoring evaluation of IANA transition, besides ICANN reviews?

SHERWOOD MOORE: Just so I understand your question. Are you saying, are ICANN reviews the only mechanism to review the effectiveness of the transition? IANA transition?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Not the effect. I mean, the second stage of work of ICANN, after the transition.

The transition, is it the only mechanism before the transition? ICANN reviews the only mechanism of evaluate, for evaluation and monitoring of ICANN work? Is it the only?

SHERWOOD MOORE: I mean, it's a good question, and I don't know if I have a good answer. For starters, it's not really... I just want to be clear about language, because it's really important that it's not ICANN's work, right? It's the community's work. I think that, I mean, ICANN reviews are a really good mechanism for kind of providing a system of balances and kind of checks to controls.

But, part of this entire system is, I mean, is about the community kind of having the power to hold each other accountable. And I think there is a lot of that, that kind of keeps a lot of processes in check. As far as, the specific... We have different ways for kind of community feedback as well.

We have the ombudsman. We have accountability and transparency report, that's coming out. This is something that was requested by the community. And so, that's all about just kind of providing clarity around, you know, whether ICANN is meeting its goals, and we're actually putting a whole bunch of processes in place to improve ethics, transparency, and accountability.

So transparency and accountability, since what we're trying to do is just improve the system across, just open up so you can see a bunch of information across the system. Make it very easy for the community to provide feedback. And so, with that

particular... And as part of strategical five point two, I believe, that particular goal essentially opens up so hopefully the entire ICANN community is given the tools to kind of keep ICANN and fellow community members, kind of accountable. Right?

So, I hope I've answered your question.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So don't ICANN reviews, outwards been like indicators before IANA transition?

SHERWOOD MOORE: Indicators?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, and...

SHERWOOD MOORE: So, what the reviews produce, is they produce recommendations, right? And the recommendations are actual actions that the, that ICANN organization should execute to improve the different things that the different views are looking at. What I'm describing, and kind of what I think your question was more directed at was, you know, how do we have mechanisms in place to keep the entire organization accountable?

And essentially, it's about kind of putting processes in place to make sure there is a lot more transparency, which naturally leads to accountability. As far as metrics on that, that is being rolled out as kind of a scorecard. So, you can see you know, how well the organization is scoring. Where the different areas of improvement are, and how it's tracking over time and improving transparency and accountability.

Does that answer your question? Okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Sherwood. If I can get your permission to send your PowerPoint presentation to the Fellows, that would be great. Thank you. And thank you once again, let's give a round of applause to our speaker.

Thank you very much. And if you have questions, if you see this person somewhere, drinking coffee, ask your question. Thank you. And we have our next presenter here, Carlos Reyes. He will be talking about root server system advisory committee. This is another advisory committee.

And Carlos is staff support for that committee. Carlos, thank you for coming. And the floor is yours.

CARLOS REYES:

Thanks Siranush. Hi everyone. My name is Carlos Reyes, as Siranush mentioned. I support the root server system advisory committee, which is one of the four advisory committees here at ICANN. And if you're not familiar with the RSSAC, the RSSAC is charged by the ICANN bylaws to advise the Board and the community on the operation, administration, security and integrity of the root server system.

So they look at the overall root service, and the RSSAC unlike, let's say, a supporting organization, does not develop policy. They only provide advice, specific to their remit. And just to talk a little bit about the composition of the RSSAC, the composition is very narrowly defined in the ICANN bylaws.

And there are representatives from the 12 root server operators, and liaisons from a variety of root zone management partner organizations. So, it's a fairly small group. If you count up 12 root server operator representatives, plus the liaisons, it's roughly under 20. They all have alternates as well, at least the RSSAC members.

So, that's the composition of RSSAC. Unfortunately the co-chairs couldn't be here with you today. They typically attend this session with the Fellows, but this meeting has been a little difficult to schedule for them. Wanted to give you an overview of some of the current work items.

One of the things that the RSSAC has been focusing on over the past few months, is root server system evolution. Essentially looking at the root server system at a high level, and exploring how the system can change and evolve. Obviously, accountability and transparency matters are very important at ICANN right now. And that's no exception at RSSAC. So the RSSAC is looking at those issues from the perspective of the root server system.

It's important to note, however, that the RSSAC and the RSSAC members, are not in a position to make decisions about the root server system. They're merely there to provide advice to the ICANN community and the ICANN Board. So a lot of those decisions are actually in the hands of the operational community, the technical community. And in collaboration with ICANN and other groups, that's how the work advances.

So there is an important distinction there to be made that the RSSAC is not in a position to dictate how root server operators conduct their business. Certainly, the RSSAC has recommendations on service level expectations and other technical parameters of how they can do this, but it's not a mandate.

One thing to keep in mind about the RSSAC, because, as I mentioned earlier, the membership is strictly defined in the

bylaws. There is another group that is a little more open, and that's called the RSSAC caucus. And the caucus is, right now, a body of 77 DNS experts, Domain Name System experts.

So, basically technical experts from around the world, who want to contribute to the work of the RSSAC, can join that group, and then they can volunteer for work parties and other projects that the RSSAC is taken on. There is a membership committee that reviews applications, and then takes, makes recommendations to the RSSAC for appointments. So there is a broader group within the RSSAC.

If any of you are interested, or if you know of folks who have technical expertise, and they would like to contribute to the work of RSSAC, then the caucus is the vehicle for that. I'll pause there and we can start with any questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Carlos. So, one abbreviation we've learned today is RSSAC. So, Root Server System Advisory Committee. Any questions? Yes, please, Valerie. Can you come closer to the mic? Introduce yourself. Thank you.

VALERIE: Okay, oh gosh, that's too close. I attended the root server operations meeting a couple of days ago.

So my question is about the root servers, how it pushes out the zone file, or it's downloaded, and then it has to be synchronized with many, many, many. And is there like a bits clock operation that helps to synchronize it? Is there a use of a bits clock? Or how does that work?

CARLOS REYES:

So, one, I think it's great that you went to the tutorial, because the tutorial is there for specifically that purpose. There are a lot of questions related to the operation of the root server system, that the RSSAC does not actually get involved in because there is, as I mentioned, there is a distinction between RSSAC and its advisory work related to policy matters at ICANN and operators.

So, I can take a guess and answer your question to a certain extent, but I think it's best that I refer you to a root server operator, to explain how the system works, since I'm only here to speak on the role of RSSAC here at ICANN.

So, happy to chat with you offline, and we can get a specific answer for you on that. Thanks. Yes.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

Thank you. [Inaudible]. Talking about the RSSAC, you made mention of 12 root servers operators. How are these root server

operators selected? Because it seems like it's kind of a compact area.

CARLOS REYES:

That's a good question. If you look at the history of the internet, what the root server operators and how the IANA functions were originally working, it was John Postel was essentially assigning, making the assignments by himself. And as the internet continued to develop, other organizations came on to help.

So, there is no process. That's something that the RSSAC is looking into with the root server system evolution work, but it was all largely coincidental, and just a fact of history. When you look at the root server operators and their distribution in terms of the organizations, I think, one is in Japan, two are in Europe, and the rest are in the United States.

So, it's largely tracking the development and the growth of the early years of the internet.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. Any, yes? Yes, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm not sure how relevant this is, but I was wondering, root servers, we are talking is about the gTLDs. The ccTLDs also have root servers. Do you have any mandate on that as well?

CARLOS REYES: So, as I mentioned earlier, the RSSAC, if you look at the bylaws, the RSSAC is only mandated with looking at the overall root server system. You know, some of these specific issues, the ccNSO obviously looks at the ccTLDs, and the GNSO looks at gTLDs. If there is overlap, or areas of potential collaboration, then the RSSAC can advice to the GNSO or the ccNSO, either out of its own will, or if it's requested.

And actually, the RSSAC just issued a statement a few weeks ago on new gTLDs. So, this is something that happens, but as I said, the RSSAC is an advisory committee in that capacity, it comments on issues that come to its attention.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi. I'm [inaudible] from India. I'm a first-time Fellow. My question is, when you setup a new server, a new root server, [inaudible] or whatever, is there any specific [inaudible] like geography of the place, or proxy to the root servers that you take into account before deciding it?

CARLOS REYES: So, probably within the next two days or so, the RSSAC approved a document yesterday called, key technical elements of potential root servers, and they're basically looking at what technical requirements are necessary for a potential root server operator. Because obviously, if you want to operate at that level, you have to meet certain criteria.

So that document will address the technical elements.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My question was more pertaining to the location of the new root server. That the decision has to be taken by the RSSAC. So, how does it decide where to place it? Are they simply, as far as the request [inaudible] case to case basis.

CARLOS REYES: So the RSSAC does not actually take a decision. As I mentioned earlier, I think Valerie had the question, the RSSAC is only an advisory committee. So, it's not a decisional body.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] for the record. You mentioned about the distinction between the RSSAC and the root server operators. Now, just a quick question on what is the role of root server operators in the

RSSAC, if there is one, and if it poses a conflict of interest in any way?

CARLOS REYES: So if you look at the composition of the RSSAC in the ICANN bylaws, each root server operator has a root server operator has a representative to the RSSAC. So, they can participate on the work, they can participate on the work of the RSSAC through that. So, they're there to provide their insights based on, you know, their operational experience in terms of operating a root.

So that's how the root server operators interact within RSSAC.

JASON HYNES: Hi. Jason Hynes. I was trying to understand further between the distinction of the operators and the RSSAC. You're saying that, recommendations from the RSSAC, which is composed of the root server operators, is not binding on the root server operators to implement?

CARLOS REYES: Correct. And you know, that's... Within ICANN, the advisory committees, they provide advice to the Board, and obviously, the supporting organizations in the community. But nothing is really binding unless it's adopted by the Board, and then the

Board, through a policy development process, recommends that implementation.

But a lot of the issues that the RSSAC is looking at, are actually not specific to policy development processes. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, they released a statement on new gTLDs, which is feeding into the subsequent procedures policy development process within the GNSO. So in that case, the GNSO working group on this issue, can consider the advice of the RSSAC in their work, and then whatever recommendations come out of that working group, go to the Board.

But, the RSSAC, and the way it's setup at ICANN, and its composition, is purely advisory. So yes, even though the root server operators have a role within RSSAC, in terms of serving as representatives, they can take their feedback back to their organizations, and say, you know, RSSAC has issued this statement, this document, we should do this.

And they can do that, but there is no requirement that they do that.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay, to follow-up though. Suppose they did take a recommendation on, is there another group which operationally

helps them to collaborate between each other to perform implementations?

CARLOS REYES:

So there are technical groups. I mean, there is a whole root-ops composed of operators. And they meet, and they discuss issues, but much like the rest of the internet, it's very, very, very loosely organized and coordinated. There is no top-down implementation of anything.

I mean, that's really what we've been doing here at ICANN, it's all bottom up. And whether or not operators take recommendations, either by RSSAC or the ICANN Board, it's all in the spirit of promoting best practices, and ensuring the overall operational administrative secure integrity of the root server system.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Any questions? Please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

Hello. This is [inaudible] from Pakistan. I was wondering, is there any possibility of having more root zones? And I had a discussion with a guy, a technical guy from ICANN, he said that technically, it's not possible. Why?

CARLOS REYES: Well, I can't speak to your conversation, but the RSSAC, as I mentioned, is looking at issues of root server system evolution. But there are no answers yet. So, there is a lot of work that needs to go into that type of question. It will probably take several years, there is a lot of rigorous technical analysis that needs to happen and testing.

But it's something that the RSSAC knows is an outstanding issue within the community. And they've decided to take it head on, so you're going to see a lot of activity coming from RSSAC, in collaboration with root server operators and other partners in the root zone management.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And the last question. We will take one more question from remote, and then you will be the last one, okay?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi. One of the, the question is about, sorry. Are there any mechanisms to integrate non-internet users into the process, the advisory policy making process? So, I guess he means the unconnected, or for example, government bodies. Do they participant in some way?

CARLOS REYES: So, non-internet users. Within the RSSAC, as I mentioned, the best vehicle for input would be the caucus. And there is a membership committee that reviews applications from the public, and you know, they have a set of criteria that they consider when accepting members into the caucus. But the caucus is where the substantive technical work of the RSSAC takes place.

I think we had one more question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah, the last question.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. [Inaudible], Fellow. My question is, the specific role of IETF in terms of DNS basically protocol matter. So, what is the role of IETF in the RSSAC set up? And second question is, is RSSAC also [inaudible] development of best practices in terms of DNS?

CARLOS REYES: Those are good questions. The IETF obviously is a separate body, and they have their own body of work. Within ICANN, and within RSSAC, there is an IETF liaison. Well, it's the, the IETF

liaison to the ICANN Board, and then within RSSAC, they have a liaison for the Internet Architecture Board.

So, there is some interaction there, and obviously, there is a lot of overlap in terms of members. A lot of RSSAC members also participate in the work of IETF. So, there is that dynamic. To your second question about best practices, this is something that the RSSAC has taken on.

I think the second, their second publication of RSSAC 002, looks into measurements of the root server system. And then their first publication looks into service level expectations of root server operators. So they are trying to promote some of the best practices across the root server operators, and both documents were published relatively in tandem for that purpose.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: If I'm allowed. So, are they also tasked with developing metrics [CROSSTALK]?

CARLOS REYES: So, RSSAC 002 looks at metrics of measurements in the root server system. And each root server operator, this is to Jason's question, each root server operator took that advice, and they implemented it, and they all report their statistics, based on what the RSSAC outlined as measurements for their service.

So the work is being done.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much, and thank you Carlos for your time. Our applause to our speaker.

[Inaudible] did a great job for sharing the link to RSSAC caucus in the chatroom, so we will be sharing this link with our Fellows as well. Thank you very much. And this is a great honor for me to present the next speaker, one of the persons whom, just a couple of, one hour ago probably, you saw on the stage getting the leadership award of ICANN 2016.

So, Patrik, let's all congratulate, and this is a pleasure and honor. Congratulations and this is more than deserved. So Patrik Fältström is the chair of another advisory committee, which is called security and stability advisory committee, which is SSAC. So another abbreviation for us to learn.

Patrik, without further ado, the floor is yours.

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: Thank you very much. So, you just heard about the root server advisory committee, and I am the security and stability advisory committee. So, just like you heard, our advice is not binding. We clearly have the few view that people will listen and

implement our advice, if we give good advice that people understand.

There are advice we have given, of course, that people don't listen to, or they draw different conclusions, or they decide to solve the various security, stability issues in a different way.

[SPEAKER OFF MICROPHONE]

I'll do it without slides. I don't actually know whether we did some slides.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We ask no slide, just talk then Q&A.

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: Yeah. So we consist of, today, 32 members. The members... If it is the case that you would like to become a member of SSAC, you apply, you will get evaluated, and the evaluation consists of three steps. You fill out a bio that describes your skill set, what you're working on, what kind of issues you see with the internet, and SSR issues specifically.

Then if the membership committee that we have in SSAC finds you being a good candidate, there is an interview, and then deliberation. So, SSAC do not use the NomCom for its membership selections. We have our own selection process.

Another difference between SSAC and the other groups, is just because we work with security, stability related issues, all SSAC members do have a MBA, which means that whatever we talk about [inaudible] reasons, stay silent and we need to have that within...

We cannot disclose operational issues that have to do with security and stability, that we have not released a report on. And that is a big difference between the open and transparent process that ICANN have. But the reason for that, is of course, that we would like to get as much operational experience and input from incidents as possible.

So, the reports that we produce, quite often, has a background in real operational issues that the internet service providers, or anyone has come to us and shared with us. The most well-known incident that we were working with, was when we found out that, and those SSAC members that found out, that it was possible to request a certificate for TLS, for top level domains that yet was not in the root zone.

Anyone could ask that from NSCA, setup their own website, and then just wait until the TLD existed. And at that point in time, you user certificate that you got before, which no one could validate that the TLD was yours, and you could pick up a fake

website, or a fake mail server, or a fake voice over IP server, but use the correct certificate for a domain name that is not yours.

When we discovered that, moving back to ICANN's security team, which is different from SSAC, the ICANN IT security team, and we together created and used, for the first time, something that is called a disclosure policy, on how we would mitigate this problem, and work with other organizations, and then after all of that was done, and we had all of the operating system vendors in the world, the cab forum that handles certificates, and all of the seers in the world, when all of us were sort of aligned, and we had a solution to the problem, then our report was released.

So, it happens quite often that we have to deal with things within the closed room. On the other hand, we are speaking, as much as possible, like I do with you now, on current issues. And we would like to have as much input as possible. So with that as a background, we have our own appointment process, and one can apply. We need all different kind of skill sets, we give advice just like the other advisory committees.

What we are saying is not binding, and we just deal with security and stability issues. With that, let me open the Q&A session.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Patrik. So, ready for questions? Yes, Paul, we'll start with you. [Inaudible], you'll be the next.

PAUL: Okay. Paul for the record. I just have a question concerning SSAC, and its maybe contribution in the SSR two review, because although you have a separate stream for reviews, and the SSR is community driven, and since it's community driven, they will be talking about security and stability issues.

So, how do you see this? How do you see your team contributing to this?

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: SSAC, just like the other SO and ACs, participate in the appointment of the members of the SSR two review team. And that is a process that we, well, we launched it a couple of weeks ago, but we are currently working on doing that selection.

But, it is really important for us in SSAC, and the same thing with review of SSAC itself, it's important for us in SSAC that we are not doing the evaluation. So we are appointing members, and nominating members, and participate in the selection process, just like any other SO and AC. Nothing more, nothing less.

So SSAC do not have a specific role in the SSR two review.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We have [inaudible], and then you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] from Algeria, for the record. My question is about applying to be a member of SSAC. Is it like...? Which kind of background are you looking for? Is it like technical background? Or like any kind of other background? And also, are you focusing on countries or regions, or which kind of activities you are doing?

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: So, we are evaluating the skill set of the applicant to ensure that SSAC as a whole have all the skill set needed for us to write reports. So we have quite a number of non-technical people as members. For example, from law enforcement, from legal background.

That said, there are people from the legal background that have been working on SSR related issues. So for example, lawyers that have been working on security and stability related issues like cyber incidents and other kinds of things, that has helped law enforcement, law enforcement that work with cyber security.

So, you need to have sort of a skill set or knowledge about SSR related issues, but definitely not technical. We have turned down people with DNS expertise, because you already have enough. So, we need a diverse skill set, and because of that, we don't want to be prescriptive, because it might be the case that someone applies that have a skillset that we have not been thinking of.

But when they apply, we say, oh boy, that was a good idea, come on. So, that was your first question. You had a second question as well. Can you repeat that please?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Are you focusing on countries, like specific countries or region?

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: We have, what we call, primary and secondary criteria. The primary criteria is the skill set, so that SSAC produce good reports. Secondary criteria are regions, culturally, and specifically, for example, for legal reasons, it's important to have people with expertise of cyber security in different jurisdictions. Gender and all of those criteria as well.

So yes, we use all of those criteria when we're evaluating people.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And just to note, which came through our remote participant, that we have two SSAC members who are Fellows. So actually, we have members from our team being a part of this group. [Inaudible]?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, [inaudible]. As you know, [inaudible] presented national certificates from the 1st of January of this year. So, the question is, could SSAC just advise to government bodies, what their rules, what challenges, if we are going to use initial certificates?

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: Implicitly, we have issued a statement on the creation of root certificates or CAs, by responding to a liaison that we came, that we got from [inaudible], there was a question of whether new certificate authority should be created or not.

The SSAC view, given this incident I just described, is that we should try to not create new CAs, that is not a good thing, and we should, because each CA can create certificates for any domain name in the world. So the higher number of CAs we have, the weaker the security situation end up being.

People should instead look at DNSSEC and the [inaudible] technology that there are sessions here, and try to move away from certificates based on [inaudible] certificate hierarchy, and

instead use certificates that are rooted in the DNS and DNSSEC hierarchy.

So, the SSAC view is that we should create as few CAs as possible. Thank you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] Armenia. Mr. Fältström, could you please tell us about the recent change of the master key of the DNS? And what would be the impact of this rollover operations on the internet and on the internet infrastructure of the security of the internet? Thank you very much.

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: Thank you very much. We in SSAC have encouraged to do a key rollover as soon as possible, because the rollover itself is an action that implies that everyone in the world that runs a resolver, that validates DNSSEC responses, must be reconfigured. That is something that, in most software in the world, happens automatically.

But it might be the case where there are some service out there where that has not happened automatically. Okay? And because of that, SSAC has encouraged the change of the key before we have launched deployment. The longer we wait, the bigger the risk might be, because everyone that knows that

there will be a key rollover, they will be aware, and those are not the problem.

The problem are the ones that we cannot communicate with the parties that will be surprised. Now, we in SSAC, together with the team that is managing the root key, and together with the root server operators, we have been testing and trying and doing all different kind of sort of preparatory work, and the amount of impact will really, really be small.

So people should not be afraid. But, there will most certainly will be cases where people will have problems. Still, from a personal perspective, specifically working as a root server operator and someone that operates DNS for, I think, we have like 25 countries around the world, we see many, many, many more misconfigurations of resolvers in DNS, then the impact of the root key rollover.

Which means that I see many more problems on a daily basis, then what I envision we'll see at the root key rollover. So the answer is, everything must be reconfigured. It will happen automatically, except in a few cases, but we see so many more problems anyway, so that will be resolved. I am not afraid. I'm personally, I sleep really well.

SIRANUCH VARDANYAN: Any other questions to Patrik? Yes?

JASON HYNES: Jason Hynes. Following up on [inaudible] question, I was wondering, whose role...? Is it the role of SSAC to carry out the outreach that tries to inform more people about the key rollover, and the configuration information.

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: No, it is not the role of SSAC to do the outreach. At the same time, it is the role of SSAC, and everyone else that is working with DNSSEC and DNS, we in SSAC, what we are doing to help is to have two sessions at the ICANN meeting, for example, DNSSEC for beginners, DNSSEC for everybody.

We are helping with tech day, that is actually happening now while we are speaking, and also a more advanced DNSSEC session. So that is what we are doing to inform, and then ICANN IT, they are doing their job. VeriSign being the root zone maintainer is doing their job. So there is an outreach that everyone needs to help with.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Sorry. Can you come closer to the mic? Thank you, and introduce yourself, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: This is [inaudible] Internet Society member, ICANN member, and global security [inaudible]. My feeling in India [inaudible] countries, lots of ISPs, they're not [inaudible] are discussing it. We should make mandatory what each individual service provider, [inaudible], you should follow these rules, and we should follow the service.

[Inaudible] rather than making automatically known. Also ISPs [inaudible] proper security system which [inaudible] and what is DNSSEC. That is the situation. To welcome [inaudible] we should tell them, maybe make it mandatory. That's my small address. Thank you.

PATRIK FÄLTSTRÖM: I think one thing that is very important, when talking about mandatory rules for the participants on the internet, what we have to remember is that we do not have any protocol police, even though we have mandatory rules, like who is going to follow the map? It's not SSAC. Okay?

What we have to remember is that we have contractual rules and compliance with ICANN, but then what we also have is that within each country, we also have telecommunication regulation. And one of the reasons, and speaking also as a root

server operator, because I'm a root server operator just like the previous speaker, one of the reasons why we think it's a good thing to not have any mandatory rules or contract with ICANN, one of the reasons is that we are very heavy telecommunication regulation in Sweden, which covers our operation, which means that our operation on the root server is so important, so that if we don't do our job, the actual obligation of making sure that the root server is running is under normal telecommunication regulation, and incident response management, etc.

So, what we have to ensure here is that we don't have conflicting rules from different channels. So because of that, using market economy terms, market economy forces, best current practices is one thing. And I still think that we, in this community, in a multistakeholder community, using those tools is much, much better.

If people don't like someone's service, go somewhere else. If people don't like an ISP, go somewhere else. If you're an ISP, and you think some other ISP is not doing their job, stop peering with them. We need to use those tools much, much more, and because of that, if we look at Internet Society, they have the manners program, for example, make sure that people implement whatever is specified in manners.

Doing that via mandatory tools, would be extremely difficult, but we do have some examples, like in Finland, Finland have, by law, said that ISP must implement what is called source address filtering, which is implementation of SSAC 04, or BCP 38. That's the only country that has done so.

So what I think we can discuss in a multistakeholder community is, is the Finnish example go? Should we really go to our legislatures and ask for something mandatory to be added to the telecommunication legislation, with all of the negative consequences that have? I don't know.

We have to look at and interview people in Finland and see whether it has had any positive effect or not. Good discussion, but it's really not a SSAC discussion. What we do in SSAC, we write recommendations, and then whether people are implementing them, or whether they're solving problem in different way, that's up to the reader.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And this was the last question to Patrik. Once again, let's applaud Patrik for his presence. And I would really like, thank you Patrik, as always, very supportive for Fellowship program. So, from bottom of my heart, thank you very much, and thank you on behalf of Janice.

So thank you very much. And we are not closing the remote streaming, and all of you are invited to have lunch here in this room. This lunch is especially for Fellows only. So please, enjoy yourselves.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]