JOHANNESBURG – Fellowship Program Daily Session
Monday, June 26, 2017 – 12:15 to 13:30 JNB
ICANN59 | Johannesburg, South Africa

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Fellows, Fellows, Newcomers, and alumnis. Fellows, your lunch is served outside. Go, take your lunch, and come back. We start the session in five minutes, so take your lunch and come back here to the room. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fellows, we have got some sweets from Pakistan outside with [the] lunch. Sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Please take your seats. Janice? Where is Janice? Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, we will have Janice, Mama J, talking to all of you for a couple of minutes. And at 12:45, we'll be having Göran Marby, ICANN CEO, come again talking to you, after which, I will ask everybody here to stay for the group photo. So all ICANN59 Fellows and Newcomers should be in that photo.

We will have separate two groups for the Newcomers regional and for alumnis, but then we'll have one joint and then we'll have together with all other alumnis who are here. Okay? Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, good day again. I hope you enjoyed yesterday gathering and full of energy for the whole week and get ready for evening gala today also. We have a very lovely guest today who is actually not a guest for us, but our mother for the whole Fellowship Program, Mama J, visiting us today. Woo-hoo!

JANICE DUOMA LANGE: That just makes me feel so old when she says that. The glasses are showing my age, for one. The voice is just from paradise by the dashboard light. A little too much of that last night. I need to kind of pull back a little and get ready for Tuesday.

So I'm actually not going to stand up here for too long because I invited, myself, I invited a special guest to speak to you much more topically about things important to Africa, things important to women in Africa, things that I think are much more important to you to be thinking of for the rest of the weekend, understanding some of the kind of outer limit ideas of what happens in the Internet governance space.

So we're here this week to talk about ICANN. We're here to talk about ICANN's work, ICANN's mission. So we're here to talk about the operation of the Domain Name System. We're here to talk about security and stability of the Internet. We're here to talk about policy development.

And we need all of you, as you heard yesterday, in a seat, in a community, non-commercial business, civil society, technical, but we need all of you to eventually take a seat in one of those communities to help the people who are already here to understand issues important to you and your region, your work, your passion, your community.

And so you bring all of your knowledge and all of your expertise, and you bring all of your needs related to Internet governance, related to the Domain Name System, related to security and stability, things that, perhaps, ICANN has not addressed from a policy perspective, and then you bring them to the table.

And there are topics that ICANN is starting to reach out and touch that affect the Internet, but we haven't quite figured out how to fit it in the boxes that we are. And you'll start to hear this week a little bit more and the last couple, probably last two years, you've been hearing more about human rights in ICANN. And this is civil society coming in and saying, "The Internet is impacted when we don't bring human rights and the issues related into the Internet governance space." And it's been a hard push and pull, but we're getting there.

That's why we need individuals like Anri who is behind me, and you can be comfortable with the walking or sitting there. But Anri is an alumni of the Fellowship Program and an alumni of the

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NextGen program. She lives here in South Africa. She has worked with the Internet Governance Forum.

I was lucky enough, about a week and a half ago or two weeks ago to e-mail her and say, "Hey, am I going to be lucky enough to see you in Johannesburg?" and she said, "No, I don't think I can come." And I said, "Hey, can I convince you?" she said, "Oh my gosh, there's so much I need to do and I'd love to come." So I said, "Okay, but here's the thing. You have to talk to the Fellows and the NextGen."

So I'm going to let Anri just introduce herself briefly and her work, and then to talk about some of the issues that are happening her in South Africa, in Africa, and how maybe we can integrate them into the work of ICANN. Anri?

ANRI VAN DER SPUY: Thanks, Janice. And Janice actually told me that I would be speaking to 15 people from Africa. Otherwise, I would probably not have said yes if I had known, but it is very good to be here.

I only recently moved back to South Africa after I did a fellowship, and perhaps I should just quickly explain what I'm doing so that you know where I'm coming from with the comments that I'm making. After I did my fellowship, I did another fellowship at the Internet Governance Forum in Geneva

and since then, for the past almost three years now, I have been involved with them and other UN organizations, working primarily on gender issues, gender issues for the Internet.

So yes, it's not typically something that you hear a lot about in the ICANN world, but it is something that is relevant, just like human rights wasn't something that we heard a lot about two years ago but it is increasingly mentioned today, especially through the work of that Cross-Community Working Party.

So I think if I take what Janice asked me to talk about, which was what are the, sort of why is involvement needed in Africa and how can we do that, I can mostly speak from my experience and there are different roads and I will probably talk to you more about what, at a global level, Internet governance, I've sort of noticed is relevant and needed in Africa. But that is very much a global level.

And I know how it is being a fellow, and there's this great sort of energy when you're in this room and you're in this Fellowship Program, and you know, I think one of the most useful aspects of the Fellowship Program is the fact that there is such a great network afterwards. And I know through my work at the IGF how many great local stories we've managed to gather through the Fellowship mailing lists and thank you I see some of those faces in this room, thank you to those who have contributed things

like local stories on how women struggled to gain access to the Internet, for instance, or how some women are prevented from using the Internet because of online abuse or gender-based violence in your community, or in northern Nigeria, facing difficulties around extremism and fears around that.

So I really think those local stories are incredibly useful and we need more of them coming from Africa, otherwise we will have more of a sort of Global North perspective pushdown on a lot of the policy agendas in Africa.

So I know now when you leave, you have, it's like being at this great camp where everybody's excited and you leave and you go back home, and most people don't know what ICANN is or what Internet governance is more broadly. So that is sometimes, from my own experience, it was sometimes difficult going back home and not really knowing how do you take this into your community and apply it there.

And my small advice there would be to find something that you think is interesting, whether it's women online or getting more women in forums like this. There's still more, way more males in this room, for instance, than there are females and that has an impact on the policies that we do develop for the Internet, although ICANN is doing very well at them, the Fellowship Program especially.

Find something that you find interesting – it doesn't matter how small or big it is, whether it's cyber security or anything, really – and get involved with that. And then try to link to others in the Internet work and benefit from their experiences too.

From a sort of a UN level, and an intergovernmental or United Nations level, what we are experiencing as really topical issues at the moment is obviously access. In Africa, I think that's one of the biggest issues. When it comes to women, the gap between women and men accessing the Internet is the biggest in Africa. It's, I think it's at 29% at the moment, so that's a real priority for Africa at the moment is getting more people online. And where we do have access is getting people to actually adopt the Internet, and that's something that I think is increasingly you're finding is there is access in some African regions but people don't have relevant content.

So that's something that in your different countries I'm sure is an issue because there is so limited, such limited apps and services and content other than English. I know Swahili is the first language now on DuoLingo, for instance, an app, and we need more of that in different African languages. Otherwise, people are not going to benefit and use the Internet, and women especially, it's one of the big barriers to access.

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So I mean, access I mentioned. I think cybersecurity and human rights are the big, big challenges that hinder people's ability to benefit from the Internet, and I think will increasingly become issues. I think one way of dealing with these issues in Africa is making sure that we bolster our multi-stakeholder platforms. And in Africa, that is a bit of a challenge because some governments, at least, are a little bit hesitant about dealing with multi-stakeholder platforms. It's not, it doesn't come natural to a lot of us.

But there are some great examples. If you look at Kenya, for instance, [Kikternet] is a wonderful example of multi-stakeholder platform doing real strong work in Kenya and managing to get really good ISD policies through. But it's not an answer. Once you develop something like that, you need to continue working on it. And that's also a lesson that you see when you look at the [Kikternet] example, is how you need to keep on investing in it.

So, and that's why I think there's such a need for more Fellows and NextGen people to get involved with these things because if they're only the old faces that have been in this field that stay in it, these platforms end up dying. They need new blood and they need new people.

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So once you leave here, my advice to sort of summarize, would be to find something local that you are interested in and passionate about and get involved, and starting small and joining with other people, and making sure that whatever your passion is, is then translated back into the alumni network and making use of that network. I think that's the most valuable thing that you are going to get this week. Even though you don't realize it now, probably; you'll realize it in the next few years, how useful this network is. Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, Janice.

JANICE DUOMA LANGE: I actually did put Anri on the spot. Yes, round of applause. I actually find that people do much better just speaking from their heart and their knowledge when they don't think they're really going to talk because everything that you said is just very true. You can have the Internet. My mom has a laptop. That doesn't mean she knows how to use it – its content and its language.

And one of the things Jackie was saying yesterday at the Newcomer event from ICANN wiki was about getting all the ICANN information translated, most recently, into Swahili. And so it is something that you can take back and say, "Is there

relevant – as Anri said – relevant content?" Forget, okay, let's get past "We have the Internet". Is there relevant content and is that content translated into a language that everyone's going to embrace and understand and then move forward with?

And the other thing that we impressed yesterday and Anri just impressed, and we'll say it again. You find something. It may not be a topic that sounds like ICANN, but it's something that is affecting the people in your community or affecting you, affecting your work, affecting your life, affecting lives of others, and find a way to make that work in the Internet governance ecosystem. Because it's everywhere, so it must have a connection. And so you go out and you find that connection. And so when you find something that you're passionate about, it's easy to do the work.

So that's why some of us are lucky. We get to do a job that we love. Getting up every morning is easy. And when you're volunteering, you should be doing something that you love. That doesn't mean it won't be hard. Volunteerism is hard. It's hard work. But when you look around and you see the benefits of your efforts, and so you want to get past maybe some of the things that are happening in the session rooms, but keep your ears and eyes and heart open to what you're hearing and walk away and try to discover what is it that resonated with me from those four days.

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What resonated? What really kind of did I feel a connection? And it might be the people more than the content and then you start to reach out to the people and say, "I connected with you," "I connected with you," and "What is it that you got?" and "What are you working on?" and "How can a couple of us move and do this together?" Because nobody says you have to go back and do all this alone because it's hard work.

So Anri, thank you. I know this was hard for me to put you on the spot, but your words are important and the work that you have been doing in the Internet governance sphere, the work of the IGF, ICANN partners with the IGF. And IGF is an amazing vehicle for discussion. And that discussion can come to ICANN to become policy. And so there's all these other venues that you can reach out to and be part of, and then bring those thoughts and ideas back here to ICANN.

Let it mature inside you. Give it time. No one says you have to rush out of here and know exactly what it is. Give it time, but sometimes it is the people that you network with and they're the ones that are going to help you and bring that back.

So are there any questions at all for Anri or just in general of what you've been listening to so far and going through?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Can I stand? Good afternoon, everyone. What, and just explain that [inaudible] is very important. It might not seem to be important now, but certain things slowly get inculcated in our lives. There will come a time when you need to make a decision, and probably an experience that you gain from ICANN plays a very vital role. It's because of ICANN.

This is my fifth ICANN Fellowship, and all thanks to Mama J and all other people that have contributed to my fellowship and engagement in ICANN. I am one of the three Fellows. Where is [inaudible]? You can stand. Stand, [inaudible]. Yeah, these are the three fellows currently here who sit on the most decorated advisory group at the IGF.

Sorry. Sorry. No, you can stand as we'll stand. No, I need people to applaud you and probably find out more. We are the ambassadors of the IGF here. Yeah. Yeah. Who else? I might have forgotten another one. Who else? [Uma]. Where is [Uma]? Oh. Stand. I want people to know who you are. Yeah.

So basically, it's through ICANN that mentors us to become global leaders indirectly or directly. But to my [directional] level, at the continental level or at the global level, let's take this fellowship very seriously. Engage and connect with as many people as possible. No one knows everything in ICANN. That's why there are communities. No one is a jack of all trades.

So basically, I just encourage all of you that this [fair] – it's limitless actually. There is no boundaries of learning. There is no boundaries of engagement.

Anri has been a Fellow both at [inaudible] and ICANN but she loves and helped the growth of ICT and Internet Governance at one of the highest levels. It doesn't mean that when you are a new Fellow or a Newcomer, then it ends there. We've all been Newcomers before. We've grown from those stages slowly and bit by bit. The whole issue is about learning slowly. Be patient and always be focused on what you do. Thank you, Mama J.

[RENATA AQUINO RIBEIRO]: Oh okay, so me now. Okay, Renata here. Hi, Anri. Thank you so much for your presentation for the fellows. And I wish I was as lucky as you all are here in this fantastic city, in this fantastic country, in this fantastic continent which I am loving so much. And yes, the IGF, all of us here, we have such an amazing role when it comes to, as Janice put it so well, the PDPs, the policy development process.

So there's things that are enormous going on. Just today there was a session about the new gTLDs. A small presentation in the GNSO working session and it was already like a huge interest which was like a first, a warm-up to one of the cross-community sessions in geonames. So geographic names, how are you going

to put your region on the Internet? So it's enormous things going on.

And it's fantastic that you are here and you have this opportunity to get to know the Policy Development Process and how you can influence in global arenas that are involved in this, that are part of this process, and that we, as ICANN Fellows, we can shape this. So thank you, again, and it was amazing to hear of. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you, Renata. And we have our next guest visiting us, ICANN CEO, President and CEO Göran Marby. Göran, the floor is yours.

GÖRAN MARBY: Sorry, I've been talking too much the last couple of days. It's a very typical thing for an ICANN meeting. How are you doing? Feeling energized? Have you reached allergy against acronyms yet? Do you know all our processes and how it works? I've been around for a year. I don't have a clue actually.

So first of all, thank you very much for coming. Actually, when I do the ICANN meetings, which is fairly intense for me personally – for some reason, everybody wants to talk to me – this is one of the sort of sessions I really want to go to because it's kind of my

breakout. So spending time with you and hearing, listening to you, that's very important to me.

And so I usually say the same things and I do that because I think I want to repeat the things that is important for me in this one. And I'm telling this to everybody who comes into the sessions, and especially for the Fellowship programs or the NextGen programs or wherever it is, is that, and I said it this morning as well if anyone was there. We are not the Internet. But we are an essential part of it. And sometimes we sort of forget that we are the mechanical machine in the end who provides a service to the world. In the middle of all this, all the pomp and circumstances, and all the meetings and everything else, what happens here actually has an effect on the Internet, not as a policy. There is many other policy forums around that talks about content, that talks of other things. Here, we actually end up doing something to put up into the machines that would happen in all of the 4 billion users around the world.

And never forget that because sometimes I have a feeling that we talk so much about all of the values around it, but in the end, there is a fixed box. That fixed box updates a system that updates everybody who uses the Internet all over the world. That makes this fairly serious. That makes it more than [just] a discussion club because in the end, this is going to have an effect.

The second thing I usually talk about is that no one has done this before. And you can come in and change what we do. The whole idea of ICANN which is only 20 years old – 19, 20 years old – is actually an experiment, in a sense, that no one has done this before. And we call that the multi-stakeholder model and there's a reason why we have the multi-stakeholder model.

And the reason we have the multi-stakeholder model is because Internet, as a technology, is much more than anything else. It touches every part of your life. Education, get your news, go to your banks, even your love life. It's a part of everyday communication, which means that you can't have one body who tells how everything is going to be. Usually, it's often governments who decides this but governments usually don't have anything to do with your love life, so we need to have – I don't know why I'm using love life; it could be bicycles instead. For the record, I'm happily married since 21 years.

The fact is that it's touched so many different parts of everybody's lives that we need to have people to come in from different parts of the world, different backgrounds – from academia, from business, every part – and that is very, very important.

The multi-stakeholder model is the answer to that question. So we have to have this diversity, variety, whatever it is. Second

thing. That's why ICANN has a multi-stakeholder model and that is why it's important we keep that model going forward.

The third thing, we're still experimenting. As we have never done this before, no one has ever faced the things that we're facing now because there has been no other Internet. So if you come in here and think that we have the answer to all questions and [this has] to process them there, you're actually wrong. We basically don't know.

And that's why we use this model to come to answers which no one has faced before. Internet is [not] done. When I speak to my kids, when I tell them that when I was a kid, we had one telephone at home by the door and if someone called to that telephone, the question was, "Who are you?" If you call someone now, the first question is "Where are you?" because you know who you are because we're using personalized devices called mobile phones.

My kids live and breathe on the Internet. It's their part of the world. If we go somewhere and I tell them, "By the way, there is no Internet connection there," they just say, "No." This has happened in a time, in about 15 to 20 years.

But it's, what I'm trying to say with this is that it's not done. The Internet five years ago is not the same Internet as we have today and it's not going to be the same in five years from now. And one

of the amazing things with this technology is that it's actually very personalized.

I've said this many times, and I hate to repeat myself too many times, but just think about it. If you actually now, for some reason, would disconnect from Internet – I know it's a scary thought – Internet would actually become smaller because you, as a person, as endpoints on gigantic networks.

So coming into this environment, it's so essential to come in and actually [tries] to change. Don't accept people who has been around for a long time have all of the answers. Yeah, they may have a history which is important to recognize but they don't have the answers either.

So I know that people have told you this, but I really would like to tell you that as well. Every time there's a microphone, take the opportunity to walk up to that microphone. You're entitled. You have the right to walk up to that microphone and say what you think. And if enough people think that you have a good idea, that could actually have an effect on the future of the Internet. That's what you're part of. Thank you very much for coming.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:	Thank you, Göran. And we have 15 minutes for questions and answers. Yes, please. And don't forget to say your name and introduce yourself and then ask your question.
UNIDENTIFIED MALE:	Okay. Thank you for the opportunity. My name is [inaudible]. I'm from Ethiopia. In fact, I haven't had the time to talk to you during your visit to Africa last time when you came to Ethiopia.
GÖRAN MARBY:	Before you proceed, can I do something? I feel bored sitting behind a desk. Can I walk around instead?
UNIDENTIFIED MALE:	Okay, I should have [registered]. They [inaudible] now during your visit to Africa. You came to Africa just in February. I met you there in Hilton. Yeah, yeah. I would like to forward one comment regarding the ICANN organization.
	In yesterday's presentation, we have learned that the ICANN's functions are organized into three [levels] and we have at the top, the global and the middle, the regional, and the bottom, local level. When it comes to the reach-out activities currently being done, it needs some revitalization in the sense that, for example, if we look at ISOC, it has some local chapters and its

presence is easily felt. So can ICANN do the same as ISOC to have some local chapters at grassroot levels so that its presence can be easily felt?

GÖRAN MARBY: I'm not the biggest techie in the world. Thank you.

So the question was really about our local presence. We have, through At-Large who works very much with ISOC, a fairly large presence around the world. The organization today has, we have people in 35 countries. We are only 380 staff, so actually, in an hour – could you please let anyone know this because I don't think we announced it, the new office thing. Have we announced that? Okay, don't tell anyone and please don't tweet it.

In an essence actually, to try to be more localized, we are today announcing a small reshape on how we do our offices. So we're actually adding, in South America, our office there in Montevideo is getting upgraded to be what we call a regional office. All offices around the world will be regional offices. And the reason why we're doing this is that when we sort of globalized ourselves, we started throwing things around the world and what we're doing now is to try to be better of really, in the regional bases, trying to better understand how we go sort of to market in that region.

So if you asked me today what is our strategy for Africa, I can't answer that because we have global strategies. So what we're going to do for a year from now – we're actually starting the process now – we're going to do for every region, different strategies that have, combines all the different functions we have.

I think that is a step for what you're looking for. We look very closely with our friends in ISOC, so we often reach people through ISOC and they often reach through us. But I admit that we have to be better at understanding the local context, how support should be done, and that's what we're trying to do because for instance, here in Africa, the demand here from stakeholders and other ones is different from South America or from APAC or from northern Europe and so on. And so we are trying to be better. Thank you.

Any other questions? Oh, I love this. Who is the next one? Oh, you can have my mic.

ARSENE TUNGALI: Hello. Thank you very much. I'm from DRC. I'm glad to be here again. This is my third fellowship and I really thank ICANN for this opportunity to be able to here again this year.

I have a question and probably a comment. And my question would be because I remember, I think it was in Marrakech where you first came as the new CEO and President of ICANN, and I remember at that time, you said you are new here and you know quite nothing about something like that, something like that, nothing about ICANN. Because I was in the room, I can remember. I would like to know what you think about, since that day and now, how much do you know about ICANN? So that would be my first question.

The second one would be if you can describe as your, like your typical day, what you do as on a day as presidency of ICANN because I know there is a lot of work that is going on, on different working groups and mailing lists, but you never see you there. So I'd like to know how does it look, a day for you at the office.

And the last one would be just a comment on diversity because I am a French speaker and that's my main language, so I would say that's kind of my mother tongue. And one of the issues that many Fellows here are facing is with regard to language, especially those who only speak French who are not really able to then stand and take the mic and speak. I know there is a lot of work going on, on diversity and I know language is one of the issues that are being raised in those working groups.

I would like to tell those colleagues who only probably can only speak French or only can speak Spanish or another language, not fluent in English, that they can, I mean, I would like to get an advice from you or from anyone else on how they can also participate in comments drafting because most of the work, actually really, is going on in happening in English. It's really difficult for someone who is only a French speaker to be able to understand the documents and be able to contribute meaningful with [inaudible] contents. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you for those easy questions.

My native language is Swedish, by the way, but we don't provide any translation on that yet.

No, I don't participate in mailing lists. I don't participate because my role is not to be part of the community process to come up with policies. My job and my team's job is to facilitate that conversation, to make sure it happens, and when the Board has so decided to implement them. And that's the physical work.

So my typical – I've been [in it] now for a little bit more than a year then and I don't think I have ever had a typical day. If anything is typical, it's airplanes. I do travel more than most, to the point where I spoke to… I travel so much that I got to know

people who work on airplanes and they actually once said to me, they think that I travel too much. They are not allowed to travel as much as I do, working on airplanes.

What I'm focusing on, by the way, if you really want to know what we're doing, after every Board meeting, we issue something called a CEO Report that goes through most of the things we do. And it's big and small. Everything about worrying about money to implement the processes to make sure that contracted parties follow what the rules are, trying to work with outreach.

Me, personally, is very focused on what I often talk about is, yes, we have an inter-connected global Internet with 4 billion users, but it's also very local. So the IDNs are local scripts and how we can make sure that we understand local needs because people are local. I can't say I have a, I do work a lot.

[SIRANUSH VARDANYAN]: Can I just briefly comment as well? [Siranush] for the record. We do have translations, simultaneous translation, for all fellowship sessions, English, French, and Spanish, and we have headsets over there so if you need translation, they are available for this session.

GÖRAN MARBY: Which is good, but I also would like, we aren't talking about, I think we started to implement also, even if we don't do translations during, for instance, conference calls, to do caption in English because sometimes if you don't do English that good, you can read and sometimes people's way of expressing English is also hard to understand over a telephone line. So we are looking into the mechanics of doing that as well. It's a positive problem, not a negative problem because we really want people to be able to comment. We can't do all countries' languages in the world, but we're trying to understand more.

And another thing we're working on is actually to reshape how we do our whole ICANN.org, the website, to have it easier to find material, to document materials. So that's a very big investment that we are talking about right now. Good questions. And I do have fun in my job. Yes.

[FREDERICK OLINKS]:   Yeah. I actually want to talk about, actually as an extension of what both these gentlemen said. My name is [Frederick Olinks]. I'm from Namibia.

I was just in a previous session in this room, AFRALO, and it was two and a half hours of introductions. And there was no substantial discussion of the issues facing the At-Large group on this continent.

And it raises a question because I sort of came here with an idea of what I would expect, a suspicion, and that's the quality of African representation at these platforms, at both the IGF and at this platform, and I find the same thing because at that panel, actually was indicative of the lack of quality that I find at these platforms in terms of African representation.

And I'm glad the African representatives were pointed out earlier, asked to stand up, because this is something that, really, we need to address on this continent. And I'd like to know, is there any way that you… Actually, there was somebody from one of the At-Large groups here who got up and asked what was she doing here, which even an ICANN employee was shocked about.

GÖRAN MARBY: ICANN employees are usually never shocked about anything.

[FREDERIC OLINKS]: Yeah, so.

GÖRAN MARBY: But before you proceed, can I make a small thing? Why do you think we are here right now?

[FREDERIC OLINKS]: Well, I mean, we're here to… I'm a Newcomer.

GÖRAN MARBY: Why do you think ICANN is in Johannesburg?

[FREDERIC OLINKS]: Well, to reach out to this local community. I just want to say, in my contribution, and I want to know, and that ICANN employee also had something to say about the, I mean, I asked somebody afterwards, how do you address something like this because there were a few of us, a number of us who were not very happy with that previous panel, the AFRALO panel. And we wanted to know, how do you do quality control in terms of your discussions here?

Because I was in another discussion, the DNSSEC discussion, and it was very, very rich in substance. The discussion was very rich. And to then be part of something like what I experienced on this particular panel that was before this one, was, I mean I have to say I was very disappointed. So I mean, how do you do your quality control in terms of the panels that are put together? And then also, how do you vet the people who come here? Because that was something I raised in the previous session as well. Are the right voices, are the right people at the table talking from the

continent? Because that's a big issue I find as well since I've come into the IG space. This is a big issue that has troubled me.

GÖRAN MARBY: Because you're raising a point, which actually gives me an opportunity to explain something. We don't. We don't vet. We don't judge. This is entirely done, anything that happens on there is the community who decides, and we don't vet people coming in there. Everyone can register themselves and come in here. And then we place them in different places, but that's more for practical reasons. And that's the whole idea.

So you will hear things that you think are boring, interesting, stupid, anything, and that's the whole point. That is the whole point of this, is that we don't say no to anyone because if you think about it, if we were to think about it as someone who should have charged us with that, "Yeah, you can come because I like you, but you can't," that would be devastating to what we're trying to build.

So I don't know which panel you're talking about, I don't know about quality about it, I don't know if you got what expected from it. I will not judge on that, but you will have occasions where you sometimes feel "What's happening?" and sometimes you feel, "This is great." And that's sort of the way it is. But the alternative to that one, if this was a membership club, where you

have to apply for membership, we would change everything. And then you would say, "Are we being more effective?" Yeah, maybe it would be more effective. Maybe we would spend less time in endless conference calls and maybe. But in this grinding process, we together and the people before us have been able to create a system that works for 4 billion users around the world, which actually works fairly flawless from our side. There are many things to fix, many things to address.

So I always ask people – and I'm not making this point to you, but I'm asking – "So tell me what's the alternative" because Winston Churchill once said that, something like, "Democracy is the worst way you can have to run a country. The only problem is that all other alternatives are much worse."

So thank you for bringing this up and thank you for giving me the opportunity to share, really, the DNA of how we do things.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Want one more?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We have the time only for one more question. Okay, two. Two more questions.

GÖRAN MARBY: Make them shorter. I love coming here. I love your questions.

[MOBISHE]:   Hello, this is [Mobishe] from Pakistan. Actually, I'm really grateful to the Fellowship Program. It's been very wonderful for me. It's been actually helpful for me to understand how this, about this ecosystem and all Internet issues.

When I go back to my country, I work, I really work. I'm from civil society. I do not represent my government, but we sit down with the government representatives. We discuss issues and sometimes we are lucky enough to convince them, but most of the times, we just get a setback and we aren't able to convince them just because they are not ready to accept things like our freedom of expression and rights and privacy issues like those.

My question is how ICANN is working with the governments for their own understanding and capacity building so that they should be able to understand our point of view and our approach? Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: It's a hard question and it's not a simple answer, but I will try to make it as so. We have the, what we call the GAC, the Government Advisory Committee, which is the formal body within ICANN, where the governments come together. And I

think we right now have 150 governments there, so it's a fairly [low] body.

So we take in their advice and the Board takes in their advice and takes that into account when we make a decision. So that's one of them.

But you're actually asking another question. We don't interfere in policymaking at all, when you talk about political policies, because we don't have anything to do with it. ISOC is an excellent avenue for that one because that's what they're supposed to do and I think they're doing a great job.

But what we often end up doing with governments, or sort of, we tell them how it works because in many political discussions, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Take the discussion about privacy, cyber security, and we have a role in that, the technical side of it. But sometimes they come up with ideas that actually doesn't work together how the Internet works. So one of our roles is actually to go there and say, "Yes, that's an extremely interesting idea and we can understand why you have it, but the Internet doesn't work that way."

Another thing we do with the governments is also talk about, especially in countries who are what we call developing countries or – I hate those words, by the way. If anyone can come up with a more politically correct word that I can actually

use, I will be so happy. But apparently, countries that still have things to do. What we do then is we often talk to them about mistakes that other countries have made in building up an Internet infrastructure because it's not only about the Internet. You have to have power, physical or wireless cables and then you have to have a local industry that produces webpages. You need, there's a lot of things that you need to have, to build a country, and we often come into with the UN, with ISOC, and with other ones to talk about that.

That's sort of the reason why a lot of us is doing this job because we believe Internet is something fairly important and you can have a lot of change, positive change, with Internet. So that's how we work with government, but we never interfere with anything that has to do with what you would call politics, policies. There are much better people out there doing that.

So one more question. I don't choose. You choose. You're the boss. Oh, actually it's been a lot of men asking questions so I think it's, and you always ask good questions, Wen.

WEN ZHAI: Thank you. I am very happy to be here, Wen Zhai from China. I just came from the GNSO working session and then Sally Carson, she explained the budget. And in that session, she mentioned that there will be a shift from all the sponsored participants for

ICANN meetings, so they are shifting from representation to participation.

That means that for the selection of Fellows and NextGens, they will be going to, like, different SOs and ACs to ask what specific skill set they are looking for. Then they will consider this when they select the participants. So that makes me a little bit worried about, because just now you said the countries which are need more development, people who are from those countries, maybe they don't have opportunity to develop their skill set or a good track record. So I'm not sure if you're aware of this shift but do you have any? Yeah. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: The shift is not as dramatic as it may sound in this one. I have problems with all these political correct words like "diversity". I call it variety because diversity, for me, that kind of puts boxes into boxes. I want to have different flavors. So we're trying to figure out better ways and more ways to make sure that we attract people into this fairly sometimes complicated space. So we're trying different methods. That's nothing else.

We are very cautious that we're trying to get in. We don't want to have the same people in, so we don't end up with the same people sort of. They look different, but they actually have the same views. And because of the nature of the [inaudible] circle

and what we're trying to figure out where are the skill sets we are lacking. So it's really that we're trying to look, okay, we need more of that skill set in here because we don't think that people are empty bottles coming in here, like we're waiting to be filled with something. We actually think that all of you comes here, contributes with your background and your knowledge.

The only thing we're doing here is providing you with the mechanics to utilize your knowledge in this sometimes fairly complicated environment, so it's more of that what we're trying to do because to simplify, we see it from the other way around. We're looking for what competencies ICANN needs, not about, because we know you know a lot.

Anyway, thank you and I always, can you do me one favor when you go out in this? And I ask all the Fellowship Programs and NextGens and everything. If anyone comes up with an acronym you don't understand, you have the absolute right to ask for what that acronym means. Okay? No one who comes up to me who gives any presentation – I have to run, we can talk later – is allowed to say an acronym without explaining it even if they know I know it. And challenge them. Challenge everybody here when it comes to their language of acronyms, and shortcuts, and when they say that you should understand because we made this decision 15 years ago.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Acronyms are prohibited at the Fellowship sessions.

GÖRAN MARBY: Good.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And thank you, Göran. Thank you for being with us, and we just will keep you for two more minutes. My colleague, Buket, is organizing the group photo. Please, all ICANN59 Fellows and Newcomers, 15 Newcomers from Africa, go to my colleague, Buket. She is over there on my left side.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]