
ABU DHABI – Fellowship Daily Session
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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: October 30th, 2017, ICANN60, Abu Dhabi, Fellowship Daily Session.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: All fellows, please, in front of this room there are lunchboxes. Please make sure you have them. Take them, and you will eat after this session, okay? Please make sure all fellows have their lunches. No, no, no, I mean take your lunchbox, otherwise, it will disappear.

Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats, we need to start really, now. Don't blame me later if you hadn't have a chance to get your lunchbox. So, at the beginning of each session, our lunchboxes will be there. There are only 80 for our ICANN60 fellows and for community mentors for this session. So if someone comes and takes this, I cannot keep an eye on that. So make sure you have your lunchbox. You can eat now if you feel comfortable. You can keep it and eat after the session. But these are your lunchboxes. So please, make sure you have it. Thank you.

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And we have already our first presenter here. So during this one week, as I have told you during our first morning session yesterday, we'll be having each and every community coming and talking to us. We allocated only 30-minute slots for each community, so it will be brief. We'll give a chance to them for five minutes to introduce their community, what they are talking, what are the main points of their discussions, and how we can get involved in their communities. And then we'll give a chance for all of us to questions and answers.

So our first speaker will be my proud fellow alumni, who is an active community member now, Martin. Whom you all know is a community member for also this current, several fellows who are ICANN60 funded fellows. So many of you know Martin already, and he will be talking about GNSO and he will tell us what it means, all of those abbreviations. We'll request all our speakers to avoid any abbreviations, and in case there is any abbreviation, feel free to ask what does it mean. So, at the same time, he will touch upon also not for profit constituency -- non-commercial, staff. So we gave him too much work to do in a very short time. So Martin, without further ado, the floor is yours.

MARTIN SILVA:

Thank you, Siranush. Hi all, I'm Martin Silva from Argentina. I used to be a fellow, so I understand perfectly where you are

standing on right now. I'm supposed to talk about two subjects, and I have very little time. And I do want to leave a lot of time for questions, so I'm going to be very brief. And in case you want to go further on anything that I say, just reach me afterwards and we can have hours of conversation about any of the subjects.

First of all, I'm going to present the -- I'm going to use this operation because you are going to hear a lot GNSO. The GNSO, you can find it in the middle of the screen, means Generic Names Supporting Organization. I'm going to start with the end of that acronym, which is support organization. In the ICANN structure - - I may be repeating something that you already heard, but this is important -- in the ICANN structure, you have support organizations and advisory committees, as a general main of understanding the categorization and the role these things have.

The advisory committee, as it says, they give advice. But the support organizations are a little bit more -- have more impact on the policy process that ICANN has. They actually develop the policy that then the board has to implement and either balance it out or finish the process that is started. But the support organizations are where the magic happens, if you may. And the advisory committees try to give advice on that policy that is being developed there.

Of course, once you get to the actual work, it gets much more confusing and there are a lot of blurry lines on some issues. But, it's very important to always keep that in mind. SO means that they are developing policy. And specifically, the GNSO is Generic Names Supporting Organization, so they develop policy for generic names.

Generic names are the domain names that are not ccTLDs, that are not Country Code Top-Level Domains. They are not countries. So I may not be very detailed, but I'm going to try to give you the big flash of things. If it's more than two letters, then it's a gTLD.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just a quick intervention, we have translation for this session. So please, if you need translation, we have headsets in the back of the room. Sorry.

MARTIN SILVA: Okay. So any domain name that has more than two letters, three and above, is a generic top-level domain. And as a generic top-level domain, its policy, the rules of how we distribute these domain names, how we resolve the disputes that can arise from different rights around the domain name, everything is going to be determined by what the GNSO says. So that's important.

When you see this whole structure, and you see GNSO, that's where gTLD policies are actually developed. All of the other things, of course, impact that same process. And a lot of the processes from the GNSO are open enough so that other of these bodies can participate. An example is At-Large. At-Large participates heavily, sometimes, on the GNSO processes. But it is important to always understand, is this a GNSO process, a Generic Names Supporting Organization process? And therefore, that's the rule that you have to follow. That's the body that actually has the jurisdiction over gTLDs to pass a policy.

I recommend a lot going over and over these charters because every time you go into them, you learn something new. They're really useful, so don't give up on them.

So this is the structure of the GNSO. Specifically, this charter is the structure of the GNSO Council, but it's useful to actually understand both things because the GNSO Council is the head, if you may, of the GNSO. It's where everything sums up. The GNSO Council is where the policy is actually voted by the community. And as you can intuitively think, the GNSO Council is organized in the same way as the whole GNSO is.

So inside the GNSO, the community is divided by stakeholders. When we call the communities, it's all the community. We try to

divide all the community into stakeholders. First, I don't want to lose you here, the GNSO Council and the GNSO, in general is divided into two houses. First is the Contracted Parties House, then there is the Non-Contracted Parties House. The easiest way to think is if you have a contract with ICANN to manage gTLDs, like a registrar or registry, maybe GoDaddy or Donuts, then you have a contract. You're part of the Contracted Parties House. And that makes them that they have their own rules in their party house.

And if you do not have a contract, for instance the end users, or the lawyers that are used to dispute resolutions of domain names, then you're in the Non-Contracted Parties House. The Non-Contracted Parties House is divided in two main things, the Commercial Stakeholder Group and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group.

You're going to hear from all of those human things that are there. People are going to explain to you all of those things; in particular, I'm just going to mention them. But from the Commercial Stakeholder Group that is inside the Non-Contracted Parties House, that is part of the GNSO, the Generic Names Supporting Organization, you can find the Business Constituency, the Intellectual Property Constituency, the ISPs Constituency. And in the non-commercial, you're going to find

the NCUC, which is the Non-Commercial Users Constituency, and the NPOC, the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency.

I'm going to talk later today about the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, specifically. Which is, again, if you read that, it's those people there.

This is the structure of the GNSO, and specifically of the GNSO Council. And it's interesting to understand that when you join GNSO, when you want to become a member of the community, you're usually going to try to look for your house, if you may. If you come from a business, you're going to try to go to the Commercial Stakeholder Group. If you come from a registry or a registrar, you're going to want to go to the Contracted Parties House.

It is very normal that this is the first decision that you make when you try to engage as a fellow. It's where do I belong if I'm interested in gTLDs? If you're interested in something else, it will be another body. But if you want to discuss generic domain names, like dot com, dot net, or the new gTLDs, dot legal, dot music, dot Amazon, if you want to discuss the policy of those from the inside of where the process is made, the first thing is to try to go to the closest of your interest. And that's okay.

But, I give this advice to my mentees, and I'm going to give it to you all, try to find what you actually want to impact in this, and then find how to do it, and not the other way around. So, for that, if you are in the GNSO, you want to do policy for gTLDs. That means, how is the gTLD policy process. If I want to impact the policy process, I need to know how it is.

And this is both a beautiful and horrible charter. It's beautiful because I like it. It's horrible because it is very confusing. There is so much information on it that is impossible to digest in just one view. But the main concept -- and I grabbed this off the GNSO policy development process -- is to understand the steps.

First, an issue is identified by the community. Any of us can propose and try to identify an issue. If there's a sort of community agreement that an issue has been spotted, the issue is tried to be scope. It's try to understand what are the edges of that issue so that nothing is left behind, and they work to eventually fix everything that is wrong with the issue. Then the official, if you may, working group starts, which if we decide that we want to actually do the issue, the working group is created with its own charter. And this is the interesting part, each working group has its own charter with its own rules, its own structures.

So depending on the working group that you're looking for, it is very important to go to the charter and try to understand the internal rules of this process. This is a metaprocess, the process of the process. It is very important to always go there because they are very different in my experience.

If the working groups arise to a consensus, and they say, “Okay, this is the policy, we find as a community is going to solve the issue that as a community we have identified,” then it goes to the council for deliberation. I’m a GNSO Counselor, I represent the community in the council level. And in the council, is where the GNSO community votes and says, “Okay, this our voice, this is our resolution.”

After the community has debated in the work group, it has scoped the issue out, we have to find out whether this is the policy we want, and then we submit it to the board. And then the board has to decide if what the community is saying is relevant, how to implement it, if maybe some advice from some other place is relevant for the policy. Maybe the GAC has something to say, and the board maybe believes it can change a little bit. But most of the important part is since we are in a bottom up multistakeholder model, what the working groups and the council deliberation ends, it's probably what the board

is going to implement. The board cannot go away from the policy without a very strong reason and a whole lot of troubles.

I wanted to give an example of this. This is one of the working groups that I like most because I like it. And it's the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms. You're going to hear it a lot as RPMs. And basically, what they're doing is, as most of you lawyers may know, domain names are usually conflict with rights, trademarks, or names. And ICANN created this mechanism to protect rights. And this group is actually trying to review all of them.

The most famous is the UDRP, the United Dispute Resolution System. It's literally the rules to sue someone to get the dot com back because you have a trademark and this person wants to scam you. That mechanism is going to be reviewed by this group, and specifically, the new gTLDs have a lot of procedures to resolve these new conflicts, like dot Amazon. And this is part of the group that is trying to review all of those things. Not only the dot-com things, but also the new gTLDs.

So this is just an example of something that is going on there. But there are several others, and I encourage you to actually go to the working group list in ICANN web and go through all the working groups. And then you're going to find, literally, the things that you might get interested in. Because you have the

subjects, like here they're discussing geographic names, here they're discussing protection mechanisms, here they're discussing WHOIS, here they're discussing security.

So if you go through those lists of working groups, it's a very easy way to identify where you should be working, where you should be joining, where you should be following. Lawyers are probably going to be more friendly to this sort of [inaudible] because of the rights things.

How to get involved. This is the ultimate question for a fellow. Am I all right? Good. Four minutes. I want to leave that there. You can read it. Questions?

VAHAN HOVSEPYAN:

Well, thank you. Vahan Hovsepyan, second-time fellow, Armenia. The question, is we have seen here a lot of working groups, constituencies, bodies, etcetera; I just remember that we also have several stage bodies etcetera. And when you send a letter to some state body it says you should go to another state body etcetera. So is there any single window, so a person that doesn't know where to send his letter or how to apply, can send to this contact, then he can be forwarded and advised where to go?

MARTIN SILVA: What sort of letter are you talking about? Like, I want to join a group, or like, I don't like this policy?

VAHAN HOVSEPYAN: I have such an issue. Who should I apply to?

MARTIN SILVA: You mean that you want to bring an issue of policy?

VAHAN HOVSEPYAN: Sure.

MARTIN SILVA: In this case, it would be the GNSO. If you go to the web, to the GNSO ICANN space, you're going to find even the templates. Literal template, the form, you have to fill in, say, there is an issue here. But what I actually recommend is not doing that raw thing of just sending something, but is to address to what you feel is the relevant leader from your perspective.

If you are an ISP, then go to the ISP group and say, "I want to address this, please advise me." If they don't listen, just move forward until someone grasps you. Because the level of impact is much higher when you have some sort of backup from behind. So you can do it on your own, but I also recommend to go after

leadership. Mentors of alumni's in the fellowship are ideal, if you may.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So we can give time for one more question, and then you can talk with Martin outside of the room. Just take the discussion outside. I saw Catalina.

CATALINA REYES: Hi, Catalina, fellow from Colombia. I wanted to ask if in the website you just mentioned we can see all active working groups and their charters in order to see what interests us? And also regarding the new gTLDs you just told us, I wanted to know if the gTLDs that were previously applied the same rules than to the new ones? Or do they have their independent rules?

MARTIN SILVA: To the first thing, yes. In the ICANN web, you can find a list of the working groups, you can click on them, they will lead you to the chart, to the email list, to who to contact. There's a lot of information. And I cannot stress this enough, if you can't find information, ask us. Ask alumni, ask Siranush, ask your other fellows because someone will know. It's not very far away.

To the other part about the right protection mechanisms of new gTLDs, yes. The UDPR that applies to dot com and the old gTLDs, applies also to the new gTLDs. But for the new gTLDs, there are special new mechanisms. Like, for instance, the Trademark Clearinghouse, which is where you can register your trademark to avoid someone registering a new top-level domain that has a match with your trademark. If you are for instance Volkswagen, you're going to put your trademark in the Trademark Clearinghouse, and if someone wants to register dot Volkswagen, the Trademark Clearinghouse will tell Volkswagen, "Someone is trying to register your trademark." By the way, Volkswagen already has a gTLD, but that's an example.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Martin. I will share this presentation with all of you. So, with that, I would like to thank -- last question. Thirty seconds.

ALFREDO CALDERON: Yes, this is Alfredo Calderon, an ICANN fellow, ICANN60 fellow. My question to you, Martin, is regarding the working groups. Are these working groups permanent working groups? Or are they activated according to the situation or the concern that some end users may have? And as a second part of that question,

what happens when the charter is created? Is that the moment when we can apply to become a member of that group?

MARTIN SILVA:

An excellent question. The working groups are not permanent. A permanent working group would mean that policy is not ever implemented. So the life of a working group, it goes from identifying the issue to, eventually, actually getting the board saying, “Okay, this is the policy we want to implement.” So no, they are not permanent. They are created for each issue that is spotted. And the conclusion of the working group is the success in most cases.

And the way to join, yes, when the charter goes out, you can see the specific rules to become a member. But you can join the process before. The process for the issue that's being debated, the scoping of the issue is being achieved, the decision to start a working group, once you do the other part. So all the things before the actual charter to become approved, even the drafting of the chart, is a process you can follow, and you can participate.

So yes, you have to wait for the charter, for the formal legal reason that you cannot be a member of something that still doesn't have members. But you can be part of the whole process before the charter itself becomes a charter.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Martin. And thank you for your time and coming to us and talk about this. So if you have any questions to Martin, feel free to approach him and talk to him. With that, our applauses to you. Thank you very much.

And I would like to invite our next presenters who are here. The chair of At-Large, the ALAC At-Large Committee, Alan Greenberg and Maureen, who is an ICANN fellow, and now is in the leadership team with At-Large. So they both agreed to be here and talk about the At-Large community. Explain what is their structure and how you can get involved with At-Large. Please.

[AUDIO BREAK]

[00:24:38 to 00:36:29 - Participant speaking in different language]

ALAN GREENBERG: Now, the most typical infrastructure many of us have experience with is the sewer system, water system, electricity. People rarely walk around and say, “The sewers are working well today.” But when they stop working, you may notice. If your water works, you don't say, “The water's great today.” But when the water doesn't work anymore, you notice.

We're an infrastructure, so from the typical user's point-of-view, they've never heard of ICANN. They don't think of the complexity that's behind making it work, they just want it to work. So you're not going to get feedback from the billions of users. And what we expect is the people who get involved come from all sorts of parts of the world, they have different experience sets, but all of them care about making sure that the users in their part of the world have access and can use the systems conveniently and easily.

And so, yes, there's somewhat of an act of faith that if we bring enough people together, all of whom care about users, we will be, hopefully, getting the information into the central systems that will serve the users well. We differ with each other sometimes. We don't always agree. Part, because we have personal opinions, and part because the situations in different parts of the world are very different. But we try to somehow coalesce all that and help to make sure the internet is serving the users well.

So it's not a guarantee and there's no certification to prove that you are a valid user representative. But we have lots of people who care and together that seems to help in some way.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Caleb.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Good afternoon, my name is Caleb for the record. I'm speaking on the AFRALO. Now, I've participated in the mailing lists, sometimes I participate in the monthly calls and all of that. So the quick question now, which I think I asked earlier on, is how long is it going to take to actually approve an individual membership?

ALAN GREENBERG: The answer is, it varies. Typically, it will take several months. And we do have standards that we must respond within -- I won't quote the right number of days -- 30 days, 60 days. And there's a number of different phases in the process. Most of them go through within that time. Occasionally, for one reason or another, we find there's an issue and it can end up taking longer. But typically, we're talking months, not years, but not days.

MAUREEN HILYARD: And just addition to that, it varies between the different RALOs. Because I know that in APRALO, we actually add additional criteria to our application process, which isn't done by the

others, because we want to know more about people who want to engage. And how we can more appropriately assign them to various areas, or make suggestions about which part of At-Large or which of ICANN that might be most appropriate for them. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Alexander.

ALEXANDER SANYAN: Alexander Sanyan, professional user who had to deal with simple users. Do you have any internal accountability and verification of how users have been represented? For example, 100 million of Russian internet users are represented only by one At-Large structure, which is completely unseen from inside Russia. So it's a very strange situation. Are you sure that your decisions are made correctly in this case?

ALAN GREENBERG: The simple, honest answer is no, we can't be sure. There are some countries and some cities that have multiple ALSes and have places that have multiple individual members. And there are some where there are vast expanses where there is one. We're not in a business of forcing people to join, and so we can

only take applicants that come our way. And if they look like they're going to be productive and an organization that makes sense, then that's fine.

So there's not a lot we can do if we have countries that are underrepresented, other than, on occasion, with very limited resources, or through other parts of ICANN, try to encourage people in that area to become more active. So not a lot we can do. We understand that there are limitations like that.

ALEXANDER SANYAN: Okay. Thank you. As a follow-up, I promise to run the process of joining regional organization and ALAC for my organizations and, for sure, report how easily or difficult it is. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent, Alexander. [Inaudible], please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm [inaudible] from Tunisia. My question is about how are the criteria that allow an organization to be an ALS? And the second question, some RALO --

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: One question per person, please.

ALAN GREENBERG: I'm not sure I got the question. I think it is, what are the criteria? Essentially, it has to be an organization that is controlled by users. So it cannot be corporations. It has to be individuals in control. They obviously have to have an interest in things that ICANN is doing because otherwise why are you bothering to join. And we are working on the assumption that you will have people and, preferably, not only you, who has an interest in working with us. Because we are looking for people to get involved in the various policy activities within the organization.

So, essentially, if you are a valid organization, you don't have to be a legal entity, but you have to be an organization, you have to be controlled by users, and you obviously have to be willing to work with ICANN. Now, I will say we are in the process of revising those criteria, and we will be adding a few. But the criteria will really be, are you willing to really work with us on a day by day basis and pass information to your members and help them get involved? But that's essentially all it takes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. Matias.

MATIAS JACKSON: Thank you. Matias Jackson for the record. I just wanted to know if you could please give us an example of a policy or something like that that At-Large Advisory Committee has opposed. You mentioned that in new gTLDs won't be confusing for users or something. I don't know if you get the question. And a specific example, please.

ALAN GREENBERG: Sure. I'll give an example where we weren't successful, but it gives a good example. When the first round of gTLDs were approved, and the process was approved, there was a rule saying you could not be confusing, two new TLDs could not be confusing with each other or with existing ones. And that was a visual confusing. So the characters could not look the same. And with IDN, with other characters, it obviously becomes a really interesting thing. You can have a Cyrillic domain that says something completely different than Latin characters but looks the same.

However, there was also an objection process that someone could say, "Well, they don't look the same, but they are going to be confusing." And one of the issues that we came in on is what about singular and plurals. Is hotel confusing with hotels? Well, if I have a reservation at Hilton dot Hotel, will I remember that next week? Or will I think maybe it was hotels? They're

confusing. And we recommended, strongly, that they be deemed confusing.

And it turns out it's one of the areas that went to advisory panels to judge each case. And it turns out we ended up, in some cases, saying they are confusing, and in other cases, a single and plural are not confusing. So we weighed in on it, we weren't able to change the policy. When we're now looking at new policies, we are again weighing in on it, and we will likely rule out plurals. And not just by adding an "S", but plurals in any language and things like that.

So that's one of the areas that we have weighed in on. We weren't successful the first time. We hope to be more successful the second time, and I think we will. It's an example. There are many like that, though.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Amanda.

AMANDA LOU: Amanda Lou for the record. So I have a question. Do different RALOs cooperate with each other? And what does At-Large do when the user interests against each other from different region? Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Well, there is a regional leaders meeting regularly each month. And regional leaders do actually sort of like pass on information, share information, and there's quite a bit of interaction at that level. But on an organizational level, probably not as much. And it's really at occasions like this that we do get together and probably share a lot more than we would normally do.

ALAN GREENBERG: I'll point out, however, that your question is not really the way things usually play out. Users don't always agree with each other. But it's rarely just along regional boundaries that they don't agree. So I can end up with someone from North America that I disagree with because we have different philosophies and we think different things are important. So it's rarely the regions that are at war -- I won't say at war -- are disagreeing with each other.

But yes, we do have situations where we don't all agree, and sometimes we simply have to be silent because of that. Sometimes we present a balanced view.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Eduardo.

EDUARDO: Eduardo for the record. My question is -- I'm right next to you, I'm sorry. It's kind of weird to do this. My question is, I understand the fact that it's impossible that 3.7 billion people will participate in the process. But I was wondering if you ever tried, as an active transparency principle, to put out every discussion that is an issue and see if there's any kind of response of the general public that it's not very involved in the technical discussion.

ALAN GREENBERG: I don't think we have ever. I mean, we Tweet and, clearly, people see them and sometimes they respond. We have a Facebook page and sometimes people get involved. But, in general, the vast majority of people don't know what ICANN is or care what ICANN is. So they're not likely to respond to those kinds of things.

Every once in a while something happens where ICANN hits the front page or hits the headlines, at least in technical papers if not your newspaper. A year or so ago when the US Government was giving up control over some of the key aspects -- the core routing tables of the internet are controlled by a group that used to be under contract to the US Department of Commerce, and

now is no longer that. That transition hit the headlines, partly because some politicians were trying to capitalize on it.

Occasionally, IPv4 addresses, which are the original 24-bit addresses of the internet, have run -- effectively, close to run out because the internet has grown just a little bit, you might have noticed. And so, when they ran out, that hit the headlines. But it doesn't hit the headlines very often, and people don't tend to care. But yes, we do occasionally reach out in ways that might reach the public, and occasionally we get answers.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Only one last question from Bram, and a small intervention from Beran, and we'll close the queue.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Siranush. For the record, my name is Bram from Malawi. So Alan, do you think the Outreach and Engagement part of the ALAC can do more job to reach out to regions that have less ALSes or don't have, actually, ALSes? Do you think there's a room for improvement or there are challenges within the Outreach and Engagement? Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG: Maureen is probably a better person to answer that. But I'll give a very quick answer. We do as best we can with the limited resources we have, in terms of travel funds. All of our people are volunteers, and if they're going to visit your country to try to convince people to join At-Large, they're probably taking their own vacation time, instead of spending time with their family. So given all the limitations we have, and very limited travel funds, we do the best we can. Could we do better with more resources? Sure.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Beran.

BERAN DONDEH GILLEN: Thank you, Siranush. This is Beran Dondoh Gillen for the record. I just wanted to add to what Alan was saying about the outreach. That we do do a lot of outreach, especially, I know Maureen does a lot of outreach in the AP region with APNIC. And we do a lot of outreach in the Africa region too with AFRINIC.

I know the recent AIS summit, we did have a booth there, AFRALO had a booth and we've been working very closely with the network information centers in our regions. So that's what I wanted to add about Outreach and Engagement.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And thank you. Maureen, would you like to say just a closing word on it?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Well, I just wanted to sort of add that outreach is like a major activity as far as the regional organizations are concerned. And a lot of it is relied on when we're talking about ALSes, is I guess, the reliance of ALSes is the fact that there are many people within that organization, all with their own different interests, all with the own different networks. And we sort of like assume that if there's contact with ICANN, that it infiltrates within that organization and gets out to as many people as possible.

I did want to mention that just a bit earlier that China has, I think, about three or four ALSes, for sure ones. Like, when you think of the billions of people there, you would sort of like think how on earth are we getting our message out to them. But they actually have one of their organizations is quite unique in that it actually does incorporate just about every single internet-related organization within it.

And so, our rationale, which was not met very well by some of the other regional organizations, but it does give us an opportunity to get out to more of those billions than we would

possibly have been able to ourselves. But it's up to the people who are members of our -- who are people who are volunteers. They're not being paid to do it, they're out there.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Alan. Thank you, Maureen. And thank you for your time. Do you have some final words?

ALAN GREENBERG: Just that I'll leave a pile of business cards, if people want to get a hold of us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent. And please talk to them when you see them in the corridors. Go and participate in ALAC meetings. They are all here and happy to help you. Thank you very much, and our applauds to you.

ALAN GREENBERG: And we do try to be friendly.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes. And with great pleasure, I would like to invite our next speaker, who is already here. Farzaneh Badii, who actually is an

ICANN fellow, started her journey as an ICANN fellow, and now she's the chair of Non-Commercial Users Stakeholder. She's outgoing chair, actually, but she's incoming chair for another community which she will be talking. She will introduce herself and tell us about all this journey and about her community she's representing.

FARZANEH BADI:

Hi everyone, it's great to see you here. I think I saw a lot of you in our Outreach session on Saturday. I'm very grateful that you attended that session, and I hope it was useful. I'm not going to tell you about the government structure of ICANN and where we are located. That would be very confusing. What I'm going to tell you is our values and what we stand for and what we work towards at ICANN. And then you can decide, based on this information, whether our group is the suitable group to join.

I'm the chair of the Non-Commercial Users Constituency. And as Siranush said, I was a fellow in 2013. I was a fellow a couple of times, actually. Yes, so a couple of times I was a fellow and in the beginning, it gets very overwhelming with all the information that you get, and you cannot really place yourself. You don't know which group you want to join, what ICANN really does. So it is very important to totally understand ICANN's mission,

ICANN's mandate, which is a bad domain name policy. Well, part of it that NCUC works on its domain name policy.

So, we at NCUC, we contribute to the policy development at ICANN with regards to domain names. And various issues arise. For example, we have privacy issues because WHOIS, which is the platform that when you register a domain name, you put your information there and it's public. And there are a lot of privacy issues regarding that, and that's a hot topic now.

And also, we contribute to other working groups regarding rights protection and other matters. Now, I'm not going to confuse you any further.

What we do, what we stand for at NCUC, our members consist of civil society organizations, advocates, and non-commercial users who care about their non-commercial rights at ICANN, and we have individual members, we have organizational members. For example, Electronic Frontier is our member, or Access Now, other prominent civil society organizations. We also have valuable individuals. They make great contributions and they are independent.

We care about freedom of expression and we want to infuse this freedom of expression in ICANN policy regarding domain names. We think that trademark rights should be limited, and there

should not be an overreach of trademark rights because that would affect freedom of expression. When we issue statements or go to various working groups, we take these values and we try to promote them.

So how long do I have? I don't want to blabber on.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We think five, 10 minutes about your community and then Q&A.

FARZANEH BADI: And how long do I have?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Twenty minutes. So, total, 30 minutes.

FARZANEH BADI: So I can talk for another minute.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: For another three minutes.

FARZANEH BADI: Okay, great. The rights that we advocate for can be framed as human rights, in general, but very limited to ICANN's mission,

which is domain name policy. So we are not trying to save the world or save the internet, that's not what we are doing. It is very limited and it's a very small part of the internet. I mean, don't get offended, but seriously. It is very rewarding when you see that you actually contributed to a policy that got implemented and you managed to advance the rights of people.

I'll give you an example because also Susanna told me that I should give you case studies of what we achieve and how we are doing things. For example, for privacy, we go to the privacy group that is coming up with the policy and we keep pushing for better privacy in WHOIS, and keep pushing for making WHOIS private.

Also, recently, we have been very active in the jurisdiction group. So I am from Iran, and I care about issues that people and internet users face in Iran. There are sanctions by the US against Iran that could hamper access to domain names. I talked to the Iranian people here and we discussed it and they told us there are problems. And then we went to this jurisdiction group and we said, “These are the problems that people are facing and we need to do something about it.”

Now, it is not like we just achieved it, but we pushed for it, and there is now discussion about it. And we adopted a recommendation that asked ICANN to go and get a license from

the US Government for the people in sanctioned countries so that they can have better access to their domain names. I think that was a case study. Sorry, but if you have any questions about issues, just...

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks, Farzaneh. I know it's really very interesting and you can talk a lot about this. Salvador, you are the first.

SALVADOR CAMACHO: Hi. This is Salvador for the record. Very good presentation. But I have a question about what you said about limiting the scope of trademarks, domain names. The trademarks are limited by the UDRP. If you have a trademark and there's a generic domain name, you like literally lose the UDRP procedure. So what are the steps you are taking on the MPLC to do this limiting of scope of trademarks?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Salvador, sorry, UDRP and MPLC, can you tell us what does that mean for all of us to understand what question you are asking to Farzaneh?

SALVADOR CAMACHO: UDRP is Uniform Domain Dispute Resolution Policy. So it's basically used about intellectual property owners, mostly trademarks, to recover a domain name on gTLDs and new gTLDs. Thank you.

FARZANEH BADIEI: So the dispute resolution policy and, well not UGRPs specifically, but the policies are made by the community. So now there is URS. What does URS stand for? So there is another group.

SALVADOR CAMACHO: It's Uniform Rapid Suspension System.

FARZANEH BADIEI: It's a dispute resolution. It's kind of like a next stage that you are discussing all sort of related aspects to the dispute. So what we do there is that we kind of ensure that policies are not so broad that trademark owners can just take down any kind, like unfairly, any domain name that simply refers to a name. So we take part in that policy making.

And in the end, they adopted at ICANN and that's how we limit also the intellectual property and copyrights and stuff like that. We are very cognizant about the issue and we don't want ICANN

to become a content regulator or to do anything with regards to copyright infringement.

CHENAI CHAIR:

Hi, my name is Chenai for the record. I have a question with regards to the process within NCUC. What is the process of determining the topic of focus? Is the voting in the end, or it's the loudest voice on the mailing list?

FARZANEH BADI:

So, the loudest voice on the mailing list is effective, but doesn't always win. But there is an operating procedure that we have. This is a great question because sometimes people join us and they don't know what issue they want to work on. So they ask us, "What issue should I work on?" We have a menu of issues that ICANN is working on, like privacy, RPMs, and we have a webinar and NCUC website that addresses that.

So wherever your heart is, you go and pick that topic and you go for it, and you come to the NCUC mailing list and you say, "There is this issue, I want to report on it, I've been attending this meeting." And you tell us what you think and what the issue is. And then that's when you get some support for , for example, issuing a statement, or getting engaged with very long processes of policy making.

Policy making working groups are very -- you are not going to get quick relief and like be rewarded right away. They are like two years or three years long. But the sense of collegiality that you get by attending these meetings, and seeing that your comments are getting considered, and you actually see that there is a report and you've actually made contributions to that report, I think is very fulfilling. And in the end, when the policy gets adopted and implemented, well, Hooray!

Oh, and by the way, yes, we work based on consensus. We don't vote. Well, at the policy committee -- we have a policy committee, people go to the policy committee, they say, "I have this statement, whether NCUC wants to approve it or not." And then NCUC discusses with the mailing list and the policy committee, and then in the end, they might want to make changes or reject it or accept it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Can everyone join to the NCUC mailing list? Or this is only the members of the committee can do?

FARZANEH BADI: Only the members. Just to be very clear, we are non-commercial, so if you have business interests in domain names, NCUC is not the best place. You go to business constituency. If

you have interests in intellectual property and you think they should be protected, you go to IPC. And if you want to save the world, you come to see us. And the mailing list is open, so you can go and see what we are discussing. We are a very noisy bunch, and there is a lot of traffic. So if you join, just know that you are going to get a lot of emails.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So be aware before joining NCUC mailing list. Thank you. Bruna.

BRUNA SANTOS: Bruna for the record. Just one quick question regarding policy processes. Because they haven't listened to explanations regarding ALAC as an advisory committee and also about GNSO as the supporting organization. So maybe it would be nice to listen to it again, but what was the part of NCUC in the policy developing processes?

FARZANEH BADI: So that's what I did not want to cover because it's going to confuse you, but it is important to mention. So, at NCUC we discuss policy and our point of view. We are a part of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, so although we can make policy

within our own constituency -- I mean, not make policy, but bring our viewpoints and have a policy position in our community, we can also go through NCSG, the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, and tell NCSG, “We want you to approve this.”

Also, NCSG has Counselors on the GNSO, and this is where our real power is. Because we actually have a vote on general domain name issues at the council. So what NCUC does is that NCUC prepares you to discuss the policy perspectives, to discuss the issues. And then, if you want a strong position, you go to NCSG and you tell the policy committee of NCSG, “Hey, I want this to be approved by you.”

Now, NCSG is the overarching stakeholder group. We have various constituencies within it. And it is through NCSG that we have Counselors that go to the GNSO, and I'm sure Tapani will give a presentation. And the Counselors of NCSG go to the GNSO and work with various groups with regards to generic domain names. This is very important. It's about generic domain names. It's not about country codes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Any other questions? Yes, please.

JOANNE TENG: Hello, Farzaneh, this is Joanne from China. I'm curious about NCUC and end users. NCUC, non-commercial users, there are some overlaps about internet end users. So the interests that NCUC represents and interests ALAC represents, they are in some way -- a part of them is the same. I'm curious that NCUC and ALAC have some collaborations or coordination.

FARZANEH BADI: Thank you. Actually, we had that outreach with At-Large to exactly address this point. Because people keep saying, "What is the difference?" First of all, At-Large and ALAC in the ICANN ecosystem is in a different part of the governance; it's advisory. We are making policy through GNSO. So we don't advise, we make policy. This does not mean that they cannot come to PDPs, policy development processes, and join, but when it goes to actually getting adopted then we have the power to, through our Counselors, to vote on these policies, while ALAC advises, right? So, now we are not enemies.

As I said in our session with At-Large, and Olivier also agreed, At-Large and ALAC are very moderate in their viewpoints about freedom of expression, privacy, about various issues, and ICANN Council too. We are extremists. We want freedom of expression to happen. We fight with trademark overreach. We fight with governmental efforts to overreach and do policy for generic

domain names. We don't think government should do this. We believe the non-governmental nature of ICANN should not change.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So what does NCUC stand for? And where is it in ICANN, in what part of ICANN? In GNSO? What is GNSO? And we have the link over there in your PowerPoint. GNSO.ICANN.org. Please take time. You have this PowerPoint. Please, take time. Visit this website and go to different constituencies and communities there and you will find more. What is ALAC? At-Large Advisory Committee. And what is At-Large? It's user's community. So ALAC is 15 people out of that At-Large community here. Okay? Is it clear, the system? Okay, good. Let's go further.

JUAN ROJAS: Hello, this is Juan for the record. I'm switching to Spanish. Thank you. I was wondering whether within the NCUC there are regional representatives because maybe they're not discussing the same issues in all regions. In that case, is there any regional representatives? How many regional representatives are there? And who are they? Thank you very much.

FARZANEH BADI: I'm going to respond in Farsi. Sorry, lack of diversity here. So actually, yes, we do have regional groups. And at NCUC we have this leadership, we have an executive committee that does a lot of administrative things, but also prepares people to take part in policy. Within the executive committee there are representatives who get voted for. So the members vote for them. They should be distributed regionally. So we have Asia Pacific. One representative from Asia Pacific. Africa --I should not get this wrong -- Europe and Latin America and Caribbean, North America. So these are the regions and for each region people run for election from that region.

For example, Bruna now is running for the executive committee representative of Latin America and Caribbean. Hopefully, she will get voted in; she's running unopposed. And then Bruna will bring the perspective of LAC and what issues are there to address to NCUC and then we discuss it. At the moment, we have Renata as our representative of Latin America and Caribbean. Renata does an amazing job of going out there and telling people what NCUC is in her region, and to various meetings. We have high turnout of LAC members because of this, and they are very aware and successful in NCUC I'd say.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And I could say that NCUC is run by fellows, starting from chair.

FARZANEH BADI: Yes. It has started -- the fellows make a valuable contribution to NCUC. And we should always be clear on what we do so that you don't get confused and join the wrong group.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Farzaneh. Yes, Dina, the last question we can take, please.

DINA: Hi, I have one quick question. So how easy, would you say, it is to start with NCUC and who is available to help the new members along?

FARZANEH BADI: So it's not easy because it takes a lot of time to read these materials and documents and have a position. It took me a year and a half to start talking. But don't feel inhibited. I was not involved with issues. I didn't have a domain name policy background, so I didn't know what was going on.

So I was quite silent in the beginning, but now it's getting better and better because the fellows they come in, they know what is going on. It will get better and better, but it needs time. And

you need to invest some time, and you get rewarded for it. Of course, not financially, but you get a great network of people, of professionals. And also, you see your contributions are being valued.

For help, we have a policy course that is going to be -- we are going to start a policy course this year so you can understand and also not feel intimidated when you join these groups. Also, you can reach out to your executive committee representative and tell them that you want to get involved more. We also have webinars. And you can reach out to me, of course, for any question, if you want to know more, I'm always here to respond.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Farzaneh. I'm sorry, we have the next meeting already here scheduled at 1:30. So if you have any questions for Farzaneh, please approach her. And we have many NCUC fellows also in this current round, so please approach them and ask questions. Thank you, Farzaneh, for your time coming here.

FARZANEH BADI: Thank you very much. I just wanted to say, I'm going to be at the booth at 4:30, if you want to discuss more. Also, we have a constituency day tomorrow, in the morning. Which is very, very,

very good experience; you can see us in action, which is a little bit scary, but it's very good for you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]