KOBE – Fellowship Daily Session
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 12:00 to 13:30 JST
ICANN64 | Kobe, Japan

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. Can we start the recording and video?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh, you want it recorded? [inaudible]

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: No. It was not recorded before this. So now, dear Fellows, welcome to the Fellowship Daily Session. Today we have a very interesting topic to cover. We'll be talking about how the policy works in ICANN and how you can get engaged in the policy work.

With great pleasure, I would like to introduce my two colleagues who are part of the Policy Team, Carlos Reyes and Ozan Sahin?

OZAN SAHIN: Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Right? So they will be presenting to you and introducing the way it works, and then we'll have a chance for Q&A. So, please, if you have any questions – I know there were some questions raised

yesterday related to the policy – now it's time for you to ask for questions and then receive firsthand responses.

So with that, without further ado, I would like to give the floor to my colleagues to start.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Siranush. Hello, everyone. Thank you all for having us, Carlos and me, today. I'm Ozan, and I'm part of the Policy Team at ICANN. I'm based in Istanbul, where we have the Middle East and Africa regional office.

So my colleague Carlos is also part of the Policy Team and he's based in Washington, D.C., United States. Carlos, would you like to add anything for your introduction?

So today we are doing to cover – I have control of the slides, I guess.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Me too.

OZAN SAHIN: Okay. I'm the host.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: The one who's controlling the slides. Who's controlling the slides?

ICANN
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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The spirit of [inaudible].

OZAN SAHIN: Actually, I can just run the slides, Siranush. I'm a host. I can do that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. [Do it].

OZAN SAHIN: Yeah. Thank you. So this is our agenda today. Maybe we want to maximize the slide pod. So I can do that if you allow me to, Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please.

OZAN SAHIN: So they can see the slides better.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [It's to] be done on the presentation.

OZAN SAHIN: Oh. Where's the—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Oh. We need to do it in the remote. Yeah. Okay. It's done.

OZAN SAHIN: Done? Great. We would like to provide an overview of the Policy Development Support Department today and also policy development processes. Then we'd like to discuss some examples of the policies. The next thing in our agenda is the current policy development processes or PDPs, and then we will have a Q&A session at the end.

But before we start, if you have any questions at this point, we'd like to receive them and get a sense of what you would like to hear more about this presentation so that we can structure our presentation accordingly. So if you have any questions before we start, please go ahead, get in the queue, and introduce yourself. We'll be starting right after.

ROYDEN MFIKEW: Hi. My name is Royden Mfikwe. I just wanted to find out, in regard to the policy development process, how does one initiate a draft

comment on behalf of the community? Because not necessarily everyone that's here wants to contribute. They know how [inaudible] the process. Thanks.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you. Are there any other questions? We'll possibly cover them as we go along the presentation.

So I see one head on my left and one more over there, so please go ahead and then I'll turn over to the lady on my left.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good afternoon. [inaudible] from Venezuela. As everybody will know, since May of last year, with the entrance of GDRP, ICANN entered in the Expedited PDP process (EPDP). Now the question is, what happened with the standard process? Has it been left alone? Because with a new EPDP, everything from now on will be EPDP. [E-mailed] or still things in the old-fashioned way? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you. Thank you. I noted your question. Yes, please?

CLAIRE CRAIG: Hi. My name is Claire Craig. I'm looking at the slide and I'm seeing where you talked about current policy development processes.

I'm just wondering, there are policies that are already [in training]. How does one get involved in some of these that may be part of working groups already? How do you join a working group and become part of the policy development process?

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for the question. We'll have a section where we will cover how to get involved with the ongoing policy development processes. So we'll address your question.

Any other questions?

Okay. Seems like this is not the case, so I'll start with an overview of the Policy Development Support Department. In the department, we currently have 34 staff members. Our department is a geographically distributed one, which allows us to respond to the needs of our community members on a timely basis. We cover five time zones across eleven countries, and our staff members are able to speak eleven languages.

In the department, we have some staff members that facilitate the work of stakeholders. They may have regular calls and face-to-face meetings. At ICANN64 here, most of the policy development support team is represented, and we are supporting, if I'm not mistaken, 75% of all sessions here. So the

facilitation piece relates to the facilitation of the calls and meetings.

With respect to expertise and research, we do have some subject matter experts who do the research and draft some reports. My colleague, Carlos, will be covering the policy development processes. He will note that, in the process, the staff will be expected to draft some reports. So we do that.

We also support working groups, which are happening with the policy development process. Another way to participate in the policy development process is participation in the public comments. The Policy Team also manages the public comment process at ICANN. I'll be discussing the public comment process in detail as we go along.

We also have close relationships with the community members because we are a community-facing department at ICANN. So we do play a role of informing our stakeholders and the leadership. Also, we produce some communication materials so that community members better understand how the policy development process works.

In providing our service, we observe some rules and values. So we pay great attention to be equal across all different communities and maintain a balanced and impartial approach. We also care about providing efficient and effective support. Most recently, we

have been migrating over to a new software tool which will enable us to provide our services to community members more efficiently and effectively. We also ensure an open and transparent process. We like to provide reports on our activities. We post them. They're available [for] community members.

As we are doing here, we engage with all stakeholders in the [community work], and we strive to promote strategic thought and thoughtful participation.

Why do we do it? Because the bottom-up consensus-driven policy development and advice development work is at the core of ICANN's mission. That's why we are all here in this meeting. Policy development and advice development work is very fundamental at ICANN.

So, before going to the next part, which is the overview of policy development processes and handing it over to my colleague, Carlos, I'll stop here to see if you have any questions. I'm just reminding you that we will have another Q&A session at the end of this presentation. If you don't have any immediate questions, I'll turn it over to my colleague, Carlos. Thank you.

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CARLOS REYES: Thank you, Ozan. Hi, everyone. This is Carlos Reyes. As Ozan mentioned, I also work with the Policy Department. Can you advance that? Thank you.

So I think by now you've heard of the three different pieces of the ICANN ecosystem. We have the community, the Board, and the organization. The community is really at the core of ICANN work. This is where policies are developed, where advice is developed. The organization supports the community and implements those policies and advisories that are approved by the Board. So this infographic here captures that.

So if we go onto the multi-stakeholder community, at ICANN, we organize the community, or the community self-organized, into seven groups: three supporting organizations, which develop policy, and four advisory committees. Each group has a specific mission and remit that I'll go into here in detail in the coming slides.

So let's talk about the supporting organizations.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: They [inaudible] this, so they're not going to understand the whole multi-stakeholder things. They all learned this. It may be a bit closer to the policy focus.

CARLOS REYES:	So the three supporting organizations I've given you an overview of. I know you've taken the course available on ICANN Learn. We'll go into detail, but this is just an introduction, so it's to level-set with everyone here.
	So the Address Supporting Organization develops policies for number resources. We'll describe their PDP here shortly. The Country-Code Names Supporting Organization, as the name implies, is for country-code top-level domains. The Generic Names Supporting Organization is for generic top-level domains.
	The advisory committees – there are four – again, have their own remit. We have the At-Large Advisory Committee, which provides input from end users, and the Governmental Advisory Committee, which provides input from governments, the Root Server System Advisory Committee – they provide input from the root server operators and look at the whole root server system – and then the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. They look at security issues: security, stability, and resiliency.
	This is an infographic we developed a few years ago that goes through the PDPs of each group. You'll see this available online. We have it translated in the U.N. languages. Today, I'm going to focus on the steps of every PDP.
	So let's start with the GNSO. Here at ICANN, you will see that most of the policy development activity focuses on generic top-level

domains. The GNSO PDP is managed by a council. The council is comprised of 21 members. They represent different stakeholder groups and constituencies. Together, they basically coordinate the work of the various GNSO working groups. Their reports go through the council and the council considers and votes.

So if we look at the PDP process, the first step is probably the most important – the first two steps, really. The first step is where the council and the community are identifying an issue. What challenges are out there? What problems are out there? What can the GNSO Council or the ICANN Board or an advisory committee – what are the issues on their mind?

Then, at that point, the council starts to evaluate whether or not an issue, one, is within their remit – so it has to be within the scope of the GNSO mission – and, two, whether or not the issue would even result in a policy. So this is a very deliberate step, where the council is making a determination about whether or not it wants to undertake a particular effort.

The reason this is important to keep in mind is that every supporting organization has a very specific mission and a very specific role per the ICANN bylaws. So the supporting organizations cannot go outside of that remit, and this forces the supporting organization, the community, to check to make sure that the issue is within the remit of the GNSO.

So Step 1, you're identifying the issue. That can come through the council, the ICANN Board, or an advisory committee. Then, after that, the council starts to scope the issue. So that pretty much gets us to the first phase of the PDP.

There are opportunities where people outside of the GNSO could contribute. As Ozan mentioned, the Policy Development Support Team develops the initial issues report, which scopes out the issue and tries to focus in on some questions that the PDP can answer or that the potential PDP can answer. So there's always opportunities, when something is posted for public comment, as part of a PDP for outside input.

I'll pause here because, as I mentioned, that's sort of the first phase of the PDP, where you're identifying an issue and scoping the issue. Are there any questions at this point?

Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible], Fellow. I have a quick question. When the public comments are invited to scope out the issue, how are they evaluated? Because it's mentioned after that that the GNSO Council considers the final issue report but doesn't say anything about the final comments – oh, sorry. The public comments. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: Yeah. That's a good question. So, every time there's a public comment proceeding within ICANN, the staff support that manages that particular proceeding produce a report that summarizes the comments. Obviously, the comments are all available for everyone to see as well. So that's transparent.

But the staff produces a summary report, and that report is given to, in this case, the GNSO Council to consider. So it's up to the council – or, if it's later in the PDP, it's up to the working group – to incorporate that feedback.

The best way to track that? If there's an initial report, you have the summary report of the public comment, and then you'll see the final issue report.

So that's the trajectory of that cycle. Good question.

Any questions?

Yes?

COPPENS NDAYIRAGUE: Thank you. My name is Coppens. I wish to know with these policies – are you going to continue developing them? Or is there a timeline where you are going to say the policies you have already developed are now stable and can be implemented?

Because I think, at the bottom line from communities, if they keep continuing being developed, then it would be very difficult to implement them. That is my point of view. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: So there's a distinction there between implementation there and development, and that's a very fine line within ICANN. We have a separate team that focuses on implementing policies. Sometimes there are occasions where there are questions about how to interpret a policy, but that's not something that is handled through the PDP.

After a policy is approved, there are implantation review teams that are assembled, and that's when staff works with that particular community on actually implementing the policy.

So that's a separate phase from development. Does that help clarify?

COPPENS NDAYIRAGUE: My problem is, in order to well-implement a policy, [it's the time you have to] understand it very well. Then, for example, if there is that department in charge of your implementation, the consumers of the policies you develop – do they have to understand in the same context as you developed them? But if

they keep changing, I think it will become difficult to implement. That is my point of view.

CARLOS REYES: I think that's a fair point. PDPs have a lifeline of about two to three year, so changes aren't really sudden in the ICANN context. By the time there is a change, either to an existing policy or a new policy, there have been multiple steps where the potentially affected groups are included.

So I think that's a fair point to bring up. Then, like I said, there's a separate phase where we also work with the people who will be impacted by those policies very directly.

Good question.

ROXANNE JOHN: Roxanne John here, Saint Vincent And The Grenadines. Just a bit curious. In terms of the public comments, between individual submitting comments against being submitted through a working group, is there a preference in terms of acceptance of those comments? Is there a preference for the comments to come through or [be brought in] as an individual person's comments?

CARLOS REYES: That's a good question. If you ever have an opportunity to look at one of these summary reports, there are two sections. There's a section for comments submitted by individuals, and the comments submitted by groups. There is no guidance about how you weigh the comments. I think for every group, whether it's a working group or a council or an advisory committee or even staff, if it's an implementation issue, the comment is considered on its own merits.

So I think it's important to understand where it's coming from. There's a difference between an individual submitting a comment or a government submitting a comment or another ICANN community group submitting a comment. But they're all considered and evaluated. There's ultimately a determination about how to capture that feedback in that particular document. So it is very deliberate in terms of how staff and the working groups review those comments.

Okay. So if we're following an issue, we're approaching Step 3, which is that the council actually has to initiate the policy development process. At this point, they look at the issue report and they make a vote. If they agree to initiate a policy development process, the way to do that is through a working group. So the working group would exist within the GNSO. The GNSO has liaisons to other groups and they often reach out to other groups to provide input as well.

So we're now moving into the phase of the PDP where most of the work happens. A lot of the sessions you see at an ICANN meeting are at the working group stage. This is where volunteers are participating on teleconferences, going to face-to-face meetings. This is where they're discussing and deliberating. So that takes us to Step 4, once we have the working group phase. That's what'll take sometimes two to three years because you have a lot of different interests and voices and you somehow have to arrive at consensus.

Often, a working group has a charter that very specifically spells out the mission of the working group. They have operating procedures or they abide by the GNSO operating procedures. They also have milestones and a work plan that they have to meet.

There is no timeline, per se. I think everyone prefers to ensure that the work is done correctly rather than quickly. So I think that's a fine point, and I see some heads nodding about that.

So I'm happy to pause here because this is, I think, an important step to note: the working group phase. A working group can also develop different reports that are published for public comment. So at every step of the way there is also an opportunity for broader input.

I see a comment here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible] Fellow. I've been part of two working groups so far ever since I started in 2016, the NomCom 2 Working Party and the GNSO SubPro Working Group. I somewhat know the process of how our working groups' chairs and vice-chairs are selected, but just for some new faces/people in the Fellowship, I just wanted you to, if you could, elaborate on that process, please. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: How a working group selects their leadership?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, please.

CARLOS REYES: Okay. Ultimately, it comes down to that there are operating procedures. Every working group is slightly different. They could have different tracks of work, and every track has a chair, and then there's some sort of overall working group leadership. Some groups are smaller and they only need a chair and a vice-chair. It's really up to the group to determine what kind of leadership and stewardship they need to effectively complete their work. But usually there's some sort of election process within each working group to do that.

I can't really speak too specifically about the GNSO because I've never supported the GNSO working group, but in other groups that I've worked with, like I said, there's usually some sort of election mechanism that elects the chair of the working group. And then there may also be liaisons from the council, which is the group that's managing the overall PDP.

Does that help? Thank you. Good question.

Okay. So let's say we're fast-forwarding two or three years and we now have a final report from a working group. That report is published, of course, with public comment on it. But then the council starts to consider the final report. If the council approves it, adopts it, it goes to the ICANN Board.

In the case of the GNSO PDP, there is a specific step where the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee) is consulted. So there are different mechanisms, like I said, where the GNSO PDP encourages coordination with other groups.

If the Board also adopts the final report, those recommendations then become policy, and then that's when the implementation and the planning begins.

So questions about the end of the process?

Yes?

CLAIRE CRAIG: Actually, going back to Step 4, after it's been decided that this issue is important and a working group needs to be formed – tell us about that process. How does the working group coming together. Or, if there is a working group, how does one become active on that working group?

CARLOS REYES: Good question. So let's say the council decides to begin a PDP. The staff support for the GNSO would initiate a call for volunteers, and that's an announcement from the ICANN organization. Every group is notified that there's a PDP starting and that you're welcome to join it.

Usually, the various stakeholder groups and constituencies of the GNSO start to find and identify volunteers for that effort. Then, once you have a group of people, you schedule sessions and meetings and they elect their leadership, etc.

So that's how the initiation happens.

CLAIRE CRAIG: So if you are not part of the initial call for volunteers and the group is ongoing – because some of these PDPs can take a

number of years – is there an opportunity for someone to come into a group that has been formed?

CARLOS REYES: If the working group is open, yes. So there's always an opportunity to join and observe, but if you want to join as a contributor, you would either have to go through a group or get some sort of designation as an actual member of the working group.

Most GNSO working groups are open to observers, but if you want to be a contributor, I think the GNSO operating procedures require that it come from one of the stakeholder groups or constituencies. So you would have to go through a stakeholder group or constituency, and then they would ask you to be their representative on that particular working group.

Other questions about joining a working group?

Yes?

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN: Kristina Hakobyan from Armenia. How is policy development represented in ICANN Learn platform? Because I tried to find something and I'd see only the in-GNSO part.

CARLOS REYES: I would have to defer to my ICANN Learn colleagues, but I'm pretty sure we're close to finalizing a new course about an introduction to policy development. So it should be online soon. I know there are some resources there already. But we've actually just revised most of our introductory courses to go through essentially what I'm doing here: all this.

So, like I said, some existing courses are being revised and we're in the process of developing new courses, too. Good question.

GRACE LINDO: Grace Lindo from Jamaica. I have a general question about conflicts of interest and whether there's a policy for conflicts of interest, including people who are pointed to working groups. How do you deal with that?

CARLOS REYES: That's a good question. In the GNSO, every person who participates has to have a statement of interest on file. That's publicly available for everyone to see. Part of that statement of interest includes identifying relationships, etc.

So that's very specific to the GNSO, but most other community groups have some sort of mechanism where you document who you are, what you're interests are, what's your experience, what you contribute to the group, etc.

Any other questions about GNSO?

Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No question as such. Just a suggestion that, if somebody wants to be a part of any working group, the first and foremost thing to do could be to join the mailing list and observe for some time so that you could get familiar with the working of the group and then start from there. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: Yeah, I think that's a good recommendation. As a staff member, I've been with ICANN six years. I think it probably took about a year for me to really understand the pieces, and I'm a full-time person. This is my job. So, for volunteers, I think the learning curve is even steeper.

So take your time. Understand the issues. Reach out to the people. Ask questions. Then it'll make your process of integrating yourself into some of the work a little more manageable.

Yes?

PAOLA CARRERO: Sorry. Can you go back to Slide #12?

CARLOS REYES: Okay.

PAOLA CARRERO: Okay. I am new. My name is Paola Perez from Venezuela. I am new in the ICANN community but I see that the ALAC is part of the RALOs, right? For example, in my case, I am a member of LACRALO. But I know there are organized by the ALS, right?

So if we want to make a change in the memorandum of understanding, what is the policy process that, for example, the RALOs have to have in that case?

CARLOS REYES: So a few things to clarify. RALOs are part of At-Large. In At-Large, there's an advisory committee that is at the top of how the At-Large community is organized. The advice comes from the advisory committee. And the RALOs are the regional structures for how that's organized within the At-Large community. The next layer down is At-Large Structures. So that's the different groups that are part of the RALOs. Then the RALOs feed into the ALAC.

To your question about MOUs, are referring to the MOU between an ALS and ICANN or … which MOU?

PAOLA CARRERO:	Well, in my case, we are from ISOC Venezuela and we are a member of the LACRALO. We see that we can make a change in the memorandum of understanding, but I don't really what is the process.
CARLOS REYES:	That is a question for the At-Large because it's not an ICANN policy issue. There's policy in the sense that there is some sort of process that you have to follow, but that is more organizational in nature within At-Large, and it is not an issue within the work and mission of ICANN.
PAOLA CARRERO:	But is there any possibly that this text could be in all the RALOs, for example? No?
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	It's, again, within At-Lage Structures. So you need to get connected with At-Large's ALAC (At-Large Advisory Committee) who is charge of the bylaws within At-Large. So this internal At-Large-related policy that should be coordinated within RALOs in their – because RALOs have an MOU with At-Large/ALAC itself at the end. So this is internal communication and information issues. So the policy is within the At-Large itself.

PAOLA CARRERO: Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: Siranush is from originally the At-Large community, so I'm glad she's hear to clarify.

Let's move on to the ccNSO. the ccNSO, as you know, is a supporting organization that develops policies for country codes, country-code top-level domains. So if we go on to their PDP process, it's similar to the GNSO process. It looks like our PowerPoint has some issues.

So I'll just give you an overview because it's actually very similar in terms of steps – oh. Let's go back to the infographic and we can zoom in.

So, yes. The ccNSO PDP is very similar in that you have a phase where you identify the issue. The ccNSO Council can do that, [as well] as ccNSO members, the Board, and advisory committee, etc.

There's also a scoping phase – again, this is pretty standard across the ICANN community – to make sure that the issue is specifically related to country-code top-level domains. You have a phase where you're initiating the policy development process.

That includes a vote by the ccNSO Council. And then you have a working group phase.

The distinction comes later. When the council is voting to approve a report from the working group, the council votes, but then also the ccNSO members vote. So if you think about the council as the group that is managing the policy development process within the ccNSO, there's another step where everyone else also gets to vote, even if they're not directly represented in the council itself. So there's an extra step there. After that, it goes to the Board, and then the Board would consider and vote on that as well.

I'll pause here. Again, there are opportunities for public comment whenever a report is generated by any stage of the PDP within the ccNSO. So, again, similar to the GNSO. There haven't been a lot of ccNSO policy development processes – I think maybe three – and that's because of the very specific remit of the ccNSO.

So I'll stop here. It was less than ideal because we don't have the slides, but I think the takeaway is that it's very similar, except how it's approved because the ccNSO members have an opportunity to vote as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just a quick follow-up on what Paola has asked. Albert Daniels and Dev Anand are online remotely, following us, and Silvia

Vivanco will be your key contact to go for the clarifications. I will be sending you the link of LACRALO organizing documents which have also the MOU with ICANN, which is shared by Dev. So you can follow up based on those documents. Thank you.

CARLOS REYES: Any questions about ccNSO?

Okay. So let's go on to ASO. ASO is a little different, partly because the remit of the ASO at ICANN is specifically scoped around global number resources. So there's a lot of regional policy development work that happens at the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), and at ICANN, it's only limited to global policies.

So if we go to the next slide, please. So the way the policy development process works within the ASO – the global policy development process – the five RIRs (the Regional Internet Registries) and the communities within the five RIRs have to develop and approve the exact same policy. That's usually because it requires a specific outcome or action by the IANA numbering services.

So once that happens, the Address Council of the ASO starts to track the issue. They assemble a team called the Policy Proposal Facilitator Team. They make sure that the policy development

process was followed in every region and that it was approved. Then it has to go through the Address Council for approval.

At that point, we're already toward the end of Step 3 here. So five RIRs review the same proposal. They approve an identical proposal, and then they submit it to the Address Council.

Once the Address Council starts looking at this, they make a recommendation to the ICANN Board, and then the ICANN Board can either accept it, reject it, make changes, request changes, or take no action.

But in any case, that dialogue happens, and then it's a policy within the RIR communities.

The five RIRs are listed there. We have AFRNIC for Africa, APNIC for the Asia-Pacific region, ARIN, which handles Canada, the United States, and parts of the Caribbean, Latin America is LACNIC, and then RIPE-NCC for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

The last time we had a global policy was 2012. That doesn't mean that the Address Council isn't working on issues. It's just that most of the policy development happens at the regional level. So if you want to see most of that policy development work, I recommend you visit the RIR community webpages. They have mailing lists where there's a lot of discussion. We're seeing a lot

of policies right now around IPv4, IPv6, autonomous system numbers, etc.

I think later today the ASO is having their information session. I think it's next door. I think I'm going.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And, please, I do encourage you to go to that session. You will learn more about numbers. This is one of the key aspects for ICANN, so please find time to go there and just listen.

CARLOS REYES: So any questions about ASO policy development and the RIR policy development work?

Okay. Quick time check. It's 1:15, so I want to make sure we—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We have 15 minutes left, so …

CARLOS REYES: Yeah. So I think, for the bulk of the conversation, we wanted to focus on the PDPs because that's most of the work. The advisory committees also have their own processes for how they develop advice. RSSAC has – sorry. I'll go in order. In the At-Large Advisory Committee, again, for end users, when they're going to make a

statement, they make sure that they check with the RALOs, and the RALOs also check with At-Large Structures, etc. Ultimately, it goes to the At-Large Advisory Committee, which approves the statement.

If we look at the GAC, most of their advice comes through the GAC communique. They also have work parties and ultimately there's a process where the GAC has to achieve consensus before it is a ratified statement in the communique. The communique sometimes includes advice.

RSSAC forms work parties. It's somewhat like a working group. Then the report, the outcome of the work party, goes to the RSSAC for approval. SSAC is very similar. In all of these cases, it goes to the ICANN Board.

We have an infographic. It's one of the slides that isn't displaying well, but we'll make sure that you get it in a follow-up communication.

Any questions about the advisory committees? It's not my intent to glaze over it. It's just hard to explain without infographics.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I have shared this PowerPoint presentation, but if you have any updates later, I would be happy to share with all Fellows.

Please?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thanks. I'm not sure if this question would be relevant now, but it's in regard to Istanbul Hub. I just wanted to understand how do they support African regional activities?

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for this question. The Istanbul office is a regional office, and it serves the Middle East and Africa region. We have a separate office in, if I'm not mistaken, Nairobi, Kenya, we have Global Stakeholder Engagement representatives headed by Pierre Dandjinou.

So, for regional events and engagement events, this team organizes or supports some of the events going on in Africa. They're part of the Istanbul office organizationally.

I hope that answers your question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I'm sure you met [inaudible], who are part of the African team and work with Pierre.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thanks. [inaudible] came and we already had a meeting with [Seun] and in the morning today with Pierre to discuss some of the strategies around that region. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Great.

OZAN SAHIN: Also, just to add to my response to this question, we have a close relationship with the Africa office and they sometimes rely on the departments represented in the Istanbul office to support also these events such as contractual compliance or registry/registry services. These departments are also represented in the Istanbul office and we do support either in person or remotely some of the events going on in Africa.

CARLOS REYES: Claire?

CLAIRE CRAIG: Now, going back to the ASO, you mentioned something about global policies, but one of the things in the Caribbean – you pointedly said that ARIN takes are of North America/U.S./Canada, and some parts of the Caribbean. But Latin America/LACNIC is also Latin America and other parts of the Caribbean.

Are there areas where the policies can be different for certain parts of the Caribbean because they are governed by different RIRs, particularly, let's say, the depletion of the IPv4 numbers. How is that treated and how can the Caribbean ensure that they have equal treatment across the Caribbean, even they may be governed by different RIRs?

CARLOS REYES: So, to your first point, yes, there is a scenario where, depending on the jurisdiction of how a Caribbean state is assigned an RIR, the policies could vary. But the reason we have global policies is to coordinate across all the RIRs. But that's because there's a need for the IANA numbering services to be consistent across all the regions.

To your second point about how to ensure that there is agreement or, I guess, synchronization, I think that's a political issue that's largely outside of the policy development itself. But it comes down to how the service regions are scoped in terms of geography.

I don't have the answer. I'm happy to ask about that when I meet with ASO Address Council members. But I think ICANN the organization has some of these similar challenges because the Board has different regions. The At-Large community is organized regionally. That may be differently than the RIRs. There are a lot

CLAIRE CRAIG: Sorry. It's just that the Caribbean is just so complex because I'm from Trinidad and Tobago, and we don't speak Spanish at all. But yet, we are with LACNIC, with Cuba and the Dominican Republic, while the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean and with ARIN.

What makes it even worse – I'm part of the University of the West Indies – three of our country's campuses are with ARIN, and one is with the LACNIC. So one campus is getting their numbers from one RIR while the others are getting their numbers from another one.

So it will be really good to understand how these political systems operate and what could be done to synchronize them, especially in territories such as ours.

CARLOS REYES: I think Juan may have a comment?

JUAN: Yes. Thank you, Carlos. Just to make a quick follow-up on Claire's comment, now there's, specifically regarding the IPv4 – the depletion there – a couple of policies are being discussed in the

LACNIC region regarding IPv4, [like] inter-RIR transfers that I think in some ways could be helpful to be involved in those discussions because for the particular case of the Caribbean, probably having an inter-RIR policy transfer may be of some help, especially in your case, where you have dual IP requests to do in the region. With this policy, maybe you transfer from one RIR to another to have just one entity that manages the IP.

But those are discussions that are taking place right now, so it will be great to have Caribbean comments in the list. Even though they're in English, I think there is support for English, Spanish, and Portuguese, so please do.

CARLOS REYES: Thank you. Unfortunately, we're going to have to wrap up here shortly, so what I'm going to ask everyone to do is, if you have questions, feel free to follow up with Siranush. Siranush can make sure that Ozan and I can respond accordingly.

I'd like to thank you all for the discussion so far. I think we were able to cover at a high-level the three PDPs of the supporting organizations and then, at a high level and very briefly, the advisory committees. Then Ozan also gave you an overview of how the department is organized and how we do our work.

So feel free to stop us if you have any questions. We always appreciate being invited here. Thank you for having us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much, Ozan and Carlos. Thank you for coming. If you have any follow-up questions, please send them to me and I will make sure our team will get the responses to them.

With that, this meeting is adjourned for now. I would like to request who has a plate in front of you to take it and put in on the further table so the room should be clean within the next five minutes.

Thank you very much, and see you around.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]