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ICANN72 | Virtual Annual General Meeting – How it Works: ICANN Policy  
Monday, October 25, 2021 – 09:00 to 10:00 PDT

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Hello and welcome to the session on how policy works in ICANN. My name is Siranush Vardanyan and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form, as I have noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair moderator of this session.

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With that, I would like to introduce our presenters for this session, my colleagues from Policy Team, Chantelle Doerksen and Ozan Sahin. And without further ado, Chantelle, please take the floor.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Hello, everyone. And thank you, Siranush, for the introduction. My name is Chantelle Doerksen and I'm joined with my colleague, Ozan Sahin and we are going to talk to you about the policy development and advice processes here at ICANN.

Today, our discussion will be divided into six parts. First, I'm going to talk about what our team does and introduce how policy is developed within the three supporting organizations. Then Ozan will talk to you about the specifics of policy development and the advice development processes. I'll then highlight a few of the current policy development processes that are ongoing and finally, we'll open up the discussion for questions and provide some answers.

So what is the policy development support function? We are a team of 36 subject matter and community management experts. In total, our team members are fluent in nine different languages and we work across six different time zones. We are collectively located in nine different countries.

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So what do we do to support the community? We support the community through facilitation, working group calls and sessions, some of which you'll see this week. We provide subject matter expertise on the various policy topics and working groups. We also help with research and drafting.

We also are the team that manages various processes related to policy development, which includes the working groups, the public comment feature, which you'll hear about more towards the end of this session, and the secretariat services that work behind the scenes to ensure that sessions like this one run smoothly.

We also work to inform stakeholders about the policy work at ICANN and we develop some reports related to the pre-ICANN 72 prep and also, at the end of ICANN 72, we have a report—what's called the post ICANN-72 policy report or also known as the ICANN 72 Policy Report. My colleague, Ozan, will share the link to one of those reports in the chat, shortly.

So why do we do it? The ICANN mission, as you might know, is to coordinate the policy development related to the Internet system of unique identifiers. At ICANN, the approach to policy development is a unique form of governance that's known as bottom-up decision-making. And this bottom-up approach to decision-making involves consensus-driven policy development and advice development work. Next, we'll focus on the ICANN ecosystem and understand how this process happens.

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The ICANN ecosystem is made up of three components—the ICANN community, the ICANN Board of Directors, and the ICANN Organization, which is often shortened to ICANN Org. At a high level, the role of the community is to develop policy. The ICANN Board reviews and adopts policies and the ICANN Board also directs ICANN Org to implement policy and oversees the performance of the organization. This distribution and decentralization of power and responsibility works with a strong system of checks and balances. We each hold one another accountable.

When we say that the ICANN community is where policy is developed, we are talking about the community volunteers and the community structures within which they operate. The volunteers include experts and people from all over the world who are coming together to make important decisions about how the ICANN ecosystem works. Since the views are very diverse, the community structures and processes are in place to make sure that the work is done in an effective way and to ensure that all the different perspectives are heard.

What’s important is to understand how this community works together through this bottom-up process to make the policy recommendations or to develop them, to give advice, conduct reviews, and propose implementation solutions for the problems within ICANN’s mission and scope.

So as you can see on the screen in front of you, at a high level, this community is made up of two different categories. The first category are the supporting organizations or the SOs, which are the three groups

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responsible for developing the policy recommendations in different areas. The second category refers to the advisory committees, or ACs, which are the four groups that give advice and make recommendations to the ICANN Board. Within the supporting organizations at ICANN, these are three separate and very unique groups.

The first is the Address Supporting Organization or the ASO. Within the ASO, there are Regional Internet Registries, or RIRs, each with its own region. And they are responsible for allocating the IP addresses in different parts of the world. These RIRs also form a council that's called the ASO Address Council and this council has representatives from each of the RIRs. Its focus is on global Internet protocol address policy. So that's the policy development that happens at a regional level on the numbers side. And as you can imagine, there are also global policies that affect more than one RIR. Those policies are developed through the ASO itself.

The other two SOs are related to domain name policy. The ccNSO, or the Country Code Name Supporting Organization works on global policies related to country code top-level domains or ccTLDs. Examples of those that you might be familiar with are .br for Brazil or .uk for the United Kingdom. If you'd like to come up with another example of a ccTLD—maybe the ccTLD for your country—please feel free to share it in the chat.

And then finally, we have the Generic Names Supporting Organization, or the GNSO, that is focused on generic top-level domains or gTLDs. The one you probably know most, of course, is .com or .org. The pool of

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these gTLDs, or generic top-level domains, have grown over time. In 2012, there was a significant expansion of the gTLD space through what is called the new gTLD program. And with this growth, as you can imagine, the need for new policies had also increased.

The GNSO Council is the governing body within the GNSO that supervises policy development. And this council represents many different parts of the ICANN community, including the Contracted Parties, such as the Registries and the Registrars that hold contracts with ICANN. The Council also includes representatives from other groups, such as civil society and commercial interests.

With that, I'd like to turn it over to my colleague, Ozan Sahin, to go into detail about the supporting organizations' policy development processes and to talk to you about the advisory committees.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you, Chantelle, and hello, everyone. My name is Ozan Sahin, also a member of the Policy Development Support Team and working out of ICANN Middle East and Africa regional office, located in Istanbul.

So Chantelle already talked about the three supporting organizations. Let's now check how the policy development process works for each of them. And on this infographic, it illustrates the policy development process for each of the three supporting organizations. It is available online in various languages, including the United Nations languages. And I have just dropped the link in the chat where you can access this infographic in different languages.

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I will now focus on the policy development process steps, starting with the GNSO. Next slide, please. You will see that most of the policy development activity focuses on generic top-level domains. The Generic Names Supporting Organization is responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains, such as .com, .net, .org, .movie. And the GNSO policy development process or PDP is managed by the GNSO Council.

So when we go to the next slide, this slide provides more detailed information on how the GNSO Council is structured. There are two houses within the GNSO Council. The two stakeholder groups that you see in the middle of the chart, the Registries Stakeholder Group and the Registrars Stakeholder Group, together they form the Contracted Parties House because these are the structures that have contracts with ICANN.

The two stakeholder groups on the left and right, the Commercial Stakeholder Group and the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, they together form the Non-Contracted Parties House. The Commercial Stakeholder Group is composed of three constituencies, the Business Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency that you see at the bottom left. And we have the Non-Commercial Users Constituency and the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency under the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group.

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Each of these stakeholder groups appoint a certain number of councilors to the GNSO Council. And the slide really shows how different interests are represented within the GNSO Council. Next slide, please.

So let's look into the GNSO policy development process in detail. The first step is where the GNSO Council, ICANN Board, or an advisory committee identifies an issue. So they come up with the challenge or problem in their mind and then the GNSO Council considers whether this issue is within the scope of their mission and also whether or not the issue would result in a policy.

This is where the GNSO Council makes the determination, whether it wants to undertake a particular effort. Every supporting organization has a specific mission under ICANN Bylaws and they can not go outside of this remit. So this step is really to make sure the issue is within the remit of the GNSO.

After the identification of the issue, the next step is scoping. At the request of the GNSO Council, the Policy Development Support Team drafts and publishes a preliminary issue report, which focuses on some questions that the potential policy development process can answer.

This report is published for public comment. This is where there are opportunities for outside input from the entire ICANN community. And if you see on the slide, it's marked with an arrow on the left. Following the public comment period, a final issue report is prepared, reflecting the comments received during the public consultation period and it is submitted to the GNSO Council for the Council's consideration. And

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then the GNSO Council looks at the final issue report and votes on whether to initiate a policy development process.

If the Council decides to initiate a policy development process or PDP, then they develop or adopt a charter for the PDP working group. Then the GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form the PDP working group. So on the next slide, you will see, once the working group is formed, it starts its deliberations through mailing list exchanges, teleconferences, face-to-face meetings where possible. This process may take a couple of years.

The working group consults with the ICANN community and then comes up with an initial report. Then a public comment proceeding is opened for this report. And eventually, the working group reviews the comments received and decides whether to incorporate these comments in the final report. And then the working group submits the final report to the GNSO Council.

In the next step, the GNSO Council reviews the final report and considers adoption. If adopted, then the GNSO Council submits the final report to the ICANN Board.

And finally, once the final report is submitted to the ICANN Board, the Board consults the ICANN community through, again, a public comment proceeding. The Board receives the input from the community before making its decision. And then the Board votes on the recommendations in the final report. And if the Board adopts the recommendations, then they become the policy. That is really the end

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of the policy development process and also the beginning of the implementation phase.

So if you can go to the next slide, we have the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, or the ccNSO. Both the ccNSO Council and the ccNSO members work on global policies relating to country code top-level domain names, such as, again, .br, .uk.

And on the next slide, you will see the steps for the ccNSO policy development process or PDP. It's very similar to GNSO PDP, in that you have a phase to identify the issue. Then there's a phase where it is determined whether or not the issue is within the scope of the ccNSO. And in the next phase, the ccNSO Council approves the issue report and initiates a policy development process. The ccNSO Council gives public notice and opens a public comment period.

So on the next slide, then the working group phase begins. After the initial report of the working group, another public comment period takes place. And then the final report and the recommendations of the working group are developed and submitted to the ccNSO Council.

So here there's a distinction when it comes to working on the report of the working group. In the ccNSO PDP, there is a two-stage voting the ccNSO. First the ccNSO Council votes and then also ccNSO members vote. So there's an extra step here where all ccNSO members vote on the report of the working group, even if they are not represented on the ccNSO Council. And after that, the final report is submitted to the ICANN Board.

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Let's move on to the Address Supporting Organization on the next slide. The Address Supporting Organization, or ASO Address Council, is comprised of 15 volunteers, three from each of the five Regional Internet Registries. The remit of the ASO within ICANN is specifically scoped around global number resources. There's a number of regional policy development work that happens at the five Regional Internet Registries, or RIRs. But at ICANN, it is limited to global policies. Next slide, please.

The way that the global policy development process works in the ASO is the five Regional Internet Registries and the communities within the five RIRs have to develop and approve exactly the same policy. This is because it requires a specific outcome or action by the IANA Numbering Services.

Once that happens, the Address Council of the ASO starts to track the issue. They assemble a team called the policy proposal facilitator team. This team makes sure the policy development process was followed in every region and then it was approved. And finally, the proposal has to go to the Address Council for approval. Next slide, please.

Then the Address Supporting Organization Address Council submits the proposal to the ICANN Board. The ICANN Board may accept or reject the proposal or the ICANN Board may request changes to the proposal or it may take no action. And on this slide, you see the five RIRs or Regional Internet Registries—AFRINIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, and RIPE NCC.

So let's now move on to multistakeholder advice development. This is our third agenda item. Chantelle already mentioned that we had four

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advisory committees. We have At-Large Advisory Committee, which provides advice from end users; Governmental Advisory Committee that provides input from governments; Root Server System Advisory Committee provides input from root server operators; and finally, Security Stability Advisory Committee, which looks at the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

So let's go to the next slide. You see another infographic here. And let me also drop a link to this infographic, if you'd like to open it yourself, because I know the font is really small here to follow from screen. Advisory committees have their own processes to develop the advice. For instance, when At-Large Advisory Committee develops advice, they make sure to check with the Regional At-Large Organizations, or RALOs. And the Regional At-Large Organizations check the advice development process with their At-Large Structures. And ultimately, they go to the At-Large Advisory Committee, which approves the statement.

If we move to the right of the infographic, you will see the Governmental Advisory Committee, or the GAC. Most of the GAC advice comes through the GAC Communique, the advisory the GAC develops around ICANN public meetings. There are also GAC work parties on a number of topics. And there's a process where GAC has to reach consensus before it's a ratified statement.

Next to GAC, there is Root Server System Advisory Committee on this infographic, or the RSSAC. It has work parties to develop advice. There are working groups. And the outcome of the work party effort, which is usually a report, needs to be approved by the RSSAC.

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And finally, Security Stability Advisory Committee, or SSAC, is similar to RSSAC in how they develop advice to the ICANN Board and the ICANN community.

So if we can go the next slide, I will turn it back to my colleague, Chantelle, who will provide some examples of the current policy development processes that you will likely hear about during ICANN 72.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Thank you, Ozan. There are a few policy development processes that are currently ongoing at ICANN and that you'll be hearing about later this week. You'll also have the opportunity to join sessions to learn more about them and to observe the working groups in action.

The first is the GNSO Expedited PDP, which is focused on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, Phase 2A. On Wednesday, the GNSO Council will consider the Phase 2A final report on two topics. First is the legal versus natural persons discussion and second is the feasibility of uniform anonymized e-mail addresses. The second one is the GNSO PDP on new gTLD Subsequent Procedures, which is often called SubPro. And GNSO PDP related to the Rights Protection Mechanisms in all gTLDs. This one doesn't have a session at ICANN 72 but it is ongoing.

There will be a session on Transfer Policy, which is the third box on the screen. This covers the consensus policy governing the transfer of domain names from one registrar to another.

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Also is EPDP on IDNs. This will focus on the definition of gTLDs and the management of variant labels and how the IDN Implementation Guidelines should be updated in the future. IDN stands for internationalized domain names.

The next one is ccNSO PDP 3. This is to review the delegation, transfer, revocation, and the retirement of ccTLDs associated with the country codes, assigned to countries and territories on ISO-3166 list.

And finally, there is one policy development process within the ccNSO that is focused on the deselection of internationalized domain names, or IDNs—ccTLD strings that are associated with country codes of countries, territories, and other areas of geopolitical interest listed in ISO-3166.

So how can you participate in the policy development process at ICANN? And I noticed a few questions in the chat. First is that you can join one of the open community groups or join one of the working groups as an observer. Second, you can observe some of the meetings, some of the working group sessions on a mailing list or by joining one of the calls. And third is you can submit a public comment.

On the screen before you is a snapshot of one proceeding that has closed yesterday. As you can see on the screen, you can subscribe to get public comment alerts. The public comment homepage. You can get alerts about a specific proceeding and you also have the opportunity to provide your input. My colleague, Ozan, will share a link in the chat that directs to this page. You can also find it via the ICANN Org website.

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What’s interesting about this page is that public is the process that gives ICANN community, the Internet stakeholders, and the public in general to provide input on ICANN work and policies. So you can submit a comment as an individual. You can also contribute with a group, in a comment that’s being formed by a particular part of the community.

So at this time, we’d like to open the floor to questions and answers. I know that Siranush has been moderating the chat. So Siranush, at this point, I would like to defer to you for our first question.

**SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you, Chantelle and Ozan. There are, indeed, several questions there. And you, Chantelle, already answered to the first one—can anyone join GNSO and how? So thanks for sharing this. There is a question from Mouloud Khelif, who is asking, “What happens if the vote doesn’t support the working group recommendations? Does it go back to them for review or additional work?”

**CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:** Ozan, would you like to answer that question or do you want me to go ahead and try?

**OZAN SAHIN:** Yeah. Thanks, Chantelle. Why don’t you go ahead and I’ll add, if I have anything to add.

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CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thanks, Siranush. So if I understood correctly, the question is what happens if the report needs to go back to the working group? Is that correct?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Sorry. I was muted. Yes. If the Board doesn't support the working group recommendation and it goes back for review and additional work. So what happens then?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you. So there are rules and procedures for how the GNSO Council handles PDP reports. And it goes back to the working group. A large factor, it depends on the level of consensus reached for the different recommendations. But ultimately, the GNSO Council cannot unilaterally rewrite policy that a PDP has agreed to put forward. So it needs to go back to the working group. I just can't stress the importance of consensus enough here for this question. It's a really good one. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. The next question is from Kossi. "How ICANN Org is motivating the great job of the volunteers coming from many regions?" Not directly related to the policy work but how the Org motivates the job of volunteers.

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**CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:** Thank you, Siranush. We'd like to think that it's the mission-driven work here at ICANN. We have the Leadership Academy, which also helps support the development of our volunteers. There's ICANN Learn, which I hope many of the Fellows, for example, have had a chance to participate on. I know we have some community leaders on this call as well that have helped actually write content for ICANN learn. So it's a collaborative process that really is there to help promote the work of the community volunteers. I hope that answers the question. Thank you.

**SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you, Chantelle. There's a question from Nicolas Fiumarelli from Uruguay. "Question for Ozan. When you mentioned that ASO, Address Supporting Organization, global policies need to be discussed at each of the five RIRs, this is done via the policy development process in each of the RIRs or somewhere else, in another way? So are the ASO global policies need to be discussed at each of the five RIRs?"

**OZAN SAHIN:** Yes. Thank you, Siranush, and thank you for this question. That is correct. Each of the Regional Internet Registries need to work on the policy development process and they have to develop and approve exactly the same policy for this global policy.

**SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you, Ozan. There is a question from Sivasubramanian. "In the introduction of the session, I heard something like we are 36

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community participants. If I heard it right, how was this number of 36 participants in ALAC policy counted, please?”

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: That’s a great question. To clarify, it’s the 36 members of our policy team, the full-time staff that’s devoted to supporting the community.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Chantelle, for clarification. There is a question from Robert Nkambwe. “How do you deal with a policy development process where stakeholders have failed to reach a consensus?”

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Ozan, did you want to go ahead and answer that or would you like me to?

OZAN SAHIN: Let me try, Chantelle. And if you have any additions, I welcome those. So I think it’s important to determine which policy development process here we are talking about because although they have some similarities within the different policy development processes or PDPs of the supporting organizations. There are also differences.

But when reaching consensus, most of the different ideas are discussed in the working group and the group really tries to reach a consensus there. And during this process, which may take a long time, the working group members discuss the issues. I think it takes a relatively long time

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because it takes time to reach a consensus within the working group. So the various views are shared. The concerns are addressed during this long process.

But I think it would be helpful if ... I can't remember the name of the community member who submitted this question but if you be specific about which policy development process that is, that could be a more thorough answer on this. Do you have anything to add, Chantelle?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thanks, Ozan. I was trying to find the unmute button. I'd also like to flag the consensus playbook to the group. If someone has the link to that, please feel free to drop it in the chat. I know the Fellows have just undergone training on how to build consensus within ICANN, which I think was really excellent. So it's exciting to see some of these questions. And also, sometimes a working group may accept minority statements. I think those are two key issues here—not issues but key items to flag.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks to both. There is a question from Cherkaoui. "As a newcomer, how could I make quickly a proposal for GNSO? The process seems long," when you were explaining. So how he can quickly make a proposal for the GNSO.

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CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Okay. Ozan, I'll jump in and then please feel free to add if I've missed anything. The process is deliberate. And thank you for that question. It does take time. Building consensus takes time. So unfortunately, as one of our GNSO Councilors, Mark Datysgeld mentioned in the chat, unfortunately, it's never quick. Even the Expedited Policy Development Process can take ... As we know with GDPR and the TempSpec, it takes quite a while. It's important to scope the items. This goes into making the charter and the different phases that my colleague, Ozan, outlined.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ozan, anything to add or no? Can I move to the next question?

OZAN SAHIN: Sure. I just wanted to add, Siranush, that it's also important to determine—since I showed this slide about the structure of the GNSO Council, to determine what your interests are, which group or constituency that you feel closer to, and where you can feel comfortable sharing your concerns with them. Also, using this channel, whichever constituency you would like to be making your proposals or bringing up your ideas, to determine which constituency that you'd like to work with would also help in putting your ideas forward. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Ozan. The next question is from Shah Rahman from Bangladesh. "Does each of RIR also involve in PDP? And if so, who are the stakeholders for them and how they get involved in PDP?" Meaning

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the RIRs, if they are involved. And if yes, who are the stakeholders and how they get involved?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: The RIRs have their own communities and they have someone that will ... They will nominate someone to participate in the ASO Council but it's really important to realize that most of the policy happens within each of the individual RIRs.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Another question from Samwel Kariuki is, "How are the rights of those making comments in working groups protected?" Is there a real need to be protected? And if yes, how they are protected.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: I think this is great place to highlight the public comment feature. It's a way to ensure that the diverse views are captured. Protected is an interesting word. The public comment proceeding process is public and it's transparent. So any comment that is submitted is available to the public to view and it will be captured in the staff report. But also, to reiterate, working groups and the Org commit to reviewing that input received during the public comment proceeding process. We summarize the input and then we use it to propose next steps.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Chantelle. The question is from Bafima Martin Traore. "Within the framework of the GNSO, has it ever happened to revisit a

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final report already voted on by the ICANN Board of Directors, given that over time, the context can change and evolve?”

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Sorry, Siranush. I’m not quite sure I understood the question. I’ll try to ... Oh. Go ahead.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: If there was a way that one policy has been adopted and approved by the Board, has it happened ever that it goes back after the voting, if the context has been changed over the time?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: That’s a really good question. I’m sure there are examples. I know the GNSO community can revisit policies. For example, the Transfer Policy had a policy development process years ago and there’s a new one underway right now. So these policies are revisited from time to time as issues evolve. So the scope of the issue may change itself. I hope that answers the question. If we didn’t quite get it, please feel free to ask for further clarification in the chat.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And Jonathan, thank you for your patience. I was trying to read the questions in the chat but let me give the floor to you and then go back to the questions again. Jonathan, please.

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JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thank you. I just wanted to make a quick comment. Thanks so much for this session and greetings to all the new Fellows. One clarification I wanted to make, if I could, is that another pathway into the policy development process within ICANN is in the At-Large community. In this discussion, because it's trying to cover so much at once, all we discussed was the advice function of the ALAC. But truthfully, the At-Large has a great deal of participation within PDP Working Groups. And in fact, with some frequency, the chairs of those PDP Working Groups are actually At-Large volunteers.

So one pathway, if the other constituencies within the GNSO are not a fit for you and you're interested in advancing the interests of individual users, the At-Large, in addition to giving advice to the Board are active participants in the policy development processes. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Jonathan. There is very interesting discussions going on in the chat but I will not touch upon them. I will read the next question from Robert. "In many organizations, policies are put in place but never implemented. And if implemented, they are not properly followed-up on compliancy. How does ICANN ensure compliancy on a finalized policy?" Who would like to take this? Chantelle? Ozan? How does ICANN ensure compliancy on a finalized policy—so whenever it is in place?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Thank you, Siranush. I missed part of the question. I was trying to follow up in the chat. Just to revisit Jonathan's earlier point, there are two At-

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Large courses on the ICANN Learn platform that have recently been published, which could be of interest. There's also Intro to ICANN and An Introduction to Policy Development: Fundamentals. I know that these are some of the courses that the Fellows and NextGen's participants take. And I'd also encourage others who are interested in learning more to do so as well. And we were going to plug that at the end but given Jonathan's comments, I just thought that was a nice segue.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah. The question from Robert was that in many organizations, policies are in place but they are not implemented or they are not followed up on compliancy. How does ICANN ensure its compliancy on a finalized policy?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush, for the question. We do have the compliance function at ICANN Org. Its role is to ensure that the Contracted Parties, which are the Registries and the Registrars, follow the consensus policies. Implementation work also involves community input and there are implementation review teams. So there's supposed to be those checks and balances at every step.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. There is a comment from Kossi in the chat that, "I am working in Internet governance process in global level with IGF since 2011. I see now the ICANN process very specific for capacity building."

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And Shah actually responded to Kossi’s comment. “Yes. Many of the issues, like data protection, privacy, inclusive internet are mostly discussing and burning issues for a broader community.” Thanks for your discussions there.

And there is a question from Zeina. “What can be done on national level to engage the multistakeholder community in the work of ICANN, mainly public comments during policy making?” So what can be done on national level to engage the community in the work of ICANN? Would you like to take this, Ozan?

OZAN SAHIN:

Yes. Thank you, Siranush, and thanks for the question, Zeina. As we mentioned, there is an advisory committee called Governmental Advisory Committee, which provides advice on public policy issues. The countries have their representatives and the governments have their representatives on this advisory committee, the GAC. And through their representatives, they can state their views on various issues in this committee.

Reminding that there is a public comment process for the policies. And the GAC also provides its advice to various policy development processes, again, through the public comment proceedings. That’s how the national level or governmental level views can be represented. I hope that answers the question.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. I see in the chat that Mouloud asked about the differences between ALAC and NPOC. Jonathan, thank you for your clear explanation about this difference. Andrey Shcherbovich wants to ask a question. Right, Andrey?

ANDREY SHCHERBOVICH: Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Please go ahead.

ANDREY SHCHERBOVICH: A question, actually, in regards to policy development. I have a question concerning interaction between ICANN and external—not governments but organizations. The question is also related to the question of my colleague who's involved in the Internet governance, as well as I am involved in the IGF activity. But maybe there is a special working group or an interaction with the international organizations—not only in the IGF—maybe with UNESCO, for example, as well, as and other [world players]. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Andrey. Chantelle, would you like to take this question?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Sure. And Ozan, again, please jump in if there's anything to add. Andrey, thank you for the question. ICANN has a Government Engagement

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Team that is our interfacing part of the Org that deals with these. And I posted this in the chat. We do deal with IGOs, such as UNESCO, standard organizations, technical organizations, etc. So we do have dedicated ... Not policy staff. It's the Government Engagement Team. But we do have dedicated ICANN Org staff members that are working on building relationships with some of these organizations.

ANDREY SHCHERBOVICH: This is a technical question. Where is the session of this? Is it a session here in ICANN 72? I'd like to observe, actually. Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Just to clarify, do you mean technical sessions on ICANN matters or do you mean related to government engagement?

ANDREY SHCHERBOVICH: Yes, related to government engagement.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: The GAC has their own schedule. That's a good question. So then, you have sessions where the governments are going to be working through some of these policy positions and developing the GAC Communique. But for ICANN 72, there are no government engagement sessions per se.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And Andre, Mark posted the publication link in the chat space so feel free to learn more. There is a question from Afi Edoh. "Can

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it happen that when developing a policy, some steps can be shortened to speed up the process?”

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush. That’s a good question. We talked a little bit earlier how there’s no quick fix for any of these policies. And we also have steps in place to make sure that there’s checks and balances and that all the different voices are heard. So the timelines ensure broad participation and consensus. And as we move towards consensus, it takes a while, especially when you think that those coming together to create or suggest the policy are volunteers. And I’ll defer in case Ozan has anything to add.

OZAN SAHIN: No. Thank you, Chantelle.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, both. And thanks, Jonathan, again, to explain the difference between NCUC and ALAC in the chat. So Mouloud, please read Jonathan’s explanation.

There is a question from Juliana Harsianti about, “If some countries don’t really active representation at GAC—” at Government Advisory Committee— “how other ICANN policies could apply in those respective countries?” So if they don’t have the representation or their representatives are not active, then how the ICANN policies could apply in those countries?

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CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush. To this question, ICANN policies apply to the Contracted Parties, the Registrars and the Registries that have the actual contracts with ICANN, not to specific countries. In any case, the GAC support and the GE Teams work to grow and increase participation within the GAC, within the governments, as part of the multistakeholder model.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And there is a comment from Shah that “maybe all GAC session not open for all.” If I am wrong, please correct me, Chantelle and Ozan. I think that for these virtual types of meetings, all GAC sessions are open for everyone. So feel free to participate. Is that right?

OZAN SAHIN: Yes, Siranush. All GAC sessions are open for observation. So community members may feel free to participate in those sessions. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. So I think I don’t miss any questions or comments in the chat which were asked. We have seven, eight minutes to go. If there is any last-minute questions you would like to ask, please feel free. No questions? There is one hand raised. Yes, Robert. You have your hand raised. Please go ahead.

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ROBERT NKAMBWE:

Thank you, Siranush. Yes. I have a simple question, which I wanted to ask. I heard from the beginning the Board votes to accept or reject a policy. I hope that's right. Finally, when a PDP is over, then it's forwarded to the Board, then the Board votes.

My question is in case the Board rejects this policy, would it be a waste of time of all stakeholders involved in the development of this policy? I think I'm quite clear. It takes a long process to come up with a policy. Now suppose, at the end of the day, it's rejected. When the resource is our limited time, would it be just put to waste? Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Thanks, Robert. I'm going to try to answer this question. And, Ozan, feel free to add again as always. There's different checks and balances to hopefully mitigate some of this during the process. In the GNSO policy development process specifically, which is a large bulk of where the policy development happens, there is an opportunity for dialog between the GNSO and the ICANN Board. This should help talk through any sort of flags that come up with issues and concerns. Also, when the final reports are being drafted, groups have the opportunity to develop minority statements, which will be included in the report.

And finally, the GNSO Council will often revert the discussion to more at the working group level. So they'll turn it back over to the volunteers that are working to develop the process themselves, to hopefully resolve the issue.

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**SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you. And thanks to Cheryl, Mark, and Jonathan, who were responding to the questions in the chat. There is one last question from Sivasubramanian and I would like to ask it. And then we'll ask to finalize this session. But just one more time, Chantelle and Ozan, to pointing out for the newcomers for whom this is the first ICANN meeting—and many of ICANN Fellows and NextGen@ICANN program participants are newcomers—to explain one more time how they can join GNSO or any policy development work.

But before that, Siva asked a question. “What does ICANN and the community do to expedite the policy development process to bring the whole process down to a time spent of under 90 days, in most cases, and down to under 30 days in special cases?” So what does ICANN and the community do to expedite the policy development process?

**CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:** Thank you, Siranush. I think that's a great question. I think anyone who's spent time in the ICANN community knows that a PDP cannot happen in 90 days, let alone 30. Gosh. 18 months? I don't even want to put a number on it. It takes time. Everyone has to have a chance to provide input and to make sure that their voice is heard. And that process alone takes time.

**SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** Thank you, Chantelle. And thanks, everyone for the great questions and for the lively discussions in the chat. Chantelle and Ozan, back to you, just to finalize and, one more time, to highlight for our groups how they

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can join policy work in ICANN and what resources—I see the slide there—what resources they can find interesting to go through.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Siranush.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush.

OZAN SAHIN: Go ahead, Chantelle.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Ozan, then I'll turn it over to you. I was going to flag that there are different policy briefings available, agendas for the various sessions, and also the plug for ICANN learn that you heard earlier, which is you can go on and take e-courses and receive a certificate from ICANN. And those courses cover introduction to ICANN, Policy Development Fundamentals 101, At-Large, GNSO, ccNSO, and the GAC. So you can learn about how those groups work in particular through the ICANN Learn platform. Go ahead, Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN: Yes. Siranush asked the avenues for participation in the policy development process—for us to reiterate before adjourning the session. We talked about the working groups during the policy development processes. So you may consider joining a working group

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by finding an appropriate supporting organization, advisory committee, or stakeholder group, or constituency for yourself. And there's also the opportunity to join a working group, even if you are not affiliated with an ICANN committee group. So you may consider that.

You may consider starting with observing the mailing list exchanges or attending teleconferences to have a better understanding of the discussions. And then you will, I think, feel like you'll be able to contribute to the discussions. We also talked about the public comment opportunities in various stages of the policy development process. There will be public comment opportunities where you can directly share your comment with the ICANN community. And I think these are the avenues that I wanted to highlight again. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Ozan, and thank you, Chantelle. One more time, thanks for your dedication and time to come and join our groups to explain how the policy works in ICANN. I know it's a hard topic. It may seem complicated for those who are first-timers. But I'm sure that this type of sessions and explanations and details can help people to get further details.

And definitely go and take the ICANN Learn courses and the links provided by our presenters. The presentation is available on the meeting schedule. So if you would like to download it, please. You can download from the meeting schedule under the session details. So it is available there.

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Thanks again for community members who were here to support with their comments and with their explanations and details. And thanks, everyone. With that, I wish a fruitful ICANN 72 for all of us and this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

SHAH RAHMAN: Thank you.

ROBERT NKAMBWE: Thank you.

ASHIRWAD TRIPATHY: Thank you, Siranush. Thank you, everybody.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**