ICANN75 | AGM – How it Works: ICANN Policy
Monday, September 19, 2022 – 13:15 to 14:30 KUL

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Hello, everyone. Welcome to our session on how policy works in ICANN. It's a very interesting session, and I always request my colleagues from policy to come and talk to you because it's one of the key areas of ICANN activities, mission, and work. So I really appreciate the support of my colleagues from the policy team, who always agree to come and talk to you.

Today, it's my pleasure to introduce my colleagues, Ozan Sahin and Chantelle Doerksen from the policy team. And I'll also wave to Carlos. I think I saw him. He left? Okay. So he will be joining us probably soon. So they will speak about and talk to you about how the policy works in ICANN. And it's a huge part of ICANN work, and I know there will be a lot of questions. I request you to join the Zoom. Raise your hand or post your question there. The presenters will be covering at the beginning some initial thoughts for you. And if you have questions, please write it down. We may come back after the presentation, right?

So without further ado, I would like to give the floor to Ozan to start. Ozan, the floor is yours.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you very much, Siranush. Hello, everyone. Welcome to Kuala Lumpur. It's great to be here with you in person. And thank you also, participants joining remotely on Zoom. I'm Ozan Sahin, based in Izmir,

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Turkey. I'm a member of the ICANN policy development and support team, and today I'm joining by colleague Chantelle Doerksen. And we're going to present some slides to you about how ICANN policy development works.

Today we really want to make time to address your questions. Although we have a slide deck, we encourage you to ask your questions. We don't have to cover all of the slides there. We think it's more important to actually get your questions.

So if we can go to the next slide.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: You have [the power].

OZAN SAHIN: Are we in the [construct]? Okay.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Also, please note that this PowerPoint presentation is uploaded into the meeting schedule. So you can download it from there.

OZAN SAHIN: So today we are planning to start with an overview of the policy development in the three supporting organizations, followed by the advice development in the four advisory committees. We'd like to talk a bit about the current policy development processes. And if time allows, we will also go over the policy development support function.

And as I said, although a question & answer is a separate agenda item on the slide, please feel free to ask your questions any time.

So let's start with the next slide on ICANN and its composition. So you may already know that ICANN is composed of three legs: the ICANN community, ICANN Board, and the ICANN organization. The community develops the policies and also provides advice on these policies being developed. The ICANN Board reviews these policies that have been developed and then instructs the organization to implement them. But you will see, as we present these slides, how the ICANN organization supports the community in the process of developing the policies.

So if we can go to the next slide, let's start with the three supporting organizations. The first one is the Address Supporting Organization, or ASO, who works on the global Internet Protocol or IP address policy. Then we have the Country-Code Name Supporting Organization, or ccNSO, which develops the country-code top-level domain name policies, and then finally the Generic Name Supporting Organization, working on the generic top-level domain policies.

So this slide is a bit busy. It shows the policy development processes in the three supporting organizations (GNSO, ccNSO, and ASO). You will see similarities in this slide in how policy is developed in each of these supporting organizations. So you will see an issue identification phase, followed by a scoping phase, and also initiation of the policy development process, formation of working group, and the like.

So today we would like to focus on the GNSO policy development process. And I think my colleague Chantelle is sharing the link to the

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slide if you'd like to read it in detail. And the Generic Names Supporting Organization is, again, responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains. And examples would be dot-com, dot-org, dot-net, dot-biz, dot-shop, dot-movie, or .dot-brands that you may see. And it's the GNSO Council that manages the gTLD policy development process.

So when we talk about the GNSO Council, there are stakeholder groups that appoint councilors to the executive body. And there are four stakeholder groups that you will be seeing in the—if we can go to the previous slide … I think there's a problem with advancing the slides there, but, yeah, now you can see the four stakeholder groups that appoint councilors to the GNSO Council.

So in the middle, you see the Registry Stakeholder Group and the Registrar Stakeholder Group. These two groups together make up the Contracted Party House because they have contracts with ICANN. And then, on the lefthand side, you see the Commercial Stakeholder Group. And on the righthand side, you see the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. These groups compose the Non-Contracted Party House.

And below them, you see constituencies for each of these stakeholder groups. So for the Commercial Stakeholder Group on the left, there are three constituencies (the Business Constituecy, Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency), whereas under the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, you can see the Non-commercial Users Constituency and Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency.

So the diversity in the GNSO Council is intended for a balanced representation of different views in the council. And this is how you can view it.

In the next slide, we begin to see the beginning of the GNSO policy development process. And if we want to look in detail, on this slide you see some arrows on the left and right. And the arrows are here to mark outside input opportunities in the policy development process. For instance, in the issue identification phase, it's not only the GNSO Council but also the ICANN Board or an advisory committee that can identify an issue. And then the GNSO Council considers this issue to see if the issue will resolve in a consensus policy. So these are the two steps in the issue identification phase.

And then when we move on to the second phase, which is the scoping phase, if the GNSO Council thinks the issue will result in a consensus policy, then the council requests a preliminary issue report. So in the next step, it's the ICANN Org staff that does research and publishes the preliminary issue report. And it will be put out for public comment. So the arrow that you see on the left is there because, when the preliminary issue report is put out for public comment, then there will be again opportunities for structures outside of the GNSO to provide their input in the process.

And then, following the public comment review … And what we mean by "public comment review" is that you will of course get comments from different groups, and you will get different views. And then these will be taken into consideration. And the final issue report is then submitted in light of this input.

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And then the GNSO Council considers this final issue report. And this is the end of the scoping phase and also the start of the initiation of the PDP. So the GNSO Council considers the final issue report and decides whether to initiate a PDP or not. And if they initiate a PDP, then the GNSO Council develops and adopts a charter for the policy development process working group. And then we see a call for volunteers in this phase in the formation of this working group. It's not necessarily the GNSO structures that should form this group. Again, you see an arrow, and there can be contributions to this working group outside of the GNSO.

So that's the end of the initiation phase, which will take us to the next step: formation of the working group. So this is probably the longest step. So all these steps do not happen in a few days. Especially the working group deliberations may take a couple of years, which is usually the case because there are a lot of discussions through the mailing list, a lot of meetings/teleconferences in this phase. And the working group discusses on the issues, taking different views.

So based on these deliberations, the working group comes up with an initial report. And this initial report is, again, put out for public comment to get outside input. And then, after the review of the comments submitted, the working group creates a final report and submits it to the GNSO Council.

So then comes the phase on deliberation on the final report. So the GNSO Council reviews the final report, considers whether to adopt and, if it's adopted by the GNSO Council, then the GNSO Council submits the final report to the ICANN Board for its consideration.

And, again, in this phase, this is the last step: the vote by the ICANN Board. There is a public comment [inaudible]. You see an arrow again on the left. The ICANN Board consults the community and the Government Advisory Committee and receives input and then votes on the final report recommendations. If the Board adopts the recommendations, then they become the policy.

So that's how policy is developed. And it's an overview of this process. But, again, this may take a few years. It can be a lengthy process.

And I'll stop here to see if you have any questions at this point.

And also let's check if we have any remote questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I don't see any questions as of now.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Siranush. Again, feel free to jump in. Raise your hand. Otherwise—okay, I think I see two hands. So please go ahead.

PUTERI AMEENA: Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: I'd appreciate if you can first introduce yourself and then ask your question.

PUTERI AMEENA:	My name is Puteri Ameena. I'm from Malaysia. I'm a first-time ICANN Fellow. I'm speaking on behalf of Youth for IT here. Since the process we know could take a very long time, are there any tools that are being used to maybe make the process more efficient or probably faster? Thank you.
OZAN SAHIN:	Thank you for this question. So there have been discussions on this point in the community as well. Although there's no defined timeline, of course the working group selects its leadership, and leadership could come up with projected timeline of the process. And then we have seen in the past years major betterments to put this process into a project timeline and then use a tracker to see where the positive development process is in relation to how it was projected in the beginning. So I think all of the GNSO PDPs are making a huge effort to show you where they are in the process, and then you can project how much time is left until the end results and output document now. Thank you.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Thank you. I don't see any more—
MUHAMMAD UMAIR ALI:	I have a question, if I may.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Oh. Yeah.

MUHAMMAD UMAIR ALI:	My name is Muhammad Umair Ali. I'm a NextGen from Pakistan. My question is that … You mentioned about the fact that it takes quite a number of years until the policy take its final shape. And we all are very well aware that the Internet industry or the tech sector is quite evolving. So doesn't the dynamicity or the changing requirements of the problem at hand change over time by the time you reach the policy? Or does that remain the same? Thank you.
OZAN SAHIN:	I think that's also a good question in relation to the timeline of the policy development process. I guess the working group is also on the lookout for this emerging happenings as they proceed in the policy development process and looking at how outside factors are changing as they're coming up with policy recommendations. So it's most of the time for the leadership of the working group to follow these changes and perhaps give direction to how the policy is developed.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	There is a remote question from our Fellow who participate remotely/virtually. "Is it possible or has it ever happened that the council has rejected a proposal? And if yes, why?"
OZAH SAHIN:	Thank you for the question. So I don't have the answer on whether the council ever rejected a proposal, but most of the time, the council received regular updates from these working groups. So in these updates and in this reporting, if the working group or the council sees

any issues that may come up in the future, I think these are proactively handled in the beginning in these engagements. That's how I can answer, but I don't have the answer on whether it has happened ever or not.

Chantelle, do you know?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Ozan. I can't think of anything off the top of my head as a specific example, but just building on what Ozan said, the GNSO Council works with its working group leaders or chairs, so there is some back-and-forth before it gets to that final report stage. All of that can be worked out ahead of time. But that's a very good question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, [Mustafa], for asking this question.

If you have additional questions or comments to add, post it in the chat. Or you can ask to unmute yourself and talk to us. So feel as part of this group even if you are participating virtually

There is a question from Levy Syanseke. I think Levy is here. He can ask his own question.

LEVY SYANSEKE: For the record, my name is Levy Syanseke, ICANN75 Fellow from Zambia. Looking at the policy development process that you highlighted, it for me appears to sometimes take a bit long. How then does ICANN keep track of the fast pace at which the development of

technology and the Internet space really evolves? Because it's super-fast in certain cases, where certain things happen so fast. And then policy lags would mean it would really take time to be implemented or catch up because they have moved on. How then do you create a balance as the GNSO or as ICANN as a whole in this particular instance?

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for the question. I think this in part relates to the question that we received in the beginning of this round of Q&A. So I think I saw some of you in the previous session—the executive Q&A session where ICANN Board executives were asked questions by the ICANN community—and, when the executives were providing the strategic objectives during this session, you may have heard David Olive, who's heading the policy development support function, mention the policy development process trackers. So this is again a recent improvement in the process. And the working group and the GNSO Council started to track how the policy development process is going and whether it adheres to the initial timeline or if any adjustments need to be made. So this is how they really view and track the timeline and also try to come up with policy adhering to the timeline in this project.

GABRIEL KARSAN: Hello. My name is Gabriel Karsan from Tanzania, ICANN Fellow. My question is, in terms of creating inclusive policy, where the GNSO represents mostly individual users, how do you measure that the voice of the individual user is highly represented in terms of the substance and the outcome of the policy paper?

OZAN SAHIN:	Thank you for this question. So when I started presenting these GNSO policy development process slides, I wanted to show you the opportunities for inclusiveness from all parts of the ICANN community and the Internet users. And in each of these steps where you see arrows on the left or right, we saw the identification of the issue, we saw the documents being put out for public comments, and we saw the formation of working groups that were opportunities for outside input. So you could, as an Internet user, go, when the document is out for public comment, submit your comment. It will give you the opportunity to make your voice heard. And also, again, other groups or individuals outside GNSO Council or GNSO structure could be involved in the formation of a working group and then be part of the working group and, again, make their voices heard in the policy development process.
GABRIEL KARSAN:	I'm just trying to understand. It's quite a complex structure which needs a certain kind of individual to understand? What about the new users who are marginalized who just came to the Internet and don't understand this but want their voice represented? How is the structure that could do that? Because you have to be part of the ICANN community. What if you're not part of the ICANN community but you something substantial that has to be said and represented?
OZAN SAHIN:	So thank you for this follow-up question. I guess, for a newcomer who is not seasoned in the ICANN community and who has some familiarity

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with the issues becoming discussed, what usually happens is these working group would have some mailing lists which you can observe.

So what we see with the newcomers who are trying to make their voices heard is they usually start by observing this mailing list. And to better understand what issues are being discussed, how people approach these issues, and see the different views of the parties involved … And it may take, again, a year or two to gain some familiarity with the issue before you start providing your input to the issue being discussed. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ahmad, your hand was raised. Do you still have a question?

AHMAD ZIA YOUSUFI: Yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Please go ahead.

AHMAD ZIA YOUSUFI: My name is Ahmad, ICANN Fellow. Just had a question. Why does the ICANN Board have the final say and not the GNSO Council since the issue originated from the GNSO? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Ahmad. So the GNSO and the GNSO Council is one part of the ICANN community. So it's only of the groups in the ICANN

community. Various ICANN Boards are composed of representatives from various groups. So to have a balanced representation and decision mechanism, that's how the Board is composed. And actually, these policy development process steps are mandated by the ICANN bylaws. So they are defined in the ICANN bylaws—how the policy development process should flow—and then eventually these need to be approved by the ICANN Board so that it's not the GNSO or GNSO Council that has the final say on an issue but the entire ICANN Board, whose members are elected by the entire community. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

Puteri, is it an old hand?

PUTERI AMEENA: It's a new hand.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, go ahead.

PUTERI AMEENA: Thank you. My question is … After we know, after the policy is probably passed by the Board, ICANN Org will be in charge of implementing it. Is the implement effort that needs to be done being considered during the PDP? Thank you.

OZAH SAHIN:	That's a really good question because this is the subject of the recent improvements in the implementation phase. So we've seen recently is the introduction of the operational design phase after the Board approves some recommendations. And it is in the process of being implemented. So recently the operational design phase has been introduced before going into the implementation. And in this phase, the ICANN organization works closely with the ICANN community to better understand how exactly these policies will be implemented. And you will see in some of the slides that we will cover that we have some policy development processes in this operational design phase.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Thank you, Ozan. And thanks, Chantelle, for taking some questions in the chat. There was a question from Namra. Namra, please?
NAMRA NASEER:	Hello. I'm Namra—
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Please, for those who are in the room, please don't raise your hand like this. I'm watching the Zoom and keeping the turn over there. Please put your hand up there in the Zoom.
NAMRA NASEER:	Hello. I'm Namra, ICANN Fellow from Pakistan. My question to you is, how frequent is the whole process? How frequently are recommendations put up to the ICANN Board.

And, secondly, on this new tracking system that you mentioned, does it have a way of flagging issues that are persistent? Like they're maybe in the progress phase but they keep coming up as recommendations.

OZAN SAHIN: So let me make sure I understand your question correctly. First of all, how frequently the GNSO Council adopts a new policy development process is one of the questions. Well, I've been with ICANN for eight years now. I think the GNSO Council always had eight or nine policy development processes in flight at a time. And since these PDPs take a couple of years, I guess the GNSO Council wants to ensure they have the required bandwidth and resources to allocate to the PDPs that are ongoing and how they decide whether to initiate a new PDP. And we often see, once of the PDPs conclude, that they start tackling the policy development processes that are in the pipeline, just to allocate resources efficiently.

I think I didn't get the second part of the question. Would you mind repeating it?

NAMRA NASEER: You mentioned about the new tracking system that tracks the progress of the recommendations and the work. But there are some issues that can be persistent, and they may keep coming up in different reports, maybe differently also. Is there a way that this tracking system can flag those persistent issues?

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OZAN SAHIN:	Yes, definitely. I think that's the purpose. So if the PDP progress is stuck in some way, the tracker is especially useful to identify these points and then to give the opportunity to the GNSO Council whether to revise the PDP. The GNSO Council may want to wish to proceed with the PDP, or they may evaluate the situation and come up with a different decision. But to your question, yes, the tracker is exactly to, I think, identify such issues.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Thank you. We have a question from Bibek. Is Bibek in the room? Yes, please.
BIBEK SILWAL:	Thank you, everyone. My name is Bibel Siwal. I'm from Nepal and I'm a NextGen Fellow. So my question is in regard of the data, how data is input in the policy development or scoping issue or working group. So is there any framework that gives out feedback from previous policy development processes and newer policy development? So it's if you have any learnings or any data input from previous policy or working group that gives input to the newer ones.
	And my second question is, has there been any issues that the ICANN Board has rejected—policy development process? And what is the process after it? Thank you.
OZAN SAHIN:	Thank you. Let's start with the first one. I totally agree that the input and the learnings from previous policy development processes make

good contributions to the upcoming ones, again, with the example of PDP trackers and the improvements in the management of the policy development process. I guess, in the past, the community saw the need to more effectively manage the policy development process from the PDPs and then suggested the implementation of this new tracking system. So I definitely agree with that.

Would you mind repeating the second question?

BIBEK SILWAL: Has there been any policy development process or issue that has been defined by the working group that has been rejected by the ICANN Board (the suggestion by the group)?

OZAN SAHIN: I don't recall any. And that's mainly because the process is defined in a way that you have many engagement opportunities and proactive dialogues. So in these dialogues, if you see any issues, the GNSO Council or the ICANN Board is also following the progress of this PDP. So if any issues are identified in the making, then I think the working group addresses them in advance. So the output document can be acceptable by all of the parties.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ozan, I think we'll take one more question and then we'll give the time to continue with the presentation.

Mouloud Khelif, please go ahead.

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MOULOUD KHELIF: Mouloud Khelif, ICANN75 Fellow. Two-part question. First, could you give us more details on the difference between a PDP and an expedited PDP? Who decides? Is it the nature of the issue? Is the Board? Is it the GNSO Council?

And the second part. The council has a very complex structure, which obviously makes it or probably make it harder to reach a consensus, reconciling all the different interest. Are there any talks of adding more to that complexity, maybe adding another layer of complexity, another constituency to the GNSO? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Mouloud, for the question. So I'll start with the difference between the policy development process and the expedited one. So expedited is, actually, I show you the steps in the policy development process. What is expedited there is actually the initial steps in the process and the final steps. The middle step, which is the working group deliberation, is not really expedited. So this is to allow the ICANN community to actually make the policy themselves.

So when would ICANN need an expedited policy development process? We have a recent example. So can we go to the slide where we show the ongoing policies? Maybe we can just give an example to better explain this. I think that's right after advisory committees.

[CHANTELLE DOERKSEN]:   [inaudible]

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OZAN SAHIN: Sure. So let me start. A couple of years ago, the European Union … So I'm talking about the GNSO expedited policy development process on the temporary specification. A couple of years ago, the European Union implemented the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), which had impact on the registration data—how it's accessed and disclosed. So, of course, ICANN has contracts with registrars and registries. And this impacted how the registration data is accessed or disclosed. That triggered the ICANN's Board to come up with a temporary specification and to adhere to the timeline to make sure the contracted parties, registrars, and registries are not affected by that. The GNSO started an expedited policy development process to decide whether to accept or reject this temporary specification.

So these kinds of outside happenings may also trigger the decision to have an expedited policy development process, which we saw in this EPDP for the temporary specification. And we'll talk about it more in the coming slides. I guess that answers the question. Thank you.

MOULOUD KHELIF: Sorry. For the second part of the question …

OZAN SAHIN: Oh, yes. My apologies.

Chantelle, would you like to talk about how the GNSO reaches consensus?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Sure. I shared a link in the chat, first of all, which has information about the GNSO consensus playbook. And I think that would be the best place. It's an authoritative document that outlines the process.

I think the main thing to realize is that there's a difference between what they call achieving full consensus and then just consensus. And that nuance is important because there's a different threshold— obviously "full consensus" meaning everyone is in agreement, and "consensus" meaning the majority but not necessarily everyone. And then the groups that don't have it have the opportunity maybe to submit a minority statement. There's also the public comment process where you can have a submission. And I know Ozan talks about the constituencies and the stakeholder groups. And those are very interesting, and I'd recommend that you read them. If you're a registrar or a registry, if you're a small business, intellectual property, all these groups can submit their positions. And it can be very insightful.

Also, a lot of these groups, for transparency purposes, have links to their positions on their actual websites. So depending on what your professional background is, it might be useful and beneficial to you to visit their websites and understand whether or not they participated in consensus or maybe they were in disagreement. And you can understand a little bit more why.

And I hope that answers what your question was.

MOULOUD KHELIF:	Thank you. We had a session on consensus and so on and so forth, so I understand that. my question was more on the potential expansion of the GNSO, like changing the structure and including maybe another constituency.
CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:	That's a very good question, and that has come up before. It would have to be a bylaws change. So it would have to go through the ICANN Board in order for it to be developed.
	I know the process, but I'm drawing a blank right now on what steps there would have to be, but at first there would have to be some sort of discussion with the ICANN Board because it would have to be put into the bylaws. So there would be an actual review and a change to the ICANN Org bylaws for that—or not the ICANN Org—excuse me—or the bylaws that are the governance documents.
OZAN SAHIN:	And just to add a bit to that, when you want to do bylaw changes, again, in the process you will have public comments and you will get input from all of the parts of the ICANN community. And then there's an additional process now introduced after the IANA transition—the Empowered Community—which gave the ICANN community more powers to bring more accountability and transparency to ICANN. And then this needs to also be approved by the Empowered Community as well, which is composed of the Address Supporting Organization, GNSO, GAC, ALAC, and ccNSO.

Do we have any other questions at this point?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: No questions at this point.

OZAN SAHIN: So shall we continue with the advisory committees then?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Ozan. So my name is Chantelle, and I'm going to talk to you know about the advisory committees. And as Ozan mentioned, there are four. The largest one and the one that's the most open for the public to join—so individuals—would be the At-Large Advisory Committee or the At-Large community, and it's five regional organizations/geographic regions. And they voice the interest of individual Internet end users and registrants.

The second advisory committee is the Governmental Advisory Committee, also known as the GAC. And this provides input from governments on public policy issues. It's not just open to anybody in government to join, but governments appoint a representative, and that is the representative that speaks on behalf of that government.

You have the Root Server System Advisory Committee, which would be the third AC, which advises the ICANN community and the Board on operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's root server system. And that's RSSAC for short.

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And then moving to the fourth one on the screen, it's the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, or SSAC. And they advise on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

So moving to the next slide—okay, thank you—we just posted the infographic link to the chat which outlines this. I know that it's small, but you can see that, similar to the SOs, each of the advisory committees or ACs have their own process. They're similar but different. And these are the processes which guide how they develop advice to share with the ICANN Board.

Now, if you've sat in on one of the advisory committee joint sessions that they have with the ICANN Board—for example, following our session now, the At-Large will be meeting with the ICANN Board, for anyone who is interested—there's a new change coming, where, as a standing agenda topic, the ICANN Board and these ACs are going to be discussing their advice. So it's going to be part of that ongoing conversation. And this is one of the improvements that are currently being made, so it's something that you might observe.

Now, going into the actual ACs themselves, I'm going to start from left to right. The first is the At-Large or the ALAC. And this community discusses issues to determine the impact on individual end users. In order to do this, they designate issue shepherds to participate in the policy development who then lead the drafting of ALAC responses.

Now, as Ozan talked about, the GNSO has policy development process working groups or PDPs. So At-Large will appoint representatives or

shepherds to represent the positions of At-Large in those working groups, and then they'll relay information back. So At-Large has a call weekly—for example, on Wednesdays—called the Consolidated Policy Working Group or CPWG. They presented yesterday on a lot of their policy updates. So if you didn't attend that session, it might be of interest because then you can actually see how this relationship works. And they also check in with their Regional At-Large Organizations or the RALOs, and then the RALOs themselves then check in with their At-Large Structures or ALSes.

So the idea is that information is disseminated down from this top level—I don't want to say "top level" because it's not very hierarchical, I guess—to share information and circulate it out on a global level.

If advice is going to be approved, there's a process in which it's ratified, and it goes to the At-Large Advisory Committee or the ALAC. And if approved, then it will be sent to the ICANN Board, the ICANN Org, the supporting organizations, like the GNSO, or submitted via public comment, which Ozan will talk about in a bit, for consideration. And then it becomes part of the public record.

And so when we're talking about this, as it says on the screen (Item 3: the participation), in the CPWG, for example, the shepherds will lead drafting of advice. And members within the group—and it's open to anyone in At-Large—can help inform their positions. And that's a really interesting process.

And then after that, they move on to Item 4. Like I mentioned, they'll review and they'll call for consensus or they'll vote within ALAC. And if ALAC ratifies it, then they will send it on to the ICANN Board.

And can we go to the next slide? Okay. And just really quickly, we dived into At-Large because it's, I think, the most useful for this group. But the Governmental Advisory Committee also has their process. And if you're interested in learning more about GAC advice, you can check out the GAC communique sessions, especially the one on the last day. They'll actually draft it in real time, but in the last session of the day, you can get a sense of what advice they're going to be submitting to the Board on behalf of the governments that participate.

RSSAC has representatives that are responsible for operating global root server advice, and they have an RSSAC caucus to help drive some of their policy work. And then SSAC similarly has work parties to work on issues that are identified.

I talked a little fast and that's a lot of information. Next, I'll turn it over to Ozan to go back and talk about some of these PDPs or Policy Development Processes that are ongoing. Ozan?

OZAN SAHIN: Sure. Thank you, Chantelle.

So before going to the current policy development processes, do you have any questions about how the advice is developed?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	I don't see questions in the Zoom, but I see over here a hand. Please.
PHYO THIRI LWIN:	I thought there are volunteers at the [ALAC] group, but … Hello, everyone. Sorry, I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Phyo from Myanmar. I'm a ICANN76 NextGener. I'm interesting in volunteering in the [ALAC] group, but I don't know how to do that. So that would be great if I can know as a young person, as a newcomer, if I can be part of the [ALAC] community. Thank you.
CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:	That's a really good question. I'm not quite sure of the answer to that. There is an application, and I'm happy to talk and get your information after this session so we can follow up.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Thank you. Puteri?
PUTERI AMEENA:	Thank you. I saw there's the At-Large community members and also the ALAC. Can you elaborate on the difference between those two? Thank you.
CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:	Thank you. Very good question. At-Large is open. And for membership, you can join as an individual or you can join through one of the ALSes,

which is one of the organizations or groups. To become a member of the ALAC, which is the advisory committee, you have to be appointed. So there's a voting process and internal structure that follows. But it's really interesting because they're the ones that vote on the ratification of advice.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just to add to this, tomorrow at 1:15, we have a session with APRALO, which intends also to give the overview of At-Large and how you can join. So prepare all your questions related to At-Large if you are interested in joining. And tomorrow you will have the opportunity to meet with At-Large folks. Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush, speaking [as] someone who was formally from the At-Large community. And for my ICANN Fellows, for At-Large there are also two courses on the ICANN Learn platform that you might be interested in. I think you've taken some of the ICANN Learn courses.

And I see someone raising their hand over there for a possible follow-up question.

SUDHA BHUVANESWARI: Good day. I'm Dr. Sudha Bhuvaneswari. I am actually an ICANN Fellow. I just have a question. When the current policy development policy is under review, do we have an option to submit another policy? Do we have options for that? When a single policy which is already submitted in under review, do we have the option to submit a new policy?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Well, At-Large, for example, doesn't submit policies. They provide advice. So they don't develop the policy. That would happen within the GNSO. And if you join At-Large, you can help present what should be the Internet end users' position as part of that consensus and advice process. But that part of the community does not develop advice. That happens with the GNSO. And the council drives that process. But it's not open to just one individual. But they can always propose suggestions for something in the future to be considered.

SUDHA BHUVANESWARI: Well, do we have that option in GNSO?

OZAN SAHIN: So if I can take this one, I think it, again, comes down to the availability of resources and the bandwidth. Although it is possible to suggest new policy development issues when there are other policy development processes in progress, when the GNSO Council makes a determination on that, they will check the available resources that they can allocate to this potential new PDP or Policy Development Process, and they may give the decision that they are allocating resources to the current ones and they don't have extra resources. And they may defer the new proposal at a later time in this case.

SUDHA BHUVANESWARI: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks also, Mouloud, for the additional note about the membership, and Chantelle, for posting the additional information. Please follow in the chat. Chantelle is providing really great resources for follow-up. And you can also copy and paste all those links and use it later for review and for learning more.

We have a question/hand raised by Hafiz Farooq. Hafiz, go ahead.

HAFIZ FAROOQ: I'm Hafiz Farooq. I'm a new ICANN Fellow. My question is about communication between the advisory councils. For example, ALAC is working on a policy and, during the advice-making, they need some input from some of the other advisory councils, like the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, for example. So how we do manage the delays? If we need the input from another advisory committee, and there are some delays, is there any deadline as per the PDP where laws are applied on the advisory committees that they will have to respond? How do we manage delays?

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you. Yes, indeed, the advisory committees may need dialogue between themselves in how they develop their advice for the ICANN Board, ICANN community, or for an ongoing policy development process. So you will see during these ICANN public meetings, for instance, some joint meetings between these advisory committees so they can exchange their ideas and views on how they would like to

provide advice on a certain topic. And probably this dialogue and exchanges between different advisory committees would help develop better and timely advice for a certain topic.

HAFIZ FAROOQ: Is there any deadline for this communication? Do we enforce anything? Because I'm sure the committees are busy in their own operations.

OZAN SAHIN: That is true. So I'm trying to think about the deadlines that I can share with you. For instance, if there is a report out for public comment for which the advisory committee needs to provide input, then the public comments have some certain deadlines. So the ICANN organization is trying to ensure giving enough time for advisory committees and whoever would like to participate in this public comment process. And usually you will see 40 days of duration for any open public comment or more. In some cases, the duration could be more. But in these cases, the advisory committees need to provide their input to the public comment within the 40 days. That's why they are actively following the public comments to open. So ICANN Org has a page showing the upcoming public comment proceedings that are being planned for the future. And many of the advisory committees are following this page to, again, efficiently allocate their resources to get prepared for how to respond and provide their input.

HAFIZ FAROOQ: Thank you very much for your answer.

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OZAN SAHIN: You're welcome.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Our request from our interpreters: please slow down when you are speaking.

                               And we have a question in Spanish from Eunice. Please go ahead, Eunice.

EUNICE COELLO: Good afternoon. I'm from Mexico. According to what's being presented to me, something that calls my attention—and I'm sorry I forgot to introduce myself. I'm a Fellow, and it's the first time that I've applied. Well, you're showing us At-Large and GAC as participants. However, when we take the courses, one of the groups or one of the committees that drew my attention had to do with safety and stability and also the root servers. As far as safety and stability in particular it's because of the topics and the issues they work on, aside from the policy.

                               But something that drew my attention is that it did not explain the way of being able to form part of that committee. So I feel like it's a separate area that maybe we cannot participate in. Or, if that's not the case, how can we join that and get to know those groups better?

                               On the technical side, I'm an electronic engineer. What I'm interested in is the DNSSEC safety and also not only that but the internal issues of that. One of the conversations or discussions that we had in the pre-

week mentioned that we wee going to have a meeting in which we were going to discuss about the safety of the Internet, focused on the offering of services on the DNS. And it's something that really interests me. During the courses that we join, those courses don't offer a way where I can maybe join or participate, even if it's initially just someone that's hearing the discussions as a tech.

And also the second part of this is, how can I join or participate in this? Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: If I can take the first part, Ozan, and if you want to continue, I did understand your question, I think, more or less in question, but mine is not perfect. So I'll go ahead and just explain it in English, say a little bit, and then pass it on to Ozan because he does actually work with the RSSAC and SSAC as well. These are closed groups, like you were saying. You can go and listen to their open sessions, but they are very specific on who they invite, for example.

So Eunice's question was talking about, as an engineer, as somebody is very technical, how she can get involved with the RSSAC or the SSAC. And unfortunately, you can't unless … They have a very specific process. However, there's technical programs that you could participate in, such as Tech Day, the DNSSEC and Security Workshop. I think that would be a great first start for someone with your background.

And I see Ozan nodding. And he knows more about that.

But we also do have engineers through their business that participate in, let's say, the Business Constituency with their employer. And I'm sure there's still some as well in At-Large, which Siranush would also know more about. So there are different ways to get involved.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So there are two listed as mandatory for Fellows the participate in: the public session by RSSAC and the public session by SSAC. So they both are encouraged for you to go. This is a unique opportunity. They do not always have public sessions at every ICANN meeting, but this is a big AGM (Annual General Meeting), so you have the unique opportunity to go and talk to them and ask the questions there. So please note, tomorrow morning and the day after tomorrow's morning—both are morning-time sessions—you can go to RSSAC's and SSAC's public sessions.

That's my two cents, Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Siranush. I was also going to highlight these sessions, so thank you for doing that.

If I can add a few more words on that, as my colleague Chantelle said, the membership for SSAC is, as you said, closed. There's an SSAC membership committee. Interested individuals may submit their CVs to these committees and their statement of interest so the committee can review. And eventually the SSAC members are appointed by the ICANN Board.

And similarly, as my colleague Chantelle said, again, the RSSAC is composed of representatives from the root server operators. You may have seen that we have twelve root server operators. In the committee, there are representatives from these root server operators. So if you are not coming from these root server operators and are not appointed to this group, then in a sense, again, it's a closed group. But what is unique to RSSAC is that RSSAC has a group called the RSSAC Caucus. And the membership for the RSSAC Caucus is open to DNS efforts. You don't have the be affiliated with a root server operator. Again, I'm now putting the link to the RSSAC Caucus webpage in the chat. So if you're interested, you can go to this page, see the requirements for application, and then submit your statement of interest. And the membership committee would review it. And the caucus is basically a pool of DNS experts that provides expertise for RSSAC's work. So RSSAC, again, in developing its advice, may want to get help from the RSSAC Caucus and open an RSSAC work party. And the individuals that are interested in these topics may join this work party and eventually help develop an output document which will eventually become an RSSAC document.

So I hope this information would address your questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We have only ten minutes to go. If you can finalize the presentation … And then we do have questions/hands raised, but we will come later to them if we have time.

OZAN SAHIN: Honestly, I would prioritize the questions, but we can—

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Whatever you prefer then.

OZAN SAHIN: We can maybe fast-forward the slides and give some more time to questions. So let's talk about the current policy development processes. This is a busy slide. What I wanted to say here is it's unfortunate that we are having this meeting today because this is a six-day meeting and, actually, a lot of the work in relation to the policy development processes happened on Saturday and Sunday. The only one that I know here in the first row is the policy development process managed by the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization. They will have feedback session tomorrow morning. And then the policy development process working group will have another session later in the day. So five of them are the policy development processes that are ongoing. And then you will hear some information about it at ICANN75.

But since we have limited time, I'll just go to the other slides and tell you how to participate in the policy development. I think this is important for you because, again, in the policy development process, you saw the formation of working groups. So you may want to join an open community. And I showed you the GNSO Council structure and the GNSO constituencies, so you may consider joining one of these. And even if you are not affiliated with any ICANN groups or any constituencies, you can still consider becoming part of a working group that's being formed. And as I said, you can observe an existing mailing

list before you feel comfortable about making more contributions and making suggestions to gain some familiarity with the issue.

And then we talked a lot about the public comment proceedings. So, again, you don't have to be part of the community group. You can individually submit a public comment. Or sometimes, in most cases, the stakeholder groups or constituencies or regional At-Large organizations or advisory committees provide their comments collectively as a group. But both individual and collective submissions are possible.

And if we had more time, I think we are going to talk about the public comment process in a bit more detail, but we already addressed how long the public comment proceedings can be open, how you can contribute, and the upcoming public comment proceedings page. So you can just go to the ICANN Org public comment webpage and see the old proceedings. It's great that you can view all of the comments submitted to proceedings that closed in the past. So there can be public comment proceedings for ICANN budgets, strategic plans, any governance document amendments, or any contract amendments. Again, you saw in the policy development process the documents being put out for public comments. So you can see all of these closed proceedings and you will have access to all of the public comments that have been submitted in the past.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I would like to give the floor to some who raised their hands and never asked their questions. So if I can ask I-Ping to ask her question, please.

I-PING PAN:	Hello, everyone. This is I-Ping, ICANN75 Fellow for the record. My question is, how does the ICANN community, like the GNSO, ALAC, the supporting organizations or the advisory committees … [Who is the executive team] for the fiscal goal? Because in the morning, the Q&A with ICANN executive team, they shared the fiscal year goal. So how do you work with them? Thank you.
OZAN SAHIN:	So is the question how the ICANN community works effectively with the ICANN organization?
	Well, pretty much all of the ICANN strategic objectives and ICANN budgets are the kinds of documents that are put out for public comment. So when the ICANN organization makes a determination on how to proceed in those areas, you will typically see the ICANN organization going back to the ICANN community, trying to get feedback and revising the documents in align with the comments received. So that's one thing.
	But of course there may be operational decisions by the ICANN organization by which they may need public comment or community input. These are separate operational issues. But in pretty much all of the remaining topics for which the ICANN organization will make a determination, you will see many times public comment opportunities. And it's not only via the webpage and the public comments submitted because the ICANN organization is actually engaging with the community during these kinds of public meetings. So during the week,

you will see ICANN organization members joining sessions, trying to seek feedback from the community face-to-face or from remote participation. And this is just ongoing.

I think this dialogue ensures effective collaboration between the ICANN organization and the community.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Giannina, please go ahead.

GIANNINA RAFFO: Thank you. My question is [for RSSAC] regarding the GNSO PDP process. It seems like it's like an editorial that receives a bunch of proposals for books but can only publish certain books because of their resources. So my question will be—in step one in the infographic you share in identifying the issue, the GNSO Council, the ICANN Board, or the AC identifies an issue—what constitutes the criteria for that issue? Is it ICANN priority? Is it a specific suggestion for the group? Or how is that issue selected for the PDP process?

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you very much. It can be pretty much anything that related to generic top-level domains, based on the group or structure that is identifying this issue and coming up with it. It can be anything that they think is related to the generic top-level domains. But it's then the GNSO Council which will consider whether this will really result in a consensus policy and decide whether to take up the issue and start up a policy development process or not.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Lavish?

LAVISH MENSAH: Thank you. Mine is seeking clarity in relation to Hafiz's question about seeking a meeting with technical people to better put out an issue. I know that, however it is, however everybody's position in the constituency is, we are all Internet end users. And hence, you may be in a technical area and yet still be part of a RALO, subject to the RALO opportunity to call for such a union to better get a clarity on a subject. If, say, I'm already in the RALO, and we are making a decision on forming a policy, since my outputs are from a technical background, would it necessitate that we still call for these technical people or is it subject to the groups decision to say, "Let's call the technical is to have a collaboration to better put out our issue there"? I'm just asking to know whether it needs to be done in that direction. Or I'm already in there and I'm giving technical advice and, if the house agrees, then we go with it. Or we have to call for the collaboration? Thank you.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you for this question. If I understood correctly, the question is, if somebody is, for instance, with a regional At-Large organization or is in the At-Large as an end user, then the concern could be that this person may not have the required technical background to provide advice on an ongoing policy development process that requires some technical knowledge. Is that correct?

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LAVISH MENSAH: Yes. We may call for technical advice. However, this technical person is already in the RALO, forming their policy. So if he gives input or maybe more than two or three, and we are doing that, that's …

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: I just wanted to build on that. So, for example, you use the RALOs as an example. So they would never be helping to develop policy, per se. It would have to be through their shepherd that participates in the GNSO PDP. But I think what you're talking about is maybe the development of advice or the publication of statement. So that's something that they would have to work on internally within the RALO in order to do that. And then once there's agreement, then they would have to ratify it before it could become official. So there's a process that they would follow.

And if someone maybe disagreed because they felt like their position was different than what the RALO was going to go with as their official position, then the next step would probably be to submit an individual statement to public comment because that's always an option, and anyone can do that.

I hope that answers your question.

LAVISH MENSAH: It does. Thank you.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And I think we had a very interactive session today, and I would like to thank Chantelle and Ozan for a great session, answering almost all questions here.

I know policy development is a difficult component. It's hard to know everything there. Just as a reminder, the PowerPoint is a thorough and informative document for you. It's uploaded in the meeting website. Please download it. And if you have any questions related there, I think there are e-mails at the end whom you can contact and ask questions to.

With that, I would like to thank our tech team and interpreters and state that this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]