ICANN75 | AGM – ICANN Board Members Welcome Fellowship and NextGen ICANN Progs Participants Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 13:15 to 14:30 KUL

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Hello, everyone, and welcome to the session for ICANN75 Fellows and NextGeners with the ICANN Board members. We have already first speaker with us here, but let me go through the logistical part. My name is Siranush Vardanyan, and I will be your remote participation manager for this session.

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When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Without further ado, we started, I think, really on time this session because our panelists and our guests have very short of time and they will be getting in and out.

But without further ado, it's my great pleasure to give the floor to ICANN Chair of the Board, Maarten Botterman, who is a great friend for many fellows and very supportive of the fellowship program. Maarten, the floor is yours.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you very much, Siranush. [00:02:28 -inaudible], everybody. It's a pleasure to be here. And as Siranush says, this is such a core part of maybe not what we do today, but of our future. And if we don't start doing this here today with you in the room, we would miss out on the future.

> Because we need to continue to grow the number of people who get involved, who bring their passion, their heart, and also their experience of their region, of their fellows into this multistakeholder exercise that we call ICANN. Well, we do manage. We don't run the Internet, but we do a very important part of that and we try to do it in such a way that -- oh, you see Chris, like, what,

we don't run the Internet? We do it in such a way that it's truly serving the global public interest and this is where we stand for.

So I really appreciate you being here. It's diversity, it's representation, it's a future of ICANN that we need to build on every day. So really good to have a program like this that helps you to get up to speed, to be here, to foster your interest. And next to being able to read online nowadays, you're even able to meet in the room. The big advantage of that for you guys is that you can ask questions, questions to anybody in this room. If it's got this ICANN Board, this blue thingy on the bottom, they'd be eager to talk with you too. Just approach them and ask the questions. It's now for more than 15 years, more than 800 people who've been going through this program

And some of these have really come to places like my Vice Chair, Leon Sanchez, I think Alejandra Reynoso, the Chair of the ccNSO, and others that really see like if this gets your passion, if you're diving in, if you're working this, everything is possible because we are working on something that only grows in criticality and importance to world.

And right now, you're part of it. So hope you write as well and hope that it's keeping you on Board and don't hesitate to reach out to anybody, not to me in the latest. You have some great mentors, some people really know everything about ICANN. You

have some great staff supporting you. And you've got each other. So happy to answer. I'll stop here with. So I have five minutes answering questions.

Unfortunately, I have to go after that and that's a disappointment. In the ICANN even at the time to see some of the presentations of the NextGen. And the nice thing of those presentations is that they bring a fresh perspective. They come on the things that may not be normally on the table here. So even if you don't get a warm and firm response on that first, continue coming, continue speaking up, and continue listening to others as we listen to you. Okay, any questions?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much, Maarten. We will start with this question, Nabeel, but for the rest, I request to line up in the Zoom and raise your hand in the Zoom because I will be managing the Zoom chat as well. Thank you.

NABEEL YASIN: Thank you. This is Nabeel Yasin, for the record. I am an ICANN75 Fellow and it's my honor to be here with you all and thank you very much for this opportunity. I'm from Yemen country, which is turned by a part by the war. And people over there are hardly

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alive. The Internet becomes the only hope for them, for my community to survive. So it's not a question, it's the request. So please let us work all together to keep it one and open Internet as it is the only hope for my community. And thank you very much.

- MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yes, thank you very much. Very quickly on that, obviously, we also got tested by the Ukraine war and we realized in our deliberations very much that the Internet is actually also empowering people to reach out to information and to each other whenever that's possible. So we will do what is within our remit to help on that and very much realize how important that is. So thank you very much for your question. And yes, you matter.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Nabeel. The next one in the room is Sávyo Vinícius. Sávyo, please.
- SÁVYO MORAIS: Hello. Excuse me. Hello, good afternoon. I'm Sávyo Morais. I'm a fellowship in this ICANN75 meeting. This is my second fellowship, and I have to say thank you very much because before being followed, I was also NextGen, and NextGen Ambassador. And have seen that. I have maybe one request on question, not

sure about how to name it, but about some important tools for getting engaged in some communities.

Because sometimes it's hard to find the exact place to work. I'm here for basically four years. And I'm trying to switch my work in ICANN coming from one side to another. And it is still hard to understand, where can I work in some other places. And other institutions or other places of Internet governance have interesting pages or tools for doing that.

I have one example of IETF, for example, where they have on page that they have a kind of a list of keywords and things. I will post the link in the chat later, but the keywords that are the types of interest of the work being done in IETF and the working group that is related to that keyword. So I think that this could be useful for the newcomers and also for not that newcomers to the ICANN Community. I will send the link now. Thank you.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: We're working very hard on transparency. And as you may know, the current website is really progressing towards having a very strong document management system and more of the websites that have grown over the years are brought into this one system to have much better access to the information we have. I think the first access to participating in ICANN is the obvious SOs in the ACs. And I'm sure more will be told about that.



SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We already had a couple of sessions getting to know ICANN community.

- MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: And then it's really following your passion and see where you fit in best, how to dive in deeper. What I used to say more outside of this room because you guys already know that, there's so much you can do also online. And this is just an extra addition that makes it very easy to. I'd love the people ask the questions make things happen together. Just like you saw, if you were in a room earlier in this corner, with the Universal Acceptance Group.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And I think with that one more question. Okay. One last question and it comes from Pavel.
- PAVEL FARHAN: Good afternoon. This is Pavel Farhan, ICANN75 Fellow. I was also very privileged to be an ICANN73 fellow, and a NextGen, and ICANN68. So thank you so much for that opportunity. I believe as ICANN follows, one thing that we can contribute to is we can probably ask you the hard questions that maybe nobody else can ask.

And this is something me and a few other fellows were discussing last night over dinner at the Suria KLCC, and we were just wondering that, don't you think there is a conflict of interest with Göran being the CEO of ICANN and also a member of ORG, being a member of the Board.

Because there must be a heavy influence when Göran is at the Board because he has the power to sway the decisions or influence the decisions that maybe there could be contradicting ideas from the Board versus the ORG and maybe he has that power to sway the decisions which are not in your favor. So do you have any opinion on this?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Of course. And thank you for making this last quick question, quick yes or no. But basically, what you see around the world is different models. Some models that President, the CEO, is the chair as well. That's the other extreme. And some the CEO is just outside of the room when the Board meets. Well, Göran is not in the room when we discuss his remuneration, things like that or his functioning, but he is in a room when we try to get things done together.

> And then it's very useful to work together with the organization because the Board can do very little by itself. And I think within the ICANN model, this has been discussed at times. And we find

that this still works. So in that way, there's not good nor bad, but if there's a specific conflict with the subject, he is not in the room. Otherwise, we experience it's very useful to have him as one of us together.

PAVEL FARHAN: If I just may add, like no, I think it's totally fine to have him in the room for his advice and his expertise on certain topics, but maybe you can consider not giving him the voting power. What do you think?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Not the voting power. That's an option, but we felt that was not necessary. As it functions has been like this how many years, Chris?

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Oh, god. I've lost count, many years. But actually in practice to see Göran, previous CEOs, are very rarely voted. They choose not to vote. It's also worth making the point if you don't mind, Maarten, that you've got, yes, you're right, the CEO is in the room and frankly speaking as a CEO, that's the right place for the CEO to be. But the CEO is only one voice and he might provide an awful lot of information, but you can rest assured that the 21 or however many it is members of the Board and liaison are very

clear about their own opinions, and are not swayed just because the CEO happens to be in the room.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: He's talking from experience. So thank you all very much. I'm very sorry because you know how much I love spending time with you. I really need to run now, but very good to see you. And please come back.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Before you move, there is a brief comment from Chris.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: You don't need to stick around for this, but I just wanted to go back to Nabeel's comment about Yemen and stuff. And all I wanted to say was, the internet is a tool and as you all know, you can use a tool to build something or you can use a tool to destroy something. And it's very hard to stop people who are determined to use their tools to destroy something. It's very hard to stop them from doing that.

> But if more people use their tools to build, then even though there may be people destroying with their tools, there will be more people building with their tools. So every single one of you needs



to go back out there with all the information that you've learned and start using your tools to build. Thanks.

AMINA RAMALLAN: Hi, Siranush. Amina here. I'm sorry to interrupt. Can I just add a point from a perspective from Pavel's point just now?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes. Sure. Go ahead. Your name please.

- AMINA RAMALLAN: This is Amina for the Record. I'm from Malaysia and I'm an ICANN75 Fellow. Just a perspective to Pavel's question, would the representation of the ICANN org in the Board help with, because as we know, after the Board's exercises authority in the PDPs that the ICANN org will be implementing it. So probably having someone from the org could clarify the decisions made by Board and they will know whether it is possible to implement or not. Yeah. That's it. Thank you.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Amina. While we are waiting for Göran to come, can you just explain how the Board works?



CHRIS DISSPAIN: Yeah, sure.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Chris.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Not a problem. So I was on the Board for nine years, and I was Vice Chair of the Board for some of that time. So let's just build on the point that we talked about having the CEO in the room and so on. So first of all, to answer your point, Org are in the room, right? Senior staff sit in Board meetings and listen, and subject matter experts from the staff come and talk to the Board all the time about the stuff. So your point about having people in the room, they're there, not just the CEO, lots of people. Obviously, there are sessions that are closed, only the Board.

> Now the subject of whether the CEO should be a member of the Board or not is a very interesting topic. And as Maarten said, it varies from organization to organization. The organization that I was the CEO of, which is the Australian ccTLD, .au, I was CEO and I was on the Board, but not as a director.

> I was on the Board, is what's called an ex officio Board member, which means I attended all the Board meetings except for the stuff about me, obviously. Unless they wanted to be nice to me, in which case, obviously, I needed to be there so that they could

be nice to me. But I attended all of those Board meetings, and I didn't vote. But I had a say and I could convince or whatever.

In the case of ICANN, which is a relatively standard American structure, for not for profit in America, the CEO is a Board member. So he's the CEO and he's the president, and as the president that makes him the Board member. I completely acknowledge that in some cases, you could look at that and say, well, the CEO has a vote.

And if you had a Board of five or six people and the CEO had a vote, that would probably be more of a concern than if you have a Board of however needed is 16, with the CEO having one vote. But it's critically important for almost every decision that you have the full participation of the person who's going to be leading the organization when they have to bring that decision to fruition.

And whether you think he should be he or she should be a voting member is a more of a sort of theoretical discussion. And I can tell you that in most cases, in the '90s, I was on the Board, very rarely did the CEO ever vote on anything. There are certain legal requirements where you have to have every Board member vote. Nothing to do with policy, just for corporate requirements in California. Obviously he or she will vote for that. Other than that, very rarely voted. I hope that's helpful, Siranush.

- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. Do you have any questions for Chris? Göran is on his way to this session. Yes, please. Go ahead, Chokri.
- CHOKRI BEN ROMDHANE: Yes. I wonder if Chris have attended the session about the fragmentation of internet.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Yes, I did.

- CHOKRI BEN ROMDHANE: Yes, during the session, I think that there was a confusion between the centralized system or the centralized approach model adopted by ICANN and the fragmentation of the Internet. I personally think that adopting a no centralized model by ICANN will not impact the activity of ICANN. In contrast, it will help ICANN to improve its activity and evolve with the new technology. Do you agree with me?
- CHRIS DISSPAIN: Chokri, I think it entirely depends on the context in which you're talking. The internet is, by definition, distributed, which is not the same thing as fragmented. It's a distributed system where it's self-healing. So if the route that my traffic normally takes would be to, if I was in Australia, would be to go out from Australia,

through a set of servers to the U. S. to find answers to my questions, and if those servers are down, it will just automatically heal itself and find another route. Those aspects of it are about it being distributed.

The only thing that is in essence centralized is the policy making. I mean, even the route servers, the 13 route servers and the however many instances of each routes server they are, even they are in essence distributors. There is an authority of route because there has to be one, otherwise, that would be ridiculous. Right? But once you get past that one, it's all distributed. But that's not fragmented. Where it gets complicated and becomes fragmented is if you had a situation where if you have a particular browser, you can access a particular set of domains.

So if you look at it this way, some countries are sensor traffic. What they do is they choose to step in to the way of the traffic. That's not fragmenting it. It is blocking certain things, but it's not fragmenting. But if you have a situation where you have two different routes of traffic, and one route is ubiquitous, is everywhere, unless it's blocked by government, but the other one is only accessible because you have something on your browser that allows you to, that's fragmenting. So that's one thing that fragments, right? Another thing that fragments is if governments decide that they need to create different rules of how you run the Internet.

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Now it's a different thing to say I'm going to block this traffic because I don't want this traffic to come into my country. The traffic is still there. You're just blocking it. But if you say in order for you to be in my country, at all, you have to do things the way that I say you have to do them. That becomes problematic and that's a different aspect of fragmenting.

And I would argue that both of those things are quite bad, on quote. So I'm not sure what you -- I said incredibly long answer, but I'm not sure what you mean when you say centralized. Nothing is actually centralized except for the policy making process here about what happens with gTLDs. Does that answer your question?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Chris. And Hafiz do you want to comment on what is being discussed now on fragmentation?

HAFIZ FAROOQ: No, I have a different question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay. Go ahead.

HAFIZ FAROOQ: So actually, I have a question about the composition of the Board. I know right now we have GAC, RSSAC, and SSAC are the nonvoting members. So I want to know what is the rationale behind keeping them as non-voting, and instead, the eight members nominated by the NomCom, they have the voting right.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: That's a really good question. Thank you. So there are different reasons. In the case of the GAC, almost every government would prohibit their representatives from having a vote. The governments will just not allow their representatives to have a vote on a Board. And governments will also object to one person being chosen if that person has any power. So the GAC Chair automatically is a liaison to the Board and that's the deal, but they wouldn't be allowed to vote.

In the case of the SSAC and the RSSAC, they are very specifically technical advisory bodies. And they are there to provide independent advice. So again, it's not appropriate for them to have a vote. They vote in their group. In the SSAC, they vote on a paper that comes to the Board, and they present it, and they can discuss it, and they can explain why it's good, but at the end of the day, it's better at this, not appropriate than to have a vote.

And in the case of At-Large, the original intention was that At-Large would be, is the consumer representatives, and the original

intention with At-Large was that it would be an advisory committee, the same as the other advisory committees. But then it became obvious pretty quickly that actually what At-Large is about is not a technical advisory committee. It's about people, and so therefore, there should be a vote, but they have only one as opposed to two. And I know you can argue about that. You could say that's wrong, it should be two.

Now, the Nominating Committee is there to at least in part to bring independent advice into the Board. So if you think about it like this, I came from the country code community, the ccTLDs. I happen to also be a lawyer. So I go on to the Board and what do I bring to the Board? I bring my legal skills and I bring my specific knowledge about ccTLDs. Yes?

But if I wasn't a lawyer, and I was just a ccTLD manager, then the only skill I would bring to the Board would be ccTLDs. And a Board needs real skills in accountancy, and finance, and legal, and corporate governance, and all of that stuff. And there's no guarantee that the people who are elected by the GNSO, and ccNSO, and the ASO, and At-Large will have those skills.

So the point about having a Nominating Committee was to have the Nominating Committee search and find people, independent people who have the necessary skill sets. And every year, the Board sends the Nominating Committee a letter that says, this is what we think we're looking for. We need somebody with audit skills. Does that explain?

HAFIZ FAROOQ: Yes. Just one comment about the number eight and the magic number eight, which is nominated by the NomCom. Do you think that once we have such a big number nominated by the NomCom, it reduces the effectiveness or dilute the role of community as such in the Board of Directors?

CHRIS DISSPAIN: No, because, no, it can be disruptive. If you suddenly get four new Board members, that's nothing to do with them coming from the NomCom, just generally, you get four new Board members today can be disruptive because it takes a while for people to bed in. But no, it would be worse if you had more internal community people. It's really important to have fresh eyes, naive questions, lower level of assumption.

> A fish can't see water. If you're in the water and you're a fish, you can't see the water. You can't only see the water from the outside. So having independent people who are not yet necessarily in the water is incredibly important. And the numbers, I mean, yes, you can always argue it should be six, eight, whatever it doesn't



matter. But no, it works really well. The challenge is finding good people.

HAFIZ FAROOQ: Yeah, thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And I have next in the queue. Namra.

- NAMRA NASEER: Hello. Thank you for the opportunity. I'm Namra Naseer, ICANN Fellow from Pakistan. I'm currently working with the U.S. government, Policy Think Tank. And yeah, my question is relevant to Internet fragmentation. And we had a wonderful conversation in the morning. I just want your candid thoughts on this as a Board member. How do you think how urgent the issue is, what challenges do you guys face, and how we as newcomers can play a constructive role in this context.
- CHRIS DISSPAIN: Thank you for the question. And just to be clear, I'm not on the Board. I was on the Board, but I'm not on the Board anymore. And if I don't say that now, somebody will go through the transcript and then they would. And if Wendy is here, she'll be



taking notes anyway. Okay, she may have gone. So how urgent a problem is it?

I think part of the discussion then this morning has indicated that actually using the word fragmentation isn't particularly helpful because there are lots of different bits that are fragmented. I think fragmentation by government's legislating to try and extra territory really. If that's one part of that, I think that's happening now, so that's urgent to deal with. I think in respect to a blockchain, there's much more work. Yes, it could well be urgent, but I'm not sure that we know that yet, because we haven't yet done the work. Does that make sense? Okay. Hello, Göran. I've been filling your shoes for you.

- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I'm sorry. So we have our next guest here, Göran Marby. And I'm going to give this rolling mic to him because he wants to sit there. It's open space.
- GÖRAN MARBY: You always tell me what you're talking about. Hi, guys. How are you doing? Having fun? Have you learned all the acronyms? I hate acronyms. I have to tell you that. So this is actually one of my absolute favorite moments in the whole of ICANN meetings because I got to meet you. Some of you were the first time coming



into ICANN, some of you have been in before, but this is really fun for me.

So can I talk to you what ICANN is for me? And then I'll put on for questions. And then so often time she's going to tell me, "You have to go now." And I will say, "Just a couple of more questions." And then Cassia will come and say to me, "Göran, you should have been done by now." And I will still say on, we've done this for six years.

We often forget when you walk into this, most people believe that the internet is done. It is, isn't it? I mean, you're using it all the time. Every day, every minute, and then you understand, what's better? And you forget a couple of small things. It's not done. It's only half of the world's population has access to Internet. We have 50% to go. I mean, if you're out running a marathon and you're around 50% and say, "Hey, I'm a winner." You actually you're not in a race to go.

ICANN and all our partners in ecosystem. You might come here for the conference rooms and the funds and everything else, but we share one belief. That to get people online, to get people to share this one technical infrastructure, create something beautiful. Well, many times, many years ago, I was in Latin America, and I met with the government, and they talked about that they had internet to the village program. And I asked them,

"Why do you do that?" And they said, "I always expect. oh, it's good for unemployment. It's very good for health, mostly unemployed, good for the economy."

And this person told me is that to being poor, one of the biggest disadvantage of being poor is you don't have access to information. And by bringing people on the Internet, you therefore take away one of the biggest disadvantages that exist in the world, access to information who has always been the rich man's right. That's why I'm doing what I'm doing. That's why I'm here. That's why you were here. To remember that the Internet is not done. So remember one more thing.

So we go into those grand halls and you talk about all those acronyms, and you learn things like, Chris, close generics, expedited PDPs, SubPro, what else do we have as fun? And you start thinking that's the internet. It is. But remember one thing, ICANN every time you go online, every time, regardless of which kind of equipment, WiFi, whatever you use, you meet or basically meet up. Actually, someone who knows something. You hit about something that technically originates from this organization.

ICANN was designed to have that technical role. And the way we define the Internet, is anyone who use the same IP addresses, the same domain names, and the same IP protocols. That's the

Internet for us. If you don't use those three things, you're not on the Internet. If you go on Facebook, I shouldn't mention that. If you go on a social media, you leave the Internet and go into a wall garden. So we define the Internet.

But have anyone you ever heard that the internet went down? Rhetorical question? No. You never heard because we haven't gone down. And when was the last time you took it down, Chris? 35 five years ago? It's true. The internet hasn't gone down in that amount of time. Not because of ICANN, but because of the ecosystem we're in, because luckily, it's not only ICANN in this.

So we have one part and then you have what we call the country code operators who are independently making policies and running their own effect. We have the route of operators who independently distribute this information out to you. You have IETF that creates the protocols to do it, and they are the real ones in this. We build this together. So what is one two down? So you've probably heard the expressing IDNs a lot, scripts. So 20% of the world's population can speak English fluently. And as you hear, I'm not one of them. And still, most of the domain names, top level domains and domain names are in English.

I don't think that we have done a good enough job to make sure of the diversity of the Internet itself. And we have now the perfect opportunity when we call the next round, SubPro new gTLD

program, always so good of naming things. We actually have this golden opportunity to make that right.

So we'll make sure that we focus the next round, whatever we call it, to target people, target languages and scripts that's not English-based, not Latin scripts. To make sure that the participation in this, in Africa, big parts of Asia, that's where we need to increase participation on the diverse Internet. Because if you go online, remember that, you can hit 5.3 billion other uses at the same time.

You heard the conversation this morning. Technically, the Internet is not fragmentized. All those people is using the same system. And you know what? The best with all of this, all the problems we have to fix, it's here, not me. I'm here to facilitate the discussion. And after the Board made the decision, I do and implement them.

But you can walk into this room, and you can come up and talk to me or important people like Chris and actually have a say. You're among right now most influential rooms in the world. You can't walk into the UN, you can't walk into the [00:37:34 -inaudible], you can't walk into your own Parliament. Here you can actually just walk in, go after microphone, and have your own viewpoint said. That's how this multi-stakeholder model works. That's why

	I work for what I do. And I'm so grateful for you coming and taking over. Thank you. Questions?
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Yes. We have a lot of questions and they are posted in the chat and hand raised in the chat as well, please.
GÖRAN MARBY:	You're train them well here.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	So there was a question from Sangai. She is asking about, how does ICANN include minority groups like girl, women in ICT who are still finding their place in the Tech world.
GÖRAN MARBY:	Well, an excellent question to start with. I'm so thankful for that one. So ICANN as an institution or an org. I mean, we have program like this. And well, we try to bring newcomers and other ones into this. And one of the important things we did, and I'm going to use acronyms now. When we did the so called transition, 2016, when the last veto over us from the U.S. government was relinquished, we started something called Work Stream 2.



In Work Stream 2, diversity around the world is very, very important. Now I sound like I'm defending. We have a lot of things to do. We're trying to do capacity building in different parts of the world to engage more, but I know that we need to be better at it.

One of my favorite examples is from Pakistan, many years ago working together with the IT Communication Minister who told me there about the project specifically targeted young girls, training 15 to 16 years old to get software development training so they have an alternative in life.

There are so many different projects we can do. You are a part of that discussion, but it's also hard for us as ICANN. We are a decision making body. We want to make sure, At-Large for instance to make sure that we have people coming in to make decisions. But we have a lot of things to do. So I will not sit here and defend and say that we're doing everything right. So thank you for the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: The next question is from Lillian Kamara. She's asking, "What is ICANN's stand or view in line with the right entity to manage the ccTLDs? Is it safer to have the ccTLDs managed by government or any capable private Company?"

- GÖRAN MARBY: I think primarily the country code operators should be managed by communities. And that is very much up to the country now. But I believe in the multistake of the model and therefore I sort of believe in the multistake of the model for the country code operators as well. So that would be my answer.
- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And to make sure that we have diversity in place, the next question will be in Spanish. And you have your translation headset. Eunice.
- EUNICE PEREZ COELLO Thank you. Thank you. Good afternoon to all. My name is Eunice. I am from Mexico. I'm from the Academia. Well, I'm here as it was said on behalf of a community of academics in Mexico, approximately 2.9 million students in Mexico, university students. And I'm currently part of a commission in which we try to share all these organizations, what is it that they do, create awareness and outreach.

So one of my questions is, as part of the organizational chart, we as a university community, where we're also technical in nature, we would like to participate. So not only by providing you with what our needs are, but also on the technical part in terms of

technological development, which engages people. And also, especially when it comes to awareness because these people, these students, they are the future. They are the future people that will be running the Internet.

So my question to you is, how can the academia get involved, not only in this part, but also engage in terms of IT development to provide, I don't know, maybe hardware or software or improvements to the Internet. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. Good question. So the first question asking where? And if you, for instance, look at the gentleman over there, can you wave Leon? So to make sure that what we do is somewhat diverse. And unfortunately, we don't divide things into acronyms, so I will not go in there.

> So when we talk about this, we often make sure that we say that we have represented from governments, academia, businesses, civil society, etc. And then we sort of blocked them into different interest groups. So if you would have been a lawyer now, and said, I'm very much interested in intellectual property, I would say, oh, I know where to go. It's called IP. The intellectual property, IPC, whatever. My English is going down.

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But here because you have a little bit of broader thing, we have machineries to put you in. And I would say At-Large, and Leon, who by the way, happened to be on the Board and a Mexican. I mean he's already a good guy and a good friend. Have a talk to him, how you can move into and start.

We are not so much about software development and stuff in ICANN, the part of the fact that we do, the things we already do relating to IANA, route service, etc., etc., But you will find a lot of people that with the same kind of interest inside ICANN who actually do those things. But I will say that start with Leon.

- EUNICE PEREZ COELLO: Well, what I meant in terms of technological developmental improvements, I was referring to best practices like CNSSEC or the development of how to put together that request and all that, the applications.
- GÖRAN MARBY: So this is very funny. It took me a while to understand for ICANN. We don't make the differences on the problems. We make the differences on how people sort of engage in the system. So At-Large, for instance, are engaging questions like DNSSEC. Then we have internally. And if you really want fund, you can go and talk to a guy called John Crane. I shouldn't say, he's a really good guy.

EN

And he has our research team. So we have several ways of getting into this. But remember, I'm on one side which is serving you the real decision makings or inside the community. And I still think that At-Large is a good way to get into that. What do you think Leon?

LEON SANCHEZ: I would agree. And if I may add something to what you just said, but I'm going to say in Spanish as well. Leon Sanchez speaking. I am very happy to meet you, Göran. I've been looking for you all the week long because someone told me you wanted to meet me. But here we are, I am at your disposal. And I believe that we have a lot to do when it comes to the technological development.

Let me give you an example. When it comes to Universal Acceptance, Universal Acceptance is something where you can contribute from the academia. And from companies developing software, this is where we have to make our efforts so as to be able to develop these apps, compliant with Universal Acceptance for domain names. So I believe that in this case, there is a field you can explore.

Someone told me you want to meet me and that person also told me that you were interested in the security aspects, particularly you were interested in SSAC in the security committee. So I would like to introduce you to the committee so that you can start

engaging with them. I have already talked to two friends that are working in that committee and they kindly asked to contact you with them so that you can start working together and so that you can work with them.

And as Göran said, I believe that this is a good field so that you can create an ALS. I don't know if you are familiarized with the term, but perhaps we can create a new ALS in Mexico, gathering all the academia and university people together so that you can participate through At-Large with these sort of contributions.

And it would be very useful because In terms of Universal Acceptance, we do need many hands on. And I believe that with the academia and the academics and the students you work with, they are going to be very useful to start materializing Universal Acceptance.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Leon, we do have 30 minutes and we have a lot of questions to be asked, so please make your questions short, brief, to the point. Thank you. The next question from Gabriel. Please go ahead.

GABRIEL KARSAN: Thank you. My name is Karsan Gabriel from Tanzania, an ICANN Fellow. I have a question first on Internet fragmentation because I believe the principles of the Internet are openness to



centralization as well as end-to-end delivery, which these reflect the democratic principles of society.

As the gentleman said right there, it is mostly representation of society of what it is. So in our agency, as fellows, is actually thinking of what comes next. And now we are facing emerging technologies such as Web 3.0 rising with new protocols such as the distributed hash table protocols. How is ICANN open in making the new protocols of Web 3.0 in the DNS look out system? That's the first question. And another one about--

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Slow down, slow down, please.

GABRIEL KARSAN: Okay, sorry. And another question is the about generic top level domains. I think this is something which will be a big factor in improving inclusion and diversity, especially for the sub-Saharan or the global south, but it is quite really expensive and that we are not equipped with the resources needed for people to actually utilize this.

> So are there any principles that can help our section or our side to get intertwined into this and actually principals which will actually make a multilingual Internet with Universal Acceptance?

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And my third question is that, is there a cascading factor where ICANN principles or ICANN learning and can start at a very low level in terms of curriculum for kids and other marginalized groups where they can actually be included just like us? And how can we help?

GÖRAN MARBY: So I'll start on the back. One of my pet things in life is that I think that internet is such an integrated part of our lives. We should start teaching kids how this works from the beginning. But ICANN is not the decision maker. I'm not the decision maker there. But we have been talking about creating help for teachers because it's like teaching kids how to cross the road. If you actually do understand how this system works, it will help you to guide you to know how the Internet works and that will help to guide you what is good or bad on the Internet as well.

> So on the second question you talked about, so I'm going to throw a lot of words. So we do in the next round with the SubPro. One of the discussions we have there is what we call applicant support to see what we can do to help when it comes to having new top level domain operators there.

> With that said, it's never going to be something that we will allow you to do for the back end of your garage. To run a top level domain demands that you need to have resources for security, for

stability because you actually now become an integral part of the Internet itself. When you are a top level domain operator, a country code called operator or in what ICANN operator, you actually have an obligation to everybody who uses that. So it's never an easy task. An easy task means the money.

And your first question, so yes, I think JC talked about this morning, alternative ones. The answer is no. ICANN drag on this answer, but to think about like this, so we have 5.3 billion users using basically the same three things, IP addresses, domain names, and protocols. If you bring something into that world, it actually do breaks. And JC said something really good this morning is that many of them who talks about that, oh, web 2.0, or oh, we have already DOA. DOA, Chris, what's it DOA? Yeah. I never remember what it's called. I call it death on arrival.

There has always been, and many people has come up and say that they have all the challenges of this. And the funny thing is that they've never been able to explain what the problem is. And the other thing is, turns out they don't want to have the governance models you represent you companies. They want to do something with control. And they are companies today who sell alternative domain names. They don't work. They don't resolve on the Internet with a 5.3 billion users.

So technically, one of the reasons why the internet works so well is because it's a dedicated distributor system with really hard parameters. If you add something into it, it breaks, and that's what JC said this morning. I mean, if the ICANN community, you guys can stand up and have a policy to change all of this, I can't. But its technique is very hard to blend the two different systems. Well does it answer to your question?

- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And please, one question per person. Olivier, you are the next.
- OLIVER KWAME: I'm going to speak in French. A new speaker on the microphone. And don't worry, the program of the fellowship as we young yanked all of us, the young and the older people can create and share experiences. Old people like me. Olivier Kwame comes from West Africa. When Internet came to my country, I was probably part of the first 5 or 10 to be connected.

I remember I had a Hotmail address and it worked. I engaged into the work of ICANN 10 years ago. And I've been a member since nine years. And I thought to myself, why am I here? So I integrated NPOC, and I started to engage myself. I wanted to be a volunteer. I worked with the working group, and I was doing
things I didn't understand, things that were not of use for me in my daily life. And this is why I left, not really left, but I came to ALAC a little later as end user. And they are far more interest, but it's always the same a lot of advice given, but advice that do not match the reality.

So I'm quite happy to participate to this program because now I feel like I'm following an approach that helps me clarify all that. I came at the right time because we're talking about the UA and that UA is important to me. I think this is in my interest to participate to the work on this UA because ICANN talk about my national language. I

am interested that the politics could be developed to find solution around this theme. This is why I wanted to talk to you today. This is all very complicated, but we have a need for this type of program. We need to listen to the experience from one another to be able to find a solution. That's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Oliver, for your comment.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Can I just make a comment?



SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please.

GÖRAN MARBY: I forgot to say this in all my speeches. One of the things I'm afraid of with this Latin script in English on the internet is because what happens two three generations down the road if all our kids are taught to use English. When if you want to go into social media application, you have to write your own name in Latin script.

What happens the way we actually see ourselves is one of the biggest differences that exist. Our language, it represents our history, our traditions, who we are culturally. If that disappears because we didn't do the job to simplify how you actually go on the Internet.

And I happen to believe that differences are good, not negative. Differences is what brings people together so you can have a solution with different viewpoints. You don't have to agree with everybody, and language is such an important part of who you are. So that's one of the reasons I keep on to talking about that the next round has to be about something else than bringing more words into the English dictionary root zone sort of thing.

BIBEK SILWAL:	Thank you. Bibek, you are the next.
GÖRAN MARBY:	So I only have a couple of more minutes, they're telling me already.
BIBEK SILWAL:	Namaste everyone. My name is Bibek Silwal. I'm from Napal and for the record, I'm the NextGen at ICANN 75, and I want to thank ICANN for the opportunity. So my question is regarding the IANA transition. So you were this year during the completion of transfer of stewardship from the government. So I believe it was a step further in the multi stakeholder model of the actual internet governance of the policy we are looking. And I really like your example in the interview you gave, sir. My question is, what are the challenge and opportunity you felt after the transitioning operations or functions of ICANN and its activities as a CEO? Thank you.
GÖRAN MARBY:	You gave me very simple questions that I can give straight yes and no answer to you, you know that. I mean, first of all, the transition was a testament to that countries around the world stood up and signed on a paper, signed that we believe in ICANN, and we'll just

take all the model. And that's quite unique. There's never been anything like ICANN before in world history. And one of the multi stakeholder models who we means to an end. We don't exist of a multi stakeholder model. We're here to do some work.

My first reflection is that I was so impressed by so many countries turning up and saying yes. And I was also impressed by the fact that the U.S. government said formally that we believe that these are good, that the things that the community build are checks and balances was enough. Now I hear myself better. It was we're enough to actually go through the transition. So my first, I would say, relief and impressed.

I also think that, which is a lot of the conversation we're having right now, it's now six years ago soon, and the world has moved on and there are things we have to improve. I think that me and Chris, for instance, sort of had a conversation about this in one panel somewhere. But we talked about maybe we made it slightly too complicated sometimes to do our thing.

I mean, we want to be extremely transparent. We want to participate in everything. I mean, remember, most of the things we do, no one in world history have ever done before. It's not like, yeah, I can go into rule book and say, who created the last ICANN? Let's see how they did it. No one done this. So to do what we're

doing with this model is not an easy one. So I think we're in the process of evolving.

But with that said, the trains kept on going, didn't they? And the Internet kept on growing. We have far more, I think it's is it 440 or 500 more million users now than five, six years ago. I don't know how many domain names, I don't know how many new mobile phones that has been out there, and we never missed a beat. So that's probably what I'm most impressed on.

And again, it's not only ICANN. ICANN is an essential part, but we do this in an ecosystem with partners and we are equal partners. So when you find the roots of operators, when you find the country code operators, when you find IETFs, the numbers community, I know that was something I forgot, we all work as partners in this one and it's a strength of it it's in the delegated system that we all work together. And we've been able to do that for 30 years. It's quite impressive, isn't it? So anyway, thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Are you leaving now?

GÖRAN MARBY: I have to leave. If you turn around, you will see what I'm seeing. Say hello to Cassia.



SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Thank you very much, Göran.
MUHAMMAD UMAIR ALI:	I would like to ask a question if you can have last question.
GÖRAN MARBY:	If it's a quick one.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	Who is speaking?
GÖRAN MARBY:	Oh, hi.
MUHAMMAD UMAIR ALI:	Hi. My name is Muhammad Umair Ali. I'm a NextGen from Pakistan. This is one thing that has been bothering me since Monday at the opening ceremony. I'm not sure whether it was you or some other high ranking official. I was at the end and couldn't see properly. You said that

GÖRAN MARBY: You're speaking very fast.



MUHAMMAD UMAIR ALI: Sorry. Okay. So at the opening ceremony, there was some official, might be you or someone else. You said that ITU is going to elect a new secretary general, and afterwards, they might start doing things that the ICANN is doing. Would you like to elaborate on that?

GÖRAN MARBY: So first of all, as I said, like a hundred times, thank you for the question, is that we are strictly neutral who the member states in the ITU chooses to be the Secretary General, okay? [01:01:12 – inaudible], but the Russians have a platform where they say, they don't believe in the multistake on model, they don't believe in you. They also say that the UN system, IT or Netherlands, should take over the multistake on this. ICANN, the IETF, the RIRs, all those acronyms should be governed by governance.

> We don't believe that. And therefore, I go up and say that this election is actually important, without taking sides. And if you want to know more about the Russian platforms, you go into, you can probably help with this as opposed to them. The government engagement team's Russian paper, where we actually go through the things they say and we say, no, we don't believe that. That's not right.

And so this is not the first time in ICANN history, we take a stand. There are several people in this room and I see some of them, hello over there, who are actually quite much heroes in the fight of making sure that you have the right to sit here and ask me questions.

Because this is one of the few rooms in the world where people can't walk in and ask questions to people like me, and I have to answer. You don't do that in your parliament. You don't do that at the EU level. Don't do that at the UN level. This is the only place. So I want to conclude. Thank you for the question. I call ICANN one of the largest peace spots ever in the world. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much, Göran. Thank you. Thank you for coming. And please, if I'm not calling your name to ask a question, please do not interrupt our speakers. With that, I would like to introduce you our two guest speakers today, two Board members, Leon Sanchez, who is part of our chair, and the Edmon who is from the host country where we are here, from the region where we are holding ICANN meeting. So without further ado, I would like to give the floor to both of you to welcome and tell a couple of words to the Fellows and NextGeners.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Siranush. Well, it's always a pleasure to be here with you guys. I started as a fellow back in 2012 in the Prague meeting. And as we say, once a fellow, you're always a fellow. It's a great opportunity for you to be here. So seize the opportunity, take advantage of being here and being taken literally by the hand and walking through the corridors and the different constituencies and groups that form our community.

> You have great mentors, use them, squeeze their knowledge out of them, and jump into as many sessions as you can. It doesn't matter if you come from a technical background, or a law background, or an academic background, or a governmental background. Jump in to sessions that don't have to do anything with what you do on a daily basis. Experiment new things. You will be surprised how you can get engaged with groups that you never thought of before.

> That's what actually happened to me. I mean, I am an intellectual property attorney and I leave out of intellectual property. And when I first came as a fellow, I thought that my natural place would be the IPC, the intellectual property constituency. But I heard back then Mama J and Siranush, they told me exactly what I'm telling you guys. You should jump into as many sessions as you can.

Try to get familiar with the full ecosystem. Don't just go into those who you feel would be naturally fit to your purpose and experiment new things, and learn from others, and be open minded, and just absorb all that knowledge and all that information from everyone.

And I did that and I ended up joining the At-Large community. I applied to a leadership position as an ALAC member for Latin America and the Caribbean through the NomCom. The NomCom appointed me. Then I had a lot of work within the At-Large community because that's another key factor.

If you want to succeed in the ICANN and community, you have to work a lot. It doesn't come for free. You need to work a lot. You need to devote your time, your efforts to contribute to furthering ICANN's mission. And After that, I was entrusted with co-chairing the CCWG. You might remember that Göran mentioned the transition.

Well, there were two groups that were in charge of crystallizing what we know now as a transition. One of them was the CWG and the other one was the CCWG. And I was culture of the CCWG, which comprised things about accountability. And we made full reshaping and redrafting of the ICANN bylaws.

So all the accountability mechanisms that we have now in place were designed by the group, which I cultured. And by this, I'm not

saying that they were things that I actually drafted or that they were my idea. I only had the privilege of co-chairing the group, but the heavy lifting was done by others.

And after these we came to a point in which our Board member backed then Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Rinalia Abdul Rahim decided not to continue being a Board member. So I saw the opportunity to put my name up for appointment by the At-Large community and I was appointed by At-Large. And I've been serving so far two terms and I'm hoping that I will be gifted with a third term by my At-Large colleagues.

But I think that another important concept that you need to understand and you need to learn is that leadership positions within ICANN and of course, in elsewhere, are not to serve yourself from that position, but to serve the community.

So as long as you understand that any leadership position you get in this community is to serve that community and not to serve yourself, you will continue climbing in the structure. You will continue to succeed in going further and achieving new goals and being able to give back to this community via your leadership positions. So if you understand that, I guarantee that you will soon be here where I am seated now with that man, with all the Board members, giving this speech to future fellows.

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So I invite you to reflect on my words and to put them into practice and always feel free to approach not only me, but anyone in the community. That is one big advantage that we have as fellows. Everyone welcomes the fellows. If you approach any community member, you say hello, I'm a fellow from this part of the world, and I would like to just get to know what you do here in ICANN. People will open the doors to you. So always identify as a panel.

And well, of course, help your other fellows. We are a team. We are in this together. And by collaborating in unity, we are able to achieve more than working alone or isolate. So with that, Siranush, I thank you again for this opportunity to meet with the fellows. And I am sorry, I need to leave, but I can answer three questions if you have.

- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes. But we have only five minutes left, and let's give the floor to Edmon, please.
- EDMON CHUNG: In that case, I will be short, I hope. So I was just preparing for a longer speech, but no, I actually would like to interact a little bit more. But as Leon mentioned, the journey through the ICANN, I mean, my ICANN journey started in 1999 when I was just

graduating from university and I started a company that developed one of the first technologies for internationalized domain names. 23 years later, I'm still talking about that issue and still trying to push for IDNs to be universally accepted in applications. And we're still talking about IDN policies today.

So one of the things that I want to let you guys know is that sometimes things happen slowly here, but they do progress steadily. IDNs, for example, I think, is a very good example. Even though it has taken 23 years, we went through the policy discussion on technology and then policy discussion on languages, linguistic issues. And you see me wearing this green T-shirt and I invite you all to participate at the session later today, which is to celebrate.

Over the last 10 years, we've worked out the linguistic policies that are required to make IDN successful. And behind my back, you see all the different scripts that the different languages systems use. And today after 10 years of work, we have almost all of the active languages around the world. It's 26 scripts, but it represents over 360 languages around the world. And these things take time. So I will leave you with that.

And two more things I want to touch on. One is the fellow program and the NextGen program is really at my heart. I've



always wanted to speak to you guys, but until I get on the Board, I don't get the chance to speak to you.

But the thing is from my organization, DotAsia, we have actually been working with the fellows in NetMission for a long time. And I'm glad to see actually our program NetMission. We have some alumni around here as well. But back in 2009, which was very first few of the fellows, NetMission ambassadors actually participated into the fellowship program. We brought them in and added into fellowship program. And in 2014, when the first NextGen program is actually a joint work between DotAsia and ICANN to put a pilot to happen in Singapore.

So we're really excited to see this program, and I think it's really important. We always need new blood into the ICANN processes and policies. So these things. And then I want to say, I was following this room on the other another room, that's why I'm late coming in. So two things I picked up one, acronyms.

Don't be afraid of acronyms. Acronyms have their use. I know we should also spell out things, but acronyms make it more precise so that you know exactly what you're talking about, when you talk about policies. There you have their uses as well. The other thing is try to get on two sessions at one time. It's very important skill here at ICANN. And try it out.

- SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Edmon. Even if you were not invited to talk to fellows, but I myself, when I was a fellow, was thrilled by your speech on the stage when you were talking at New Delhi in opening up the eyes for DotAsia at that time. So thank you. And you have a great experience with NetMission providing the floor for newcomers to get to know everything what is happening in that area. Thank you both for coming. I know we have only a couple of minutes to go. So one in a row, Giannina, I see your hands up. If you want to ask a question, please go ahead.
- GIANNINA RAFFO: Thank you so much to both of you. I'm Giannina from Venezuela, ICANN75 hello. This is my first meeting in person. And a few days ago, I learned for the first time what Universal Acceptance was. I was a little embarrassed that I didn't knew what it was and the importance of it, and the major impact that ICANN have in our world.

And that comes to my question that do you think ICANN can benefit for a sort of translation or promotion of these important topics outside the community. Because, like, if I didn't come to this meeting, I would have never known what it Universal Acceptance. So I think if we can do some kind of engagement outreach more people will be interested. So put the topic out there. Thank you.



SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Who would like to take?

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you for your question. Let me say this in Spanish, so we don't get lost in translation. First of all, I'd like to give you a piece of advice. You mentioned that you were not familiar with Universal Acceptance and you were ashamed or because you didn't know about it. I think that not knowing about something is not a reason to be ashamed. Not to ask a question, that's a reason to be ashamed. So that's just my piece of advice. Don't be ashamed to ask. Don't be afraid to ask. I always tell my students that it is not dumb to ask. It's dumb not to ask. So don't be afraid to ask. Know that too.

> You are totally correct. There are things that we can work on in ICANN through ILS, which is this At-Large structures that are local. And they are the main drive force in At-Large. And that allows us to move forward in topics such as Universal Acceptance. There are different materials that have been translated into the six UN languages and are used precisely for these workshops and for these trainings.

> The Global Stakeholder Engagement team has both materials and programs that can be used to share this knowledge locally

through the ALS. So it would be important that, I don't know if you know Harold Arcos, he's in Venezuela, and he's a current secretary of LACRALO or he's the elected chair. He's an Ecuador. No, Giannina is in Washington, and is good that she enrolls as part as not NARALO because they have done a lot for Universal Acceptance.

Well, I am a little bit confused about the different job titles and the nationalities, but there's a lot of work to do. And we can do this work through the ALSes. And there is documentation that has been translated into six different languages and can be used for it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Mr. Edmon.

EDMON CHUNG: So the one who should be embarrassed is me. I failed miserably, right? I mean, I've been doing this with 23 years and it hasn't reached everyone. Now, that is true in many senses, but I think the ideas are really good. But I want to add one, I guess I was going to include this in my story later, so you will hear it twice, but it took a lot of time to actually convince people that internationalized domain names is needed. In fact, one of the early meetings, I still remember very vividly, someone stood up in

the mic and said, the only two languages I know is English and C, C the computer language.

And so it took a lot of time to actually convince people that this is important and put effort into it. And there are so many problems. There are so many languages around the world, and each of them have different nuances and how you use it for identifiers different policies needs to be in place. But now we are at the point where we can do a lot more of that, and that's why you hear a little bit more of it.

And one thing I want to highlight is and I hope that you would participate is there is going to be a UA day. We're going to set a day for February. Next year, February 2023 will be the first time we do it. I hope you develop local initiatives to talk about Universal Acceptance on UA day.

And that's one of the things exactly as you said, we have to have the message go beyond the ICANN community. But the last 20 years, we have been working hard to make the technology and the policy work. Without those, we also can't really push it out. So now that is done. Next step, we have to tell the world.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Edmon. I know timing was an issue for all our presenters today to be here with us, but I appreciate that you

would be able to join us at least for a short period of time. Our applauses to our guests today. Thank you very much.

We are running out of time now, but you all know the faces of this people now. You can reach them whenever you saw them in the corridors and ask them questions. They really would be happy to take any question and they are very supportive to any newcomer, any NextGen, any fellow. So please, please, please, if you have questions, use this last two days opportunity to talk to them. With that, our meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

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