
SINGAPORE – Fellowship Morning Meetings
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ICANN – Singapore, Singapore

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: Good morning, everybody. Kind of half-hearted, but good morning. We're going to jump right into it here. We have two of our alumni, Amr and Gabby, who approached me and said, "We'd like to talk to the fellows a bit about the working group method of entering into the community as well as sharing a little bit about the policy development process (PDP). So I will turn it over to them.

AMR ELSADR: Good morning, everybody. My name is Amr. I'm from Egypt. I see a few familiar faces here. Gabby and I are here to talk to you about the GNSO's policy development process. The GNSO is the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

I think the reason Janice asked us to come talk to you about this is because we are also both former fellows, so we're part of the alumni. We're on that mailing list that first-timers are going to get on and I think returning fellows are already on.

I am with the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, specifically with the Non-Commercial Users Constituency. And Gabby is with the Commercial Stakeholder Group, the Business Constituency. Now we are currently both elected GNSO councilors, so we're kind of responsible for managing the policy process.

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And before we start talking to you about the process, I just wanted to make sure you know what this whole thing was about. The GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) is responsible for one of the Ns in ICANN. ICANN is the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) is responsible for the “names” part. We don’t deal with numbers, just with names. And specifically, generic names – not country code names.

So we’re responsible for policies involving generic top level domains, kind of like dot-com and dot-net. I think there are some interesting application like dot-sucks and dot-wtf. So these are the generic names, not the country code top level domains. Those are the ones where policy is developed for and the GNSO.

And when I say policy, what is generic top level domain policy? It’s basically what is included in the contracts between ICANN and the registrars and the registries that sell these domain names to registrants, people who buy and register domain names.

So, with that, I’m going to turn it over to Gabby.

GABRIELA SZLAK:

Okay. Thank you, Amr, and good morning to everyone. First I want to say sorry to Janice, because this actually was not something that she asked for that I [inaudible] to have this session with you. And this is because, as Amr said, we are now working as a GNSO councilor and this is a huge responsibility for us, because one of the things that we are undertaking, we are doing now, is trying to bring more diversity to the working groups that actually create these policies.



So we are trying to actually – what I think is that we, as fellows, can tell you our story for you to understand that you are here and this is a huge responsibility because we expect a lot from you and from us, because I am you as well. This is something very important for you to understand, so you can be aware that there are working groups that are dealing with these policies and that they need you to participate, because these groups need your perspective. These groups need to understand how things are in your countries, in your regions.

Basically, what we wanted to do is tell you that it's not so hard to participate in a working group and in these policy development processes. You will find this as PDP. This is the acronym for Policy Development Process. So whenever you read this acronym, you know this is policy that is being developed, and in order to develop this policy, we use working groups.

So you see there on the slide there's like a snake with different colors. That snake is all the process that is used to develop these policies. It starts with a request for an issue report and then it goes all the way and finishes with the policy when it is done. This can last sometimes a lot of time.

It's interesting that in these times, particularly when there's a lot of change at ICANN and people are talking a lot about the multi-stakeholder model, and we and many other people here at ICANN believe that the working groups and the policy development processes that we have are like the heart of the multi-stakeholder model, because we create and we develop these policies taking into account the views of the different groups that are part of ICANN.



So this is why we were in the last council meeting during the weekend, someone defined the working groups and the policy development process as slow – something as a slow, loud, and messy process. Maybe you want to participate in a slow, loud, and messy process. We hope you do.

The product of this process which is loud, messy and slow, whatever, it's very important because it means that a community has discussed an issue and they got to a consensus policy and that got afterwards to a contract and this is affecting the whole com of the Internet.

With that, I think that we can open to questions. So, Amr.

AMR ELSADR:

Yeah. I just wanted to reiterate what Gabby said in saying that you come to ICANN and you hear about the multi-stakeholder model. You hear about the bottom-up process of consensus building for policy. The GNSO policy development process, the working groups are the prime example of how this works. People do say it's slow, loud, and messy. Well, yeah, but it's kind of supposed to be that we.

When we told people I was coming to talk to you all about the PDP here this morning, they said, "Oh, why are you going to do that to the fellows?" This is really the great thing you learn about when you come to ICANN, how different stakeholders come together and discuss this at the very bottom, because we are talking about bottom-up consensus building. Decisions aren't made at the top; they're made at the bottom. All the work is done at the bottom.



So, as fellow participants, finding your place in the ICANN community is great, but actually getting involved in developing policy at that level is what really makes you experts on gTLD policy. Really, that's sort of what we say. You're in the trenches there, and that's where all the work gets done.

I think it is also important to note that GNSO working groups are open to everybody. So if you're not a member of a stakeholder group or a constituency in the GNSO, you can still participate. If you're part of ALAC, you can participate. If you're with any of the other ACs or SOs, the GAC, you can still participate in GNSO working groups.

If you aren't a member of an ICANN constituency or stakeholder group, you can still participate. And not only can you participate, but at different stages in the policy process, there was always a call for a public comment where people get to review the work of the working group and they get to give their opinions and these are always taken into consideration.

This is truly the essence of the multi-stakeholder approach. It isn't limited to an exclusive club of people who come to ICANN meetings or participate in calls. Everybody is welcome to participate.

I think if you want to learn more about this, about the details, you can ask Gabby and I either now or later. Thanks.

GABRIELA SZLAK:

Can I say just one more thing before the questions? I wanted to also recognize that when I arrived into this community I had no idea what a working group was. I remember that someone told me, "You know, are



you already in any working group?” I was, “What, how? Who should I ask?”

So she said, “Oh, you should talk to someone and you should get into a working group. You should do that. Then you will understand how ICANN works. And if you don’t do this, you will lose a lot of time into this community. You will not understand how this works and it will take a lot of time for you. But if you do that, even if you don’t understand everything that happens in the working group, then you will still get a lot of knowledge and a lot of understanding of the processes and the things that happen at ICANN and how you can contribute.”

I got into the working group very fast. I had no idea of the process. I learned everything during the participation of the working group. It was a great experience. And at the same time, I did my first public comment as part of this same working group. So everything happened together for me.

Many people think that maybe it’s better to start participating just by doing a public comment and then going into a working group. It all depends on you on the way that you want to approach this issue. Maybe you want to just participate in a working group because there’s something that’s really important for you in one working group and you find it important for your region.

So don’t hesitate to do it, because you can just listen to the calls and be an observer if you just don’t feel comfortable yet to participate or contribute. Then you can go to someone that is an expert in your region and ask a question about this, and then you can come with this information to the working group or by e-mail or by just participating in



the calls or wherever you need. And you can always ask other people around you how to do this. So, thank you.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE:

I'll just comment on top of that. We also think that if you can't be face-to-face, you can't be part of this. I know Amr has been not face-to-face for several years and he's been working very hard on the working groups and within the NCUC. You don't have to depend on that either.

I love the fact that Gabby said you can be an observer. There's nothing holding you back from calling in and just starting to listen, starting to appreciate it. You need to use the ICANN website as an educational tool, to go in there. And I know it's a mess. We're launching the new icann.org in April with a lot more clarity. I've been able to see it growing from the backend and there will be so much more clarity and ability to filter through information. It will help you so much to be able to go in and to learn about the PDP process.

Working groups, also, people shy away because it's not paid for. One of the big things that a very strong member of our community, Mikey O'Conner, works tirelessly at is trying to get funding for the working groups. It's not for me as staff to say if that's right or wrong. That will be decided by someone else, but it is a heavy volunteer duty, so we make no mistake about it. But it is a commitment that, as Gabby and Amr were saying, will really in many ways expedite your entrance into ICANN and help you to gain an understanding.

And the last thing I'll say is regional support. Your regional engagement managers and vice presidents of the Global Stakeholder Engagement



Team are there to support you. We have the alumni bond and that's amazing that they're always out there, but your regional team is there for you to reach out to.

If you don't know who they are, please come and talk to me so we can get you introduced if they're here face-to-face – if not, by e-mail – because that's real strength in being able to associate yourself with those who are managing everything about ICANN going on in the region. So they'll help you in every single way that they can to learn more about the policy process or about being part of a working group.

AMR ELSADR:

There's also a team of ICANN staff members, the policy staff team. They're really fantastic. They support everybody. Not just newcomers, but even folks who have been involved in the policy process for years. Policy staff are just still so helpful in so many ways and we probably couldn't get a lot of the work done without them. So feel free to approach people like Marika Konings, Julie Hedlund, and others. There's a great team of policy staff members. You can talk to them as well.

GABRIELA SZLAK:

So there's material that we are sending you and then you will find the faces and the names of the staff, so don't worry about catching the names.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE:

Guys, we'll start practicing saying your name and where you're from for the record.



RAHUL SHARMA: My name is Rahul Sharma from India. I want to know the areas wherein we can contribute and participate as individuals and the areas that we can participate to organization representation. What is the difference in various constituencies, NCUC, NPOC, GNSO, whatever? So wherein [inaudible] ICANN participate as an individual and as my organization.

AMR ELSADR: I'll take this one, since you're asking about NCUC and NPOC. It depends on your interest I guess, and the nature of your organization. So, for example, if you are from a private sector company and you have a running business and a stake in domain names – for example, the domain names that your business has registered – then you might be interested in your company joining the Business Constituency and assigning you as a representative.

If you come from an NGO and you have an interest in domain names registered for your NGO or Civil Society, you might be more interested in joining one of the constituencies of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group.

So I guess those more or less cover – and, of course, I'm not sure if you work, for example, for an ISP because there are three different constituencies in the Commercial Stakeholder Group. There's one that covers Internet service providers, one for businesses, one for folks who are more interested in intellectual property rights. But those mainly cover the non-contracted parties' house. I'm assuming that's what you're more interested in. If you were a registrar or registry, you would



belong in the other house, in the contracted parties' house, because those are the folks who have contracts with ICANN.

But you would need to join, if I'm not mistaken – and Gabby can correct me if I'm wrong – you would need to join through an organization, except for the NCUC and the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. That is the one constituency in the non-contracted parties' house that accepts individual members, not organizational. But Gabby can maybe correct me.

GABRIELA SZLAK:

No. Regarding the commercial groups in the Business Constituency, you can only join through your company. Maybe if you're a – some countries allow you to be like an entrepreneur without having a whole organization. Maybe you can apply as well. But the Business Constituency, you will be a representative of the organization, not as you as a person.

But for instance, in the Internet world, property constituency is different because there are many lawyers that participate in their own capacity, so it's different. And you have to ask each constituency what are the requisites in order to become a member, and these answers will come.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Hello. Good morning. My name is [inaudible] from Nigeria. I have a few questions. I come from the IP background and the AfriNIC region, by the way. The way we use working groups is different from the way it's used



in ICANN. We only have one working group for the PDP, so as soon as you have many working group within the GNSO.

My question then is, are there chairs for the working groups? Do you have chairs? And how do you determine consensus on a particular policy? Who creates the policies? An individual comes up and says, “Oh, this thing...” Within the AfriNIC region, what we do, somebody can just come up as a set of guidelines and drafts [inaudible] and develop the policy. Is that the same process that happens within the working groups?

And when the policy is developed, when a draft comes up, what is the process to achieving consensus? What is consensus? What is the process to implement in the policy? So how does it go? Sorry if it’s too long.

AMR ELSADR:

No, don’t apologize. I love your question and I could talk to you about that for weeks, yeah. But everything you asked about, there’s a way to get all that done. There is a way on how a policy process is initiated, and there is a way – it’s all in that diagram, by the way, that you see in front of you. It starts with the issue reports. Issue reports are prepared by staff usually at the behest either of the GNSO or the ICANN board, and that sort of – well, that sort of frame a puzzle – some sort of issue or a problem that could influence policy one way or another.

Well, the process is really comprehensive, but this goes to council and goes out for public comment, and we decide whether a policy process should be initiated based on this issue report or not. And that’s



assuming a GNSO-initiated PDP and not a board-initiated because that does go straight to policy.

After the issue report is approved, the framing of the scope of a policy process is determined by drafting a charter. And all of these, this is open to folks. A charter drafting team for a PDP working group is open, just a working group is. So based on the issue report, folks get together and decide what should be in and out of scope of this PDP working group.

Then the PDP working group starts its work once the charter is identified and the scope is created, and following that, assuming it goes through the approval of council and the board and we get the implementation phase – well, typically ICANN staff are the ones who implement the policy that the GNSO recommended and the ICANN board approved.

But one of the newer things popping up now are what we call IRTs (Implementation Review Teams). Then you get people who are actually involved in developing the policy with the working group – with the PDP working group. They join what we call the Implementation Review Team and work with staff to make sure that the policies being implemented are in line with the policies that were recommended by GNSO Council and the board.

So that is a very, very quick overview of how that is done and there is a lot of detail. The rules that apply for this are spelled out in more or less I think three locations. In Annex A of the ICANN Bylaws, there's a document called the GNSO Working Group Guidelines, and that determines the consensus levels or what we call the decision-making levels of consensus in a working group. There's also the GNSO Policy



Development Process Manual. So those are the three places and they are available on the ICANN website, where you can really go through the details of the rules of how this process is managed.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay, thank you. I just want to make a comment again.

MATT ASHTIANI: I'm sorry to interrupt you, but can you please state your name before speaking?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Oh okay. My name again is [inaudible] from Nigeria. I work with the university. So you said there is the review team that checks to make sure that the policy was actually implemented the way it was written. Because I'm trying to understand the weights that the policy takes because we're saying that ICANN needs to be multi-stakeholder driven, and it's important that the policy that comes out from within ICANN is obeyed and followed from the beginning to the end. It's also important to make aware of making sure that one is accountable to – one can check a review [inaudible] is working.

Is there a process where the board checks all these things, and what is the rule of the board in this policy-making process?

GABRIELA SZLAK: I'm going just to say something very important that maybe will clarify regarding transparency – that everything that happens happens in a



working group from the beginning to the end will be recorded. The calls will be recorded. The conversations will be transcribed. Everything will be at [bay level].

Normally we'll have a wiki space for the working group, so in that wiki space you will find the names of the people that are a part of the working group. You will find the name of the chair and the vice-chair of the working group, the charter of the working group, and all the information that is related to this, also including the background of how this created, and why this created, and what problems it comes to solve.

So all this information you will find it and you can access it during the time that the working group is working, and also after. So I think that's very important in terms of transparency and like this [inaudible] about this is really a bottom up process and a multi-stakeholder model process.

The other question about the board, I think Amr will answer it better than me.

AMR ELSADR:

Well, I just want to say that, yes, there is a process to ensure that policy is followed properly, and I'm going to guess that what you mean is in the event that someone just feels the policy isn't being followed properly, is there some sort of process that can be launched to challenge the decision being made, and yes there is. But this is not a process that is launched by the board because the board is not – the ICANN board does not oversee the process. The ICANN board is responsible for pretty much approving policy that is driven up from



them from the bottom because it is a bottom up process. The challenges also come from the bottom.

So let's say, for example, you do have a policy – and I have a very recent example. You do have some sort of policy, for example – the new round of gTLDs that the applications that were open and the new gTLDs coming into the domain name system now, there was a process followed to develop the applicant guidebook – how you can apply who is eligible. There was a process for approving applications, and there were applications that were not approved.

There were in some cases applications that were not approved. The folks who applied for them felt, “Well, that's not fair, because I followed the rules and you didn't approve my application. So is there anything I can do?” Yes, there is. There's something called a reconsideration request, where you can launch this reconsideration request. Just recently, one gTLD applicant actually got the boards to take another decision after this reconsideration request was made.

So for example, for an applicant for the topleveldomain.net who's application had initially been rejected is now approved because they went through this process of a reconsideration request.

So, yes, there is a process to challenge decision that might not be in line with policy. The process might not always end up the way the person challenging wants. It works sometimes. Sometimes it doesn't.

But let me also say this. The multi-stakeholder model and the bottom-up policy development process is loud, slow, and messy. It is not perfect, and it's always in a state of evolving. It's always changing. There



are mechanisms within the GNSO for this to change as well, and address specific issues identified by the community, like, “Okay, there’s a problem with a PDP at this point, so what do we do?” There is a non-PDP working group called Policy and Implementation right now that is reviewing this entire process and trying to see how we can make improvements based on the needs that the community has identified.

There is also a standing committee chartered by the GNSO Council called the Standing Committee on Improvements Implementation that is given the task of working out specific problems identified and requested by the council. So yeah, sorry. This is a big topic, and maybe we can talk offline a bit. Thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All right. Thank you.

GABRIELA SZLAK: Just one more thing. It seems that there’s no time for our questions now but you can talk to us all the time. We don’t need to be in this place for you to talk to us. So the whole idea of this is to bring all this new information for you, and then please ask questions for us and please consider joining working groups and participate in this process because we need you. Thank you.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: Thank you, Gabby and Amr. I know I saw like four hands, which is awesome, so I’m going to send out very quickly here was soon as Marie begins talking to you about the NPOC. I’ll send out a quick e-mail to



everyone with their e-mail addresses, and you can either send them your questions or arrange a time to meet them at the ICANN booth or somewhere else within the next couple days for a bit of a face-to-face.

AMR ELSADR: And they can use the fellowship alumni and staff –

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: After the meeting, yeah. We'll put you in touch. So again, thank you so much. It was a great just dip in, and you can see the interest is here, which is awesome. Just what we wanted. Thank you.

And again, we know that there's a lot of information that we throw at you in these morning meetings when you're still a little bit foggy, but always come back to us and ask for follow-up and more information.

But it's actually a great segue – everything we're talking about here within the GNSO and the non-contracted parties working groups, policy development, multi-stakeholder model. So, Marie, I'll have you guys introduce yourself and begin.

MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Thank you, Janice. Good morning. My name is Marie-Laure Lemineur. I'm the chair of NPOC. For our French-speaking friends I'm the chair of the group called NPOC. I've already met some of you. It's a pleasure to have you here. I have with me a teammate. His name is Rudi Vansnick. So I'm going to explain to you a few things about NPOC, and then Rudi obviously will add information he wants to what I say.



Basically, NPOC is the acronym for Not-for-Profits Operational Concerns Constituency, which in my opinion is a terrible name. I joined NPOC, what, two years ago? More or less, two years ago. It's very interesting listening to Amr and to Gabriela. It's very interesting to hear what they were saying because basically I'm going to echo many of the things and the issues they raised.

When you come here for the first time, you're sort of lost. You don't really understand what's going on, and for the first six months, I didn't have a clue where I was. I was recruited by your friend who was involved with ICANN, and he told me, "Hey, you have some time? You interested? Come and join us." I said, "Hey, it's something new I can learn. Sounds like it's a good thing, professionally-speaking as a person, to get to know other people." And I said, "Yes."

Then for a few weeks, I was like, "Where am I?" It's like everything in life. You stick to the commitment you made and you get to know people. You talk to people. You read documents. You learn, basically. It's a slow-process. And then you really get to enjoy at some point. It's more and more familiar. And then you get caught somehow in dynamic of ICANN. It's really up to you, as Amr and Garbriela said. It's really up to you to decide how deep you want to get.

Yeah, you can be an observer – a passive one – which doesn't mean you don't do anything. You just listen, learn and think. And you can be very active. It really depends on your needs, interests, the time you have. It depends, because some of us, we have full-time jobs. Others, we are in a transitional period. Other are students. Other people are students, so they have more time. So it's really a subjective thing.



So what we do at NPOC, to give you a rough idea, basically we are within the GNSO. I'm guessing now we have a rough idea of what the GNSO is. We are in the side of the GNSO which is non-commercial. So we work with both NCUC and NPOC. We work together. We are the two constituencies, the non-commercial constituencies.

Our members basically are NGOs. One of you was asking about who could join and if you could join as an individual or an organization. In our case, NPOC, you cannot join as an individual. You need to be the representative of an organization to be able to join.

So that's a big difference, for example, with NCUC. NCUC you can join as a person. That would be one big difference. Once you have joined, again, it's up to you to be an active member. If there are positions – opening – in the executive committee, you are free to join. We have a mailing list like any other group. Basically, we work the same way other groups work. There are issues that are more of an interest to us, to our members than others. For example, privacy issues – all ICANN-related with privacy things. Amr and I, we usually do join the same working groups because we are very much interested in all the problems that are related to the protection of privacy.

But this is at working-level. For example, I also belong to another working group, which is called Policy and Implementation. It's very interesting. It's where we analyze what is within the ICANN ecosystem, what is implementing a policy, what does it mean, how do you define it and what's policy.



Also, Rudi, you're a member of another working group, which is quite a technical one – very complex. I don't know whether you want to explain what it is about to give an idea, an example?

RUDI VANSNICK:

Yeah, good morning. Oh, sorry. I'm so old and I forget to say who I am. I'm Rudi Vansnick. I'm the Chair of the Policy Committee of NPOC, and also the treasurer of NPOC.

Well, I will first tell you about the fact that it's not new for me, and I'm still trying to figure out where I am because the way ICANN has been growing makes it not easier for us to find the best way to do the best we can. I'm now ten years in ICANN. I'm in fact coming from the advisory part of ICANN. I am one of the founders of the European Regional At-Large. I suppose you have already have a presentation of ALAC? Yesterday, my friend and colleague, Olivier Crépin-Leblond?

I decided a year-and-a-half ago that after seven or eight years in At-Large, time has come to go to the policy world because I have seen a lot of good work being done in the Advisory Committee of the At-Large. It is the constituency that brought up the most recommendations in advisory in the past years, but advice can always be neglected by the board. Policy is another thing. It's work that cannot just be pushed away by the board. They have to consider what policy is bringing up. If there are recommendations, they have to respect it.

So I decided into the NPOC to bridge between advice and policy. I tried to pick up good advice at an early stage and tried to figure out if, from the policy world, we could start giving some signs to the board by



preliminary recommendation or by asking a PDP process for certain topics. That's one of the goals I have.

That made me already being active as a co-chair of a PDP working group. I'm doing that together with Chris Dillon. It's the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP Working Group, which is a quite complex one. Amr is also one of our members in this group.

We are meeting on a weekly basis, so it's very intensive. We started at the beginning of the year and the deadline is December. We understood that it's going to be very difficult to get the deadline and have a good recommendation because many other working groups are going on in parallel.

I'm also in two other working groups as a vice chair. One of them is the Implementation Advisory Group on Consumer Trust and Consumer Metrics. It's a very interesting one. And another, which is not a PDP working group on data metrics, also. So it's the domain in which I try to bring in my value after being 20 years active in the Internet because I'm also a member of the Board of Trustees of Internet Society. I'm celebrating next month my anniversary as 20 years member of Internet Society. So I'm bringing in also the world of the end users and the problems that end users are encountering to that level.

So I think I can stop here and give the mic back to Marie-Laure. Otherwise, you are here for another two or three days.

MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Thank you, Rudi. Another example I would like to give you of the work we're doing is in addition to being involved at working group level is



that we do organize what we call pre-ICANN events, which means that it's usually one-day session that we do organize either on the Friday or the Saturday before the ICANN conference starts.

What we do is look for sponsors and other organizations. We actually do co-organize those events on issues that are dear to the interests to our members. We did have a one-day session last Saturday, to give you an example. It was about DNS in, let's say, developing countries. The agenda – we discussed how gTLDs for development, ICT for development. Also, we invited our colleagues from the Intellectual Property Constituency so they could explain to us how intellectual property is linked to maybe the activity of NGOs and Civil Society, how we can bridge the two issues.

Also what we do outside the ICANN world, we try to be very active and organize other activities with NPOC, partnering with, again, other institutions because we do believe in the multi-stakeholder model within ICANN and outside ICANN. So we usually try to join forces and look for other organizations and use because we have limited resources, obviously.

We are very active at the Internet Governance forum, too. We've been there for the last I believe three years, participating to several working sessions, workshops.

One final thing I wanted to highlight is the fact that within, as Amr said, the system is not perfect, ICANN is not perfect. But again, no organization is perfect. To be honest with you, I've been working for, I don't know, 25 years, and even if ICANN is not perfect, to me it's such a special place, such a special organization, because really you have the



opportunity as an individual, as a person, or as a representative of an organization to participate in processes and you are listened to. You are being listened to. Your voice counts, and it's really up to you. But the system allows you to speak loud and clear and to disagree. At some point, you're being heard or not.

But you also have the opportunity to negotiate with other parties involved in the working groups and at other levels, and you just sit down and discuss and disagree and fight, but you're here and you're part of the system, which is the beauty of it. Sometimes you win, in the sense that your opinion is the one that wins. Sometimes you just lose. Your group is not – you don't reach consensus. But that's fine. It's the beauty of the system.

So it's really rewarding to be – at least personally I find it very rewarding to be in this kind of dynamic, and it's a constant learning process to represent NGOs, civil societies, and then in front of you or beside you, you have people representing commercial interests, and you have to sit down and discuss and negotiate together. It's a challenge, but it's very interesting.

So I don't know whether you have questions. Of course, you are free to join us if you are interested. There are already some friends in the room have that applied. Others have told me that they want to apply. So if you do want to apply, I believe Matt put on the screen www.NPOC.org, and the information for joining is on the website. But please, if you have questions, feel free to ask them.



UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm [inaudible] from Pakistan. My question is if I apply as an individual in NCUC and then how can I have a say in NPOC through NCUC? Because if I am not involved in an organization, I'm not able to be connected at NPOC. So if I become a member of NCUC, to NCUC, can I get connected to NPOC? Thank you.

MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: That's a good question, and the answer is no. It's either you can be – what you can do is join as an organization NPOC and join as an individual NCUC, and then you would have the opportunity to participate in both constituencies, but not the other way around. If you're just individual member, you are NCUC, but you cannot be active at NPOC level. Our charter doesn't allow it.

Yeah, Amr wants to say something. Do you want to add something? Yes.

AMR ELSADR: I just wanted to point out that both NPOC and NCUC are with the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. So if you're with one constituency or the other, that is where the connection actually exists, so yeah.

MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Thanks, Amr. Okay. Yes, please.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good morning. I am [inaudible] from Dakar, Senegal. I would like to know just how you deal with ALAC. For me, some target, some objective is the same one. How you handle it? Thank you.



RUDI VANSNICK:

Thank you. Well, we are still very good friends, ALAC and NPOC. As I have been so many years in ALAC, I have a lot of friends over there, and in some occasions, I'm even doing work for and in ALAC. For instance, I'm part of the BMSPC. It's the work group that is monitoring the election of seat 15.

I'm not a voting member in ALAC, but I'm still able to do my say because my organization, Internet Society Belgium, is an ALS. But I decided to move into the policy world because I want to bridge both worlds not at the top, but at the bottom, and we are always talking about bottom up process. Well, I decided to do that work at the bottom, and that's where we have a very good relationship with ALAC.

When they see something that is not moving forward in the policy world, they knock on my door and say, "Hey, Rudi, please have a view. Have a look at this and try to help us bring to the attention where it is needed." Because they are only an advisory committee, they can only give advice. They can ask for policy work to be done, but if there is nobody asking it also, it could be that there is no attention for their request. So the relationship between both entities is quite close.

Some of our members are also members in ALAC. So you see, you're not divided. You can decide if you have enough resources because that's the problem. Don't forget, it's volunteering work, and actually, I'm at the limit of the time that I have because I'm having seven or eight conference calls a week. Sometimes it's at night. There are limits. So if you have enough resources, you can do both. You can step into the advisory, have people in your organization that is able to do good



advisory work, and at the same time have other people in your organization doing policy work. That's the best way of doing the combination. That's where you do the ALAC NPOC work.

KAREL DOUGLAS:

Hello. Good morning. I'm from Trinidad and Tobago. Thank you. First of all, thank you very much. The NPOC seems to be the one that I'm most interested in, and I did attend on the last occasion when I was in Durban. But I'm still curious to find out how one gets involved. Gabby and Amr did indicate that they were asked – merely asked – to get involved. It may have been that they were fellows at the time without any association to any particular group. So it seems as if they were drafted, and maybe yourself, you asked to get involved without the requirement of being involved or a part of an organization.

So my question is then, if I went to NPOC today and the issues of freedom of information, privacy, etc. are being discussed, and I very much want to be a part of that discussion, is it that I can say at that point in time that I would like to be a part of the working group; or is that I have to be a member, and to be a member, I have to be part of another organization, like maybe the At-Large Structure?

So I'm curious as to what is the mechanism to get involved? Do you have to be a member, or okay, not a member, but you can be heard at the working group? I don't know if you understand the question, so is it really a matter of determining how best one can get involved?



MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Thank you. You tell me if I understood you. In my case, I've been asked in the sense to join. I've been not asked, but a friend of mine, a former colleague of mine, told me, "Hey, I'm involved with ICANN. Are you interested?" because he spotted me, let's say, as someone who could help him. But I was free to say yes or no. He's the one who said, "When there is an opportunity, a friend of yours says, "Hey, are you aware of that?" and I said, "Well, yes, why not?" But you're not necessarily being asked. It's just it can be up to you. You discover ICANN. You hear about it. You read in the newspaper an article about it. You're just curious and you go on the website and you can join. No one has to introduce you or not. It's not one of the requirements. You're free to join.

You go to NCSG's website. You fill in the form. Once you are a member, you are admitted within the constituency, whether it's NCUC or NPOC. Basically you are free to do whatever you do within the ICANN standards of behavior. It's a free world, depending on your interests. You can be involved at working group levels. Some of our members are. Others are not. They just simply read e-mails and reports I write. They just participate to the monthly calls, and others are very, very active, like Rudi. It's really up to you.

I don't know whether I answered your question, but Amr said you can participate to a working group without being a member. Is that correct, Amr? You can participate to a GNSO working group without being a formal member of any constituency at all? Yeah?

AMR ELSADR: Yeah.



MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Yeah.

KAREL DOUGLAS: Thank you so much. I think that answers the question. Thank you so much.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: Great. I think there was a question. Did you have a question? I think – no? I’m sorry. Let’s go here.

ANDREAS DLAMINI: Thank you. Andreas Dlamini from Swaziland. In terms of objectives and targets, what’s the difference between NPOC and NCUC?

RUDI VANSNICK: NCUC, as the acronym says, Non-Commercial User Constituency, is essentially based on the principle that a non-commercial user needs to have a voice in the policy work of ICANN, and that’s the channel where a user can step in, an individual, and participate in the policy process.

NPOC is only for NGOs. You need to be a non-for-profit organization in order to be a member, which means you will only have people that are focused on non-for-profit organizations and the issues and problems they see in the policy. So that’s the big difference.

But you can, as an individual, from an organization, from an NGO, also participate in NCUC. If you’re a member of NCUC, you can do the work



over there, too. So there are two ways to go, but there's separation between both are the fact that NPOC is only for non-for-profit organizations. No individuals.

MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Yes. You need to understand as Amr said and I said previously. We're both non-commercial. This is what brings us together more than divide us, and usually it's very interesting because underneath this non-commercial umbrella, at working group level, we do agree a lot of times about the focus of the problems we are dealing with at working group level.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: And guys, unfortunately, with all the questions, we have Tracy Hackshaw, who's here to talk to us about the Government Advisory Committee. So I just sent out an e-mail with Amr and Gabby's information, and I'll do the same for Rudi and for Marie so that you can connect with them and find a time to either talk with them or answer questions via e-mail.

MARIE-LAURE LEMINEUR: Thank you. We can hang around for a few minutes. You won't have a break, won't you? So you can reach out to us later on if you're interested. We're having a session at half past eight. The name of the room is Moore, I think. So please feel free to come and visit us at some point during the session.



I just want to wrap up saying one very important thing – at least it’s important to me as a chair. One of the difficulties in ICANN is that it’s English. I mean, it’s an English spoken environment, and it can be kind of threatening for many people. It also implies that you have lots of influence and presence of English speakers, let’s say. So one of the weaknesses is that really we need people who are from other regions to join in and join and bring different perspectives.

It’s not only about language. It’s also, when you come from Africa, from Europe, from Asia, you have a different vision of the world. Sometimes you agree and sometimes you don’t agree, and this is something that is very important, at least for Civil Society. So please, please, if you’re interested, whether it’s NCUC or NPOC, think about it and join us because we need you. We need all of you. Thank you very much.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: Tracy. My friend Tracy from the GAC.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Hi. Good morning, all. Some of you will know me. For those who don’t, I’m Tracy Hackshaw. I have a fellowship alumni. I’m very proud of it. Basically, I started in the ICANN world in 2008 I believe and my first fellowship was in 2009. I met this lovely lady here.

Just like you, some of you are finding your way and some of you have found your way already and are already involved in the ICANN world. It was very bewildering to me at the first meeting in Sydney, and over the last few years, I found my way and now I’m in the GAC. I’m actually a vice chair of the GAC now, running in my second term.



I just wanted to say that all of you here from the developing world have a special place in ICANN. Some of the things that you are seeing and you are discussing, many of your colleagues and your countries don't know about, and it's very important to understand that. In fact, you might be the only person in some cases in some countries that are so involved in Internet governance. I just wanted to say, before I get into the GAC discussion, that it's very important that you as GAC members go back home after this meeting – I mean, sorry, as fellows – go back home and inform your colleagues, whether it be in the society chapters, your community societies, and hopefully your governments that you are involved and that you would like to participate in the whole Internet governance.

It's very important, as you've heard over the last few days, that there's a transition coming on the way. I won't get into that too much here, but as we have a discussion in the GAC on Sunday or I think Saturday, from the developing world, the multi-stakeholder model is a little different to what the developed world understands it to be.

So in the developed world, they understand it to be public sector governance, private sector business, and Civil Society. But Civil Society, many of those countries are well-organized organizations, such as the iSTAR group and other types of organization like [EPC] and so on, who are based in Geneva, but in Africa and the Pacific and the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, those organizations may not exist or be relevant to you. So it's very important that you go home and mobilize and work with your Civil Society organizations who may not in fact be based in Geneva or based in those kinds of areas, and let them know what's happening.



So I just wanted to start with that preamble because it's very important in the next six months at least to get involved in that regard.

Okay, so Janice has thrown up for me – she's logged in, or she's surfed to the GAC website, and the GAC website has evolved over the last few years. It's actually much more open than it was before, and you can go to that website and get the information that you need.

What is the GAC? So the GAC really is a group of governments of primarily policy makers – so not ministers, not officials, that are politicians. They're generally policy makers, technical people, and in some cases, what you would call your foreign affairs or your foreign service type officials who sit collegiately and discuss expertly the [anti-governance] debate that is occurring.

It started as a very small group. I think my understanding is there was about 20-odd people in the first GAC meeting. In the GAC meeting today, this room is chockablock full, so we have about 70-odd members on site, if not more, and 129 or 130 at last count as members of the GAC. So pretty much, very close to what you see in the UN or what you see in the IT world. We are about 50 countries short of that. Many of them are developing countries who are not in the GAC.

We want to encourage any of you who go to the GAC website, look at your GAC representatives – there's a link to it right there – and see if your country is represented. One, know who your representative – very important. Have a meeting with them if you can. As I said before, they're not ministers as a rule. They're generally people who are very open and they're very willing to hear what people have to say, even



here. So when you go back home make sure you speak with them and find out who they are.

And if you don't see your country listed – it's very important – I think it's very important that you, if you're not a government member already, [advocate] within country to have a GAC member come into the meeting, especially now, especially as we transition into the government sphere because occurring when the [inaudible] – I'm sure you've heard all about that, yes, the last few days, and especially as the ITU meeting is happening this year and Planning [inaudible] I think it's October in South Korea.

It's very important that you go back home and let your membership know what you are doing, what's happening in case they don't know, and if there is no membership in the GAC, encourage them to join. As a matter of fact, we also got Grenada to join the GAC at this meeting, and I think Solomon Islands joined. So some smaller countries are coming in, which is very important, to add their voices to the larger countries' discussion.

What do we do in the GAC? Most of the GAC meetings are open, contrary to popular belief. When they're closed, you'll see a C next to it, and I think there are very few closed sessions now. I believe only Communiqué Drafting is closed and maybe one session about the working methods. But most, if not all, of the main meeting are open. Today, the entire day is open I believe, except for maybe one small session.

When you come into the sessions, what you will see is a situation where – well, in this model – it's run by a chair and the vice-chairs. What



happens is that we discuss topics that are pre-agenda items, or pre-scheduled, so there's a list of topics that we have on the agenda that have been running for years in some cases, or in some cases are new. There have been many discussions on the new gTLD programs running over many years. You may have heard about GAC advice, GAC scorecard, GAC registrar's advice, and those kinds of things. But the GAC I think is the only – maybe Matt can correct me – the only advisory committee that has I won't say the power, but the board has to [inaudible].

So what happens is that, when we meet over the few days, at the meeting, we issue a communique. So based on the discussions you have heard over the days, we issue a communique, so it's actually an official document that comes out.

In that communique, there's often GAC advice. GAC advice means that we advise the board to certain things. The GAC advice, if you look at the website and also the GAC principles and the bios of the ICANN model, the board has to treat with the GAC advice. They must review it. They must respond. In some cases, where they accept the advice, certain things will happen.

So some people say we become policy makers in that regard, but we're not policy makers. We're implementers. So GNSO is a policy making body within ICANN primarily, and the GAC implements. However, at the point of time when the [inaudible] happens, the GAC issues advice. The board reviews, and in some cases – in most cases – accepts the advice. In some case, returns to the GAC to ask for clarifications and maybe modifications of the advice, depending on the discussion, and in certain



occasions, they have rejected the advice. The point is that the board must review and treat with the advice.

If the advice is actually rejected, it's not as simple as rejecting the advice and moving on. What happens thereafter is that it needs to go into consultation. So if there's a rejection of the GAC advice, the board of the GAC must sit together and consult to see if we can work it through, and after that, in some cases, move forward.

One particular case I recorded the .xxx example. For those who maybe are aware of .xxx in San Francisco, where there was a quite healthy discussion and rejection of GAC advice, it moves on in spite of GAC advice. So the governments don't get their way. In those situations, the governments provide advice and what happens there after is that the ICANN board makes a determination. But that only matters – that's really only AC that has that.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

I think the At-Large is the same thing.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Same thing with At-Large. So the advisory committees I believe are similar. But I'm not sure if the to and fro is the same kind of environment. As a matter of fact, we had a discussion with the At-Large Advisory Committee last night, and you'd find it very intriguing to know that the At-Large Advisory Committee and the GAC share very similar concerns, believe it or not. The reason for that is primarily because both are in the public interest, so At-Large represents users – in some case,



end user – organizations who are representing the user community to a large extent.

But the GAC governments represent governments who by definition represent citizens, businesses, all the stakeholders. So in spite of the fact you might see them like governments are governments, governments actually represent the views of their citizens, users, businesses, NGOs and so on.

In many instances, the views of the user community and the government community do in fact converge, and in many cases, we do in fact have shared views, and in some cases, we issue joint statements. That's another way that we do things. So the GAC and the ALAC have issued joint statements in the past. That's another way we can work with the community to ensure that the agenda is pursued and moves forward.

Just moving quickly, you can ask questions. I'll leave you enough room for questions. So what's my journey in the GAC is like, and I'm sharing that with you, as I said before, when I first came here I wasn't sure where to go. I worked in government. I came in the ICANN world as a fellow as a government person. So I decided in my first meeting to go to all the meetings. I did the NCUC. I did the RSAC – I think RSAC. I did the SSAC. I did the GAC. I did GNSO directly in the council. And of course, I settled in the GAC because it was closest to what I was doing in my job. I think that's very important for you as well. So when you come here, if you're a government member, you might find that something to be settling into.



But even as a government person, as an individual, you wear different hats, and I have to remember that every day. If I share my Internet Society chapter home, and I wear several hats, even though I work in government. So I also represent in the IGF Internet Society. So it's important to know that you wear different hats and you have different views and you are an individual that understands that.

But if you settle in one constituency or one group or one grouping, I would encourage you to ensure that you are well-informed about a situation. Don't sit in and just take up space. Raise the volume of this part of the world. So when you sit in meetings and you see only one part of the world speaking, I would encourage you to ensure that you also have your voice. It's very important, whatever constituency you are in.

If you end up in the GAC, ensure that you are raising your voice, amplifying the voice of the developing world. It's very important, especially now, that that voice is heard.

When I was coming through in the last few years, I realized that was an important thing to do. I worked with someone called Alice Munya, who's Kenyan, and we attempted to do some developing world work with the new gTLD process. That worked to some extent. What it did do in the process is raise the image or the – not the image, maybe the sensitivities or the knowing that the gTLD will exist in the ICANN world.

So I think in the ICANN world, as fellowship programs show, there is recognition of developing world's contribution and the attempt to bring them in. But it's more than bringing you here, sitting in a room, and the going home after. It's taking it from here and acting in the ICANN



meeting, acting after the ICANN meeting – very important to understand – after the meeting finishes, the work of ICANN does not stop. Staff continues to work, obviously. But also the committees and the SOs work intersessionally.

So don't go back home and say, "Okay, I've come to a meeting. I've gone to Singapore, done some sightseeing, back on the plane. I'll apply for the next fellowship and go to wherever's next." Go back home, make sure you've joined your communities and actively participate, normally through mailing lists, often through webinars, teleconferences, Skype chats, or simply engaging with the community members that you've met here and ask them what's happening.

As I said before, very importantly, engaging with your stakeholders back home. Many of them do not know about ICANN. I keep repeating that. It's very shocking to many of you, when you go home and talk about ICANN, and what's going on. Become more visible. Now I'm sure that with everything that's happening, when many people in government in the Civil Society in your home don't know about ICANN and what this means.

The new gTLD program shows that very highly and there are very few applications from the developing world. And where they were, it was not based on – knowledge was based on the fact that people that are insiders, a lot of them in the ICANN world, who knew about the gTLD process. But the average person wasn't aware of what was happening with ICANN. So it's very important you go home and you are now the evangelist. You are now the people who in whatever country you're from who understands and knows about the ICANN process, who



understands about this NTIA thing, who understands this IANA thing, who understands about what's going to happen next with the roots and all these words that they're using. Go home and ensure that that is communicated to you governments and to your Civil Society and business communities.

For those in government, come back and join if you don't already have a member. If you have a member, make sure you work with your government GAC representative. Work with them. They're going to listen to you. They're going to be very happy to hear from you. In fact, they're very happy to know that there are people in their country who understand because many of them feel very lonely. They're doing this ICANN thing and what is this about? So they'll be very happy to hear that there are people in their country also interested.

So keep that in mind, and that's my contribution. Any questions the first time?

JANICE DOUMA LANGE:

It's a good contribution. Anthony will go first. Tracy, just so you know, too, when you came in, you actually took a technical seat on the GAC that wasn't existing before?

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Yes. It's very tricky. In many, especially in the developing world, the ICT community is based on policy and technical and then other. So there's a telecoms role, there's an ICT role, and so on. So in my country, there was a technical representation, which is a foreign affairs representation. So I took the technical seat and the foreign affairs person does not



attend the GAC meetings. So in [inaudible] I think many countries, that kind of role is available.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: The other thing I wanted to ask: observer status. So if there isn't a seat available or your country is not yet included, is that my understanding you can come in and get improved for an observer status.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. So observers in the GAC are primarily based on organizations, and the organizations – I think I just saw Tim [inaudible] join the room – he's [inaudible] telecoms organization [inaudible] observer member of the GAC. So they are observer members, but you can't be an individual in the GAC. It doesn't work that way. But you can get an individual in a GAC meeting, sitting on the margins or on the side.

The way the GAC works is that the countries can join a consensus. The observers can't. If you are working for an observer member – an observer would be somebody who, largely speaking, has a .int name, a .int suffix. To a large extent, that's what an observer member of a GAC would look like – a .int person. If you're not a member of that currently or government member, then pretty much you can't join the GAC, whether as an observer or member, but you can join the GAC meeting.

As I said before, work through your GAC members. There are people in the GAC today who are not government officials, believe it or not. The government has sent them as their GAC representative. That's the government's prerogative. They can send who they wish. They may not work in government, but they can send them as a GAC representative.



So that's another option if your government doesn't have a member on the GAC currently.

ANTHONY NIIGANII:

Good morning. Thank you. Okay, so my question, I want to give a little context before I ask my question because it might cause some confusion. Within Canada and North America, we have Native Americans, and Native Americans each have their own government structures within the two countries – Canada and the US. So within these governing structures, we elect our own leaderships at the communities of provincial, and then the leaders elect the leader at the national level.

So within that, you talked about to be a member of GAC, you're looking at countries and developing countries, and yet within North America our nations are considered governments, but are viewed as governments within government. So when I talk about first nations in Canada – the Metis in Canada and the Inuit in Canada – they are the three political indigenous bodies in governments within Canada. Within the States, they have the tribal councils. We have something similar, but they use the tribal council system as well.

So the question is, can the indigenous political governments apply for membership within GAC, even though they are within countries that may already have memberships?

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Yes. That's an extraordinarily challenging question. I'm going to direct you to the GAC website and to what is called "About the GAC." So I'm



going to read: “Membership of the GAC is open to all national governments and distinct economies as recognized in international fora.”

So notwithstanding the issue you raised, and as a matter of fact we’ve had other issues similar to that that are ongoing internationally. I don’t want to name the countries, but they are countries who may not have a similar type of recognition. So currently, what I would say is that the GAC is open to members as I just explained: distinct economies and national governments.

There’s no reason why some letter writing or some discussion may happen to discuss that, and the current chair of GAC is Canadian, so I’m sure she is more than most maybe understanding of the situation. But currently, we follow the – I don’t want to say the UN system, but it’s very similar to how the UN operates. So how the UN operates, that’s how the GAC operates to a large extent. I think that tries to answer the question without answering it.

ANTHONY NIIGANII:

Just to respond to that, within the UN model, we are recognized as an international forum to a certain level.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

I think you have a very good case to write to the GAC and make an observation.



BRAM FUDZULANI:

I'm Bram from Malawi, Africa. I have two questions. The first one being, I'm looking at the lists of the countries that are members to the GAC, and I'm happy my country's there. The question is, how do you make sure that the member countries actively contribute whenever there's a meeting or a review of policies before they are being passed?

How do you make sure? I know you could have a consensus to say, if a column of sit-in, like 20 or 100 countries have contributed and are in agreement with the policy, it can be passed or it can move to another level, but then how do you make sure that, if in those small countries their voice still counts. I'm saying this because I've worked with a number of [inaudible] officials – I'm from the Business Constituency – and the charters that we have, especially in Africa, is most of the government members/officials use – maybe they usually check their e-mails after a month and maybe weeks, and I'm seeing that everyone has given their contact details for each individual representative, and for my country, they're just names and – yeah, just names and their roles.

So how do you make sure that these people also – do you reach out to them to say [inaudible] or what are the criterias that you make sure everyone is contributing and active?

The other question is, is it possible that GAC – that a policy can be implemented at the board level, even though the GAC is not in agreement with the policy? Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

I'm going to have to ask you to repeat the same question, but let me deal with the first question first. So, Maui, yes? Maui you're from?



BRAM FUDZULANI: Malawi.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Malawi. Okay. So the way it will work I think is if you don't have a direct contact in the list, but you have an address, I'm sure. I've been contacted by people and there's no address, nothing. There's a name. A name. Well actually, that's something you could probably – feel free to e-mail me and I would rectify that. That shouldn't be happening. They should have at least an address and a phone number and an e-mail address. So even if that's in the GAC list and that's not happening, I'll try and see if I can help with that. But once you get that information, two things will happen for them to participate. If they're here, obviously you can meet with them before they come to the meeting and so on.

BRAM FUDZULANI: That's the other problem. They're not here.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Right, so I'm just dealing with it generally. So if they're here, or they're coming to the meeting, you can find that out and meet with them. As a matter of fact, the GAC offers travel support for developing countries, so many African countries use that opportunity to apply for travel support and come. So there has to be interest by the country. Obviously, the GAC rep must be interested in leaving their job for at least a week coming and possibly participating in a meeting. Also they must be briefed as to what this is about and so on. The GAC does



capacity building once a year and there's an ICANN Academy I think pilot running that would allow GAC members to get information before a meeting if that pilot is actually searched on in more detail later on.

Beyond that, a new GAC member will come in fresh, [inaudible] in the first meeting – I'll be frank. But if you know who the GAC member is, it's something you can do beforehand to prep that member. I'm certain that they would be willing to work with you to understand that.

In the meeting, when they're here, if that's the case, then unfortunately, to participate in the meeting is not easy. You don't simply participate to speak on any topic. You normally have a country position. You normally have a position that you have to – you don't participate in your personal capacity. You represent your country. So you don't simply say, "Well my view is," and so on. You have to have a country view, and you have to understand that your capital or your government has a view. So you can't simply say anything in a GAC meeting unless there's something to be said, if you see what I'm getting at.

So even though you may prep that individual and give them an understanding, it's not easy for them to simply speak on topics unless it's something that they are qualified to speak on from the government. So keep that in mind as you work with your GAC representative in that regard. So it's not as straightforward as other committees, I'm certain. Yeah?



ETUATE COCKER:

Hi. My name is Etuate from Tonga. My question is with regards to representation of GAC from countries. The thing is that I'm looking at this representation as not really complete in a sense that if you are to represent a country that is not present in the GAC and is an observer, you're not really making your voice heard. You're just there to observe what is being discussed without contributing effectively to what is on the GAC.

This really is not a good idea. If you want, I CANN is about change. It's about you bringing what you think that can contribute to the development of the Internet or whatever that's being discussed.

If we are there as an observer, how are we going to make that – some of the countries that are not a member of the GAC may have ccTLDs that are not really host on that specific country, so they do not have the ability to be part of the GAC. Is there a way to change this?

Or maybe a fellow should be varies from a specific country can represent that particular country because that's what the fellowship is about. That that person from that country can represent their country, and they can make their voice heard in the ICANN GAC environment.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

It's a very complex argument you're putting forward there. The challenge you're going to have is that the GAC is governmental advisory committee. Tonga can be represented in any of the other committees or SOs individually or through organizations. Government Advisory Committee is is for governments, so if you want your country



represented in the GAC, you have to have your government be represented.

As I said before, there are cases in the GAC – and I know them well – where there are Civil Society members who the government has allowed formally to represent them in the GAC, and that’s possible. So there’s a way to do it, if Tonga for example, is not a membership of the GAC or they don’t attend meetings. There’s a way if you’re able to work with your government to allow Tonga to be represented in the GAC for an individual who is not a governmental worker or policy maker.

However, it becomes challenging, as I said at the last question, you have to represent policy positions and views and opposed to individual positions and views. So that’s one way of dealing with it.

Certainly for the other way, from a small island perspective of Tonga – maybe not that small – but I’m from an island we have [turned out to be] in the ICANN world in many spheres – in the ALAC, in the ccTLD as well and so on. So there are many ways to get your country’s perspective and small island perspective and developing countries’ perspective infused in the ICANN discussion.

Don’t rely on the GAC as the only way to get it done. That’s what I’d advise you because it’s one way, but it’s a multi-stakeholder model so it’s not the only way. In fact, it’s not the primary way. The GAC view is one view. There’s the ALAC view. There’s the NCUC and GNSO type views. There’s even NPOC, as you heard earlier. So there are many ways to have country views represented through users and through perspectives. So don’t use the GAC I think as the only way to have it



viewed. Don't use that. That will be missing the whole ICANN point I would imagine. Yeah?

ETUATE COCKER:

Sorry. I'm not saying that the GAC is the only way. I know there are other ways of representing my views, but my argument is that the way GAC is doing things, they should use the fellowship as reaching out to the government. I mean, a fellow can be an adviser through the government. They can advise the host that are involved in the ccTLD for their specific country to be effective in way that they can bring their ideas and then discuss it with the fellow, and the fellow can bring it to the ICANN.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Okay.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE:

Right. But just because you're a fellow doesn't give you immediate access to being a member of the GAC, right? But certainly we had a situation in 2008, I want to say. There was someone who had a seat in the GAC. We had a fellow come in, learned about the process, asked the questions, had a concern that the representation perhaps was not as loud and as connected that it needed to be, and came in and eventually took that seat.

So it is an avenue, but it's not a guarantee, and you are a voice as a fellow, an individual, as a member of any constituency to go to your government representative, and that was Tracy was saying. Be that



voice. The fellowship allows you access to people for a week that will [exhilarate] your ability to network and get to the people who need to hear the voice, but it's certainly not the guarantee to be that voice.

Our speaker for 8:30 has not shown up yet, so we're seeing if they're still coming, so we'll continue to take some questions. So I've got one, and then I'm going to come back here in front, and then we'll see where we are from there.

ARUA TARAVATU:

Good morning. My name is Arua Taravatu from Papua New Guinea. I can see that, from the website, my government is also represented, not that it's in the official. But my question really lies not in the area of having a voice/representation, but really, when there is an agenda or if there is a policy that is raised for implementation, does ICANN expect GAC members or governments to implement that policy, and if they are not in agreement, how does ICANN deal with that, or how does the GAC deal with that, or is there even such a case? Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

All right. So this is a very hard question. So the governments of the world don't necessarily implement ICANN policies. It doesn't really – that's not how the model works. That's not how things work. ICANN controls names and numbers of the Internet, and in many cases that intersects at a ccTLD level, right? Governments have a role to play in the public interest, and it's usually related to regulation. It's usually the two regulated sectors and so on.



So I'll give an example. In the new gTLD process, there is a debate about .bank. Banks are regulated sectors I think in all countries. So in that scenario, governments have a role to play in advising ICANN about anybody who wants to register .bank should be a bank. The reason for that is that you don't want to have Janice.bank and Janice creates some sort of fraudulent environment and takes your money. So it should be known banks who are regulated in their countries or globally and so on. In that scenario, governments play a role where there are regulated sectors and so on.

In the commercial world, so in a business environment – let's say .music as an example, it's very unlikely the governments are going to have a say in how .music is run or how a policy is really about music unless it's an IP issue or some sort of piracy thing.

So it's a complex question in the sense that we don't implement ICANN policies. Governments advise on policies that ICANN implements for the name and numbers sector. That's the direction it goes. Where they intersect, ccTLDs or regulated sectors, then there's a discussion. That's why the ICANN meeting is important for governments, to advise the board as to what their view is on issues of the public interest and that kind of thing. You'll see that. Come to ICANN. Come to a GAC meeting and I think you'll understand a little better how that works because the GAC doesn't set policy. It implements ICANN policies and advises implementation, if you see what I'm getting at?

JANICE DOUMA LANGE:

Yeah. Tracy, thank you so much. Since our next speaker is coming, his time is short. I know Bill would like to speak to you. We'll say thank you



very much, Tracy. I'm going to do the same thing. I'll get everybody Tracy's e-mail so you can connect with him via e-mail or find the time this week to meet with him. Thank you.

And that was a lot on the spot. Bill, I'm going to do directly over to you – Bill Drake, the chair of the NCUC – and we'll bring your website up.

BILL DRAKE:

My apologies for being late, but my colleagues were deeply in debate on some policy issues that we had to start thinking on, and I couldn't quite pull myself away. So I will be unusually concise in my presentation because I have to lead NCUC's constituency day meeting from 9:00 to 12:30, just after this.

I've got some brochures about NCUC, which maybe we can hand out to people who might be interested. I also brought some leftover flyers. I don't know how many of you were here on Friday who were able to attend the conference? Not so much. I've got some leftover flyers you might be interested in as well. We organized a very large cross-community working conference with about 130 attendees focusing on the agenda of the upcoming Net Mundial conference, and it was a very successful event and got a lot of people talking across the usual silos that exist in ICANN, so that was quite a useful activity, and it gives you some idea of what we do.

That's not actually our website. That's the GNSO's website for us, which has no information. Why don't you go to www.NCUC.org. That would be a lot better place to show people who we are and what we do.



NCUC is the Non-Commercial Users Constituency. It was formed in the early part of the 21st century – late 20th. So it was the original sort of Civil Society space within the GNSO – the GNSO of course being the body that adopts the – why don't you go the page of participation. Or member. Go to the page on member. About. It's under About. I don't have my reading glasses on. But this gives you some idea of who we are. I think, if it's the text that I think it is – About. Isn't there a link for members. Yeah. There you go.

So NCUC started out as very much a civil liberties type of organization, very concerned with human rights, privacy, freedom of expression – issues like that – and has diversified extraordinarily in the years since then – could you scroll back to the top of the page there? – by virtue of a number of people joining us. The NCUC's membership now has reached 337 members from 81 countries, including 94 non-commercial organizations and 243 individuals. Thank you.

Basically, what NCUC is about, as the flyers that I handed around indicate, is a somewhat expanded from its original mandate vision. We are generally speaking geared towards promoting a global public interest orientation within ICANN with defending the rights of Civil Society, the third non-profit sector in particular, and defending more generally both non-commercial users and uses.

At the end of the day, everybody uses the Internet for non-commercial purposes, as well as commercial purposes, and it's those which we seek to preserve. To the extent that that is true, that means that one does not necessarily have to work in a Civil Society organization in order to be



a member of NCUC. If you are concerned with the preservation of non-commercial spaces and uses, then we may well be suited to you as well.

One of the things that I think makes NCUC distinctive relative to some of the other parts, for example, in the GNSO is we're the only constituency in which individuals can join. So while we have 90-something organizations, we have 200-something individuals who, by virtue of their own values, interests, and whatever else decide that this is the place they find most congenial in terms of their engagement with ICANN.

Of course, there are other parts of the ICANN topography that deal with concerns of users. They're configured in different ways. For example, you've already heard I believe from Marie-Laure, who's the chair of the NPOC (the Non-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency). They are organizational members only, so no individuals. They were historically set up to focus on issues like trademark protection for non-profit organizations and have morphed I think over time to a broader kind of focus on development-type issues and things like that.

We do development issues as well, so we have a little bit of overlap there, but again we have individuals as members. There's also a distinction I suppose I could draw out between NCUC or the ALAC or the At-Large environment. I'm involved in both. I don't view it as a one versus the other kind of proposition. I'm happy to work with anybody in any setting and any set of issues that is congenial. The At-Large community – anybody can join the At-Large community and get on the list server and so on.



One difference I suppose is that in NCUC, an individual can actually vote on things, and at At-Large, to be able to actually affect decision-making, you have to be part of a RALO – you have to be part of an At-Large Structure, which is a recognized organization, which is grouped into a regional RALO, and you get to vote on things like being a member, who's going to be on the board of directors – they're doing that right now – representing At-Large, and you get to vote on policy issues, etc. But it's through an organizational connection.

In NCUC, individuals can get directly engaged. We get people involved at all kinds of levels of involvement with pressing ICANN to promote the kind of values we favor. So we are doing organizing events, as the one you've just seen. We are doing a lot of lobbying and schmoozing and hanging around with people from the leadership of the organization, as well as different parts of the constituency, pressing our concerns.

Our members join working groups that develop policy on a bottom-up basis within the GNSO for new generic top-level domains. We engage in public comment periods and adopt position papers. And in all those kinds of activities, individuals can play a role directly, and you get to vote, and we have elections. I'm elected, and we have an elected executive committee representing people from all – well, from five regions: Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific – sorry, Latin and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia-Pacific, North America and Europe. So we have five regionally-based executive committee members, who you see in that picture right there, as well as me, the Chair. We are heavily involved in a million things.



For many of the people who are involved in particular in this new EC that we just brought in in the last election are newbies to ICANN. One of the things we've been doing I think quite successfully in recent years is broadening the base and doing outreach and drawing in people to the NCUC/ICANN environment who are coming from broader Internet governance, Internet issues kinds of policy spaces, and finding ways in which the issues that we deal with connect with the issues that they are addressing in their home countries, organizations, things like that.

So we've had a substantial growth really quite a lot lately in new members coming in from the broader United Nations-based Internet governance kinds of discussions, and indeed three of the five members of our executive committee are attending their first ICANN meeting, which is kind of fun, and getting really pumped up and into the process.

So we do a lot of stuff, and welcome your participation. There's a another page I wish you could go to, but you don't have it bookmarked. I should have given you the bookmark.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: That's okay.

BILL DRAKE: It's the confluence page that has our agenda for our constituency day. I thought it'd be linked off the main schedule.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: What? The wiki or the main schedule?



BILL DRAKE: Well, it's easier for you to go to the main schedule, and then you go to the session for constituency day, and then that will take you to the wiki page most directly, if you don't mind.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: I don't mind.

BILL DRAKE: And today we will have, as we do every day on Tuesday during the conferences, a constituency day meeting where those who are able to be here and those who could not – we have a lot of extensive remote participation as well sometimes – get together and talk through issues in a more substantive way.

Today we will be having several visitors, including Larry Strickling, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce from the US government, who of course made the big announcement about the IANA contract and the transition; and Fiona Alexander, who is the head of office.

If you scroll down, there will be a page for a link to the agenda. Yeah, there you go. Agenda page, right – so you'll see what we're doing there.

We're going to be basically having a kind of open discussion about the lessons we've learned from the conference we just held, what its implications are for NCUC's involvement in global Internet governance issues more generally, and ways in which we might want to go forward in participation in various kinds of settings – the Net Mundial multi-stakeholder collaboration, of which I'm a member of the steering



committee, the Cross-Community Working Group on Internet Governance, which I'm a member of as well, the Internet Governance Forum and other types of engagements. Then as I say, we will have Larry and Fiona come over and then discuss some other matters as well.

Those meetings are totally open and very often what has happened in the past, after I did the quick hello to people – I see NCUC members in the audience, which is good – very often what has happened in the past after I did my quick pass-by through here is that a number of people have come along to our session and ended up joining NCUC, which is always wonderful.

So you are all entirely welcome to come along with me. What room am I going to? Does it say? Hullet room on the other side. I have to go there in about three minutes. So feel free to pass by at any time. You don't have to stay the whole time if you don't want to, but you're certainly welcome to cycle in at some point and see what we're up to and see what the community is like.

We have a very interesting, diverse community. Two-thirds of our members are not from the United States. We have very heavy international representation. I would say we are probably the most globalized parts – well, certainly one of the most globalized parts of the ICANN community – and we are very interested in engaging colleagues from around the world and their particular interests.

So let me stop there and take a couple of quick questions, and then I'll rock along. And when you introduce yourselves, just say your names so I know who you are.



UNIDENTIFIED MALE: My name is [inaudible] from Nigeria. When they gave the presentation on [NPOC], there is an organization – I mean [inaudible] organization registration, but the NCUC accepts a user-side registration. But when you were sharing the members list, I saw some organization applications. So do you also accept applications from organization?

BILL DRAKE: Yes, of course. We have 90 organizations. They have to be non-profit organizations. They have to meet certain criteria, which are specified in our in our bylaws. The way it works for us because we are a constituency within a stakeholder group, the GNSO Council is organized into two houses for voting purposes: the contracted parties (the registries and the registrars) and the non-contracted parties (the business users and the non-commercial users). So we're one-quarter of the GNSO structure, okay?

And within that one-quarter, you have a stakeholder group (the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group) and within that stakeholder group – it's quite complicated – within that stakeholder group, there are two constituencies, so when you want to join, you join first the stakeholder group and you indicate which constituency you would like to be involved in.

Now if you are an individual, you can't join NPOC, so that makes it an easy choice, and you can join NCUC. And the executive committee meets every couple of months to process applications. We just brought



in a bunch of new members a couple of weeks ago, and the NCUC executive committee will meet tomorrow to process the next batch.

So we've been growing quite steadily, and the process is simply that you come in through the stakeholder group and you indicate which constituency, and then we get you into the system. Okay?

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: I'm going to take one more – just Benjamin.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Good morning. My name is Benjamin, and I'm from Nigeria. I'm also NCUC. Okay. I've been listening and observing the conversations on the mailing list for quite a while, and it's been tough to jump in because there are quite a lot of issues that NCUC is concerned with.

But my question you, Bill, is how do you balance this different issues that some are not amplified over others? Especially from perspective of users, I'm more interested in access to knowledge, development, probably multi-lingual. But what I find in recent for the months I've been listening, there's been a lot of privacy issues, maybe human rights, and some of the major issues around who governs the Internet, which are very amplified and this conversation I would need to understand before I could jump in and contribute.

BILL DRAKE: You can of course jump and contribute any time you want.



BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE: Yeah, I mean to be able to contribute –

BILL DRAKE: Okay, there are two basic points I think there, Benjamin. One is, inevitably and particularly before a conference, where the GNSO Council will be meeting and adopting resolutions and so on, people tend to focus on the issues that are on the table at that time, and so the GNSO issues, if they're about things like replacing WHOIS with a new system for looking up people, etc., and the privacy implications of that, that's going to end up dominating the conversation simply because it's a hot topic that has to be dealt with immediately.

So that is inevitably part of the process, that the flow gets driven by the people who are active in working groups, who are active in the GNSO Council, and who have to come to a fixed position so that they can bargain with their counterparts in business and put forward a clear position.

At the same time, there is also a longer-terms possibility to create spaces for people who want to work on particular issues, perhaps in a lower-intensity way. I've always favored the idea that we ought to be able to have interest groups and that people – we actually had this on our old website. We had a Ning website, and we had a group, for example, on development and we had about 15 people that talked to each other and so on.

Over the past year, because our website had reached some technical limitations that I won't bore you with, some of our colleagues decided to revamp the website and give it a cleaner and more professional look,



but unfortunately in doing that, we lost the Ning ability to form little social networks according to interest groups. So that's something we still have to figure out how to put back.

We recognize that we have a diversity of interests amongst our 300+ players, and at some level, because everybody is volunteer, people will often will raise our hand and say, "I would like there to be X," and the question is, "Well, who's going to make the X happen?"

I think sometimes they expect me to do it, but I can't do everything. I'm working three to four days a week pro bono, unpaid, just trying to hold the NCUC together, and it's not really something that I can do. I tried to get a membership affairs team put together to help facilitate that process. That's something that we need to address, and if you could come to the meeting today and raise this very issue, I know that there are other people – there's a bunch of people who want to work on development issues, and I think we just need to create a space for them. It's not that hard.

Even if we don't have Ning with the social networking thing, we can create a listserv. We can create a facilitator for the group. It can set out a work program. It can decide on what it wants to look at over what period of time and what deliverables it wants to have and how it wants to feed them. We would more than welcome that activity. It's just simply I can't personally do everything, so we need the members who have those concerns to take the lead and catalyze things.

I can take more before I go. There was a gentleman back there.



EPHRAIM KENYANITO: Hello. My name is Ephraim Kenyanito from Kenya. You've answered my question about development. I have another quick question about the NCSG mailing lists. I don't know if it's different, if there's another mailing list for NCUC.

BILL DRAKE: Yes.

EPHRAIM KENYANITO: Because I had applied for NCUC, but then I found myself on the NCSG mailing list.

BILL DRAKE: You should be on both. You're not?

EPHRAIM KENYANITO: No, I'm only on one mailing list.

BILL DRAKE: Okay, you can talk to somebody – if you come today, I can hook you up with the person who manages the listserv. That's just a mistake. We have two mailing lists. One is for the stakeholder group as a whole, which we share with our colleagues for the Non-Profit Operational Constituency. That's geared towards GNSO policy decisions.

So upcoming GNSO meetings, things that the whole stakeholder group has to come together and try to address an approach to, that's when we discuss things on that list. Issues that are more internally to our



constituency and its particular political and other orientation and so on, those would be on our separate list. And it's the same thing for NPOC. They have their own constituency mailing list.

So the two constituencies have mailing lists, and then there's a joint mailing list for them both.

JANICE DOUMA LANGE: Thank you. So that's an understanding the multi-stakeholder a little bit better, too, from a stakeholder group to a constituency level, and we can further go into that.

So we do have to wrap up to get the GAC start their meetings. I want to thank Bill and I want to tell you that Bill treats the fellows amazingly. If you follow him over the NCUC room, you can rest assured you will get introductions to the group. You can rest assured that you will get mentorship and guidance.

Whether or not this ends up to be your home, it is a great home for learning, and I want to commend Bill as I've done before because he really acknowledges the fellows when they come in, makes sure they have an understanding, and don't leave there any part of the day discouraged or confused. Wait for a break. Go to Bill. He'll assign you to someone because that's not a reason to leave because there's enough people in his group who care and want to build a volunteer base.

Also, in the executive committee, is Grace, who was a fellow, or is fellow – once a fellow, always – and we have so many in the NCUC. It's a great place to start.



So if you'd like to follow Bill, you can do that. We also have board meetings all day today with all of the SOs and ACs and stakeholder groups and constituencies in Padang. So if you're not sure where to go, that might be a good place to kind of find a home and listen to different perspectives coming to the board coming from our different community groups.

Thank you very much, everyone, for your attention this morning, to all of our speakers, the ICANN booth, of course, as your meeting place for myself or any alumni. If you need any assistance during the day and 6:00 tonight, it is mandatory for our new fellows minimum and the alumni coming from that to meet at 6:00 in Moor. Okay? So see you later.

Have a good day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

