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BARCELONA – Fellowship Daily Session  
Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 12:00 to 14:00 CEST  
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Okay, dear colleagues. Please leave the room because apparently Fellows are going to use it for the lunch break, and this lunch is for Fellows only.

Welcome to Tuesday's Fellowship Daily Session. Today, we will be covering regional strategies and regional activities. I would like to introduce you first of all a very unique guest for the Fellowship team. Sally is very busy always during all the meetings, but she wanted to meet you in person. Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to ICANN President and CEO is here with us. Please welcome her. We have also our regional Global Stakeholder Engagement team representative Andrea Beccalli who is responsible for Europe and Rodrigo de la Parra who is responsible for Latin America and Caribbean region. Thank you guys for coming. By the way, Rodrigo is a Fellow, so he was a Fellow for the ICANN 29, the first ICANN Fellowship meeting. So now he's in our team. So thank you for coming. And without further ado, Sally, the floor is yours.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you, Siranush. Welcome. This is probably not the first meeting for everybody, is that correct?

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We have 23 newcomers for whom this is the first Fellowship, and we have 14 for whom this is the first ICANN meeting.

SALLY COSTERTON: So for most of you, it's the first ICANN meeting. Is that right? Okay. Well, welcome. I'm going to use this expression because I heard it this week and I love it. As Cherine Chalaby said in the opening ceremony, "the house that Jon built," that's how I'm going to think about ICANN in the future. I think it's a lovely expression. I hope that you are beginning at this stage of the meeting to absorb some of our unique culture.

There are many different aspects of familiarizing yourself with ICANN. The Fellowship program is a wonderful opportunity. It's a privilege to be part of it. It's very competitive, as I'm sure you know. We get extraordinary amounts of applications – 500-600 and more sometimes applications every time. So firstly I should say to you all congratulations for winning the place because it is not easy.

But now the pressure is the other way around. Now it is here for our community to help you to become part of what we do. We are very aware, and I know you have talked about this probably already quite a bit, that familiarizing yourself with the different things that we do is not easy.

You have some practical considerations. There are the logistics of an ICANN meeting. You have lots of different things going on at the same time. Even for seasoned ICANN meeting participants, it takes time. Usually about this stage in the meeting, people have just about got used

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to where everything is, and then it's almost time to go home. So every time we have a meeting, often we're in a different venue. So that's part of it. You should have the apps, the tools that allow you to navigate around the building.

I'm sure Siranush, I know Siranush will strongly encourage you to attend as many of the meetings as you can within the confines of the program. I would really encourage that, and I would add one other suggestion which may seem strange. Depending on what your background is and what you've been doing or you do for your career, I would encourage you to go to a meeting that scares you. Not physically. You should not have anything scaring or intimidating happening at ICANN, and I know that we're very careful of protecting that. But the subject matter makes you go, "Oh, I don't think that's something for me."

And we're all different, so we're all going to think some things – I mean, if I have to go to a meeting with the technical community where I'm listening to people talking about setting up protocols for very technical coordination, that would make me go like that. But in my six years at ICANN, I've learned the power of just showing up just to let it begin to absorb. It's absolutely extraordinary how you absorb things through talking to people, meeting different people, and just exposing yourself to both what people are saying but having the ability to ask questions and to engage. And all my team have had this experience. They've all come in different ways.

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Nobody grows up understanding how ICANN works. They don't teach it in school. So all of us have to find our way, and that would be my biggest sort of at this starting point before you really develop a strong bias – which we all do eventually. We all find our home, and often we stay quite within that space. I would encourage you to have a very wide view at the early stages while even if you are an engineer, then think about looking at the engagement sessions or some of the things like human rights discussions perhaps and the other way around so that you don't, in other words, come to ICANN and just meet people who think the same way that you do and reinforce the views that you have.

That leads me to the second aspect of getting familiar with what we do, and this is ICANN's quite unique culture. How many of you come from a business background? A few. Okay. Are you familiar with this concept of the bottom-up process? You know what it is, but you don't see it in business, do you? Business is not a bottom-up activity. And frankly government, how many people here come from any kind of governmental background? Okay, a few more. So government is not bottom-up either, is it? Unless perhaps potentially perhaps if you live in Switzerland where there are a lot of referendums about all sorts of things.

Now civil society, how many of you come from what ICANN terms civil society? Okay, about the same amount again. So this is a bottom-up activity. We understand this. We even use terms like grassroots. So you will be the most familiar with this idea. But for many people coming into ICANN, this idea that the community has to come together to agree what the policies – in other words the rules – of governing this part of

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the Internet ecosystem are going to be and how are we going to react to new things that come along like data privacy regulation, for example, GDPR and many others that will come after it.

People in ICANN, we must work not just in a bottom-up way, i.e., the decision, the consensus comes from the group. We work as multi-stakeholders. We work together. We have a representative model that ensures that to the very best of our ability the structures are representative of all stakeholders from countries, from different kinds, all aspects of diversity but also from different groups, different constituencies as we call it at ICANN.

As you get used to this idea – I came from the business world. I found this very difficult when I came to ICANN because it was confusing and slow and it never seemed to end. When you're in business, you make a decision, you run a project, it finishes. Okay, we're done. Next one. We do some things like that at ICANN, but the community work, the consensus building process, it's all about the discussion and, if you will, the trading, the facilitation of consensus.

I would encourage those of you who feel a little impatient perhaps when you see this working, take my advice. As they say, lean in. Be patient. Because we got the transition done. This community managed to persuade the world and the American government that it was time to allow a multi-stakeholder community to take governance of this key part of the Internet infrastructure. When you think about it, that is actually quite extraordinary. Quite extraordinary.

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I'm sure those of you who have studied the history will know that from the beginning of ICANN there was an intention to do this. It was never intended to stay within the U.S. government for as long as it did. But it was very difficult. It became more and more difficult as the Internet became more strategic and more important for any government to believe that a community like ours which they did not understand this multi-stakeholder model could be trusted. How would they hold us accountable? How would they stop bad things happening if they didn't like what was going on? This is very counterintuitive for governments.

So I always feel the fact that this community managed to reform itself with the new bylaws and the new accountability measures, the new governance rules for ICANN, and we managed to successfully persuade the world to trust us to run this critical infrastructure, this gives me tremendous confidence that this community can make incredible things happen because it was so hard. For any of you who were not involved in this, and I should think that would be most of you, they were very dark days.

If you look at our history page on our ICANN website which I hope you'll have time to do, go and watch some of the videos of the people that were involved in this and see what they really thought. One thing you'll see is Vint Cerf. Does anybody know who Vint Cerf is? A few nodding heads. You will do soon. Vint is one of our great icons. Now he's head of strategy at Google. He and Larry Strickling who was the NTIA commerce head at the time, he was if you will our custodian, our boss.

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They were both interviewed and they were asked the same question. They were asked, “Did you think it would fail?” They were not together. They had two totally separate interviews. Larry said, “I never thought it would fail. I had a passionate belief that this was the right time, these were the right people, there was the right commitment, there was the right sense of urgency. It would happen.” Vint said, “I thought it would fail every day.”

So even with those two men who know each other very well, who were both very strategic and very important, there were these doubts. There was this point of difference. But nonetheless, this community – this community – made that happen. No one else did. This community did. So bear that in mind if you ever feel frustrated and you wonder why it takes too long to do things.

Let me tell you a little bit about the engagement team so that you know how to work with us because this is really the purpose of this session today. This has been part of ICANN for quite a long time actually, the idea that we would have people based in the regions of the world outside the headquarters in Los Angeles who would be responsible for helping stakeholders that are coming from different countries to participate in ICANN. Essentially, that is their job.

Today, their primary role is to work with national and regional communities of all stakeholders. My team do not specialize in different kinds of stakeholders. Rodrigo here is responsible for looking after all the stakeholders in the Latin America and Caribbean region. It’s his job and his team’s job to make sure that he can connect all the dots

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between the specific issues that regional stakeholders need to resolve with the right part of ICANN to get that done. So these guys are somewhere between a kind of head of a country and a sort of ambassador role. In that sense, they have a duty of care to make absolutely sure to the best of their ability that the stakeholders in our community have issues resolved and can do their work.

Their other primary role is to bring in newcomers, and this has been a big focus. When we started the transition work in 2014, one of the criteria that the NTIA set at ICANN to agree to let go of the oversight of the contract was that we had to demonstrate that the global community had participated properly in this process and that they were ready to support this. So we had to do quite a lot of work all over the world to engage with new participants whose work was affected by what ICANN did but were not yet actually participating in ICANN in order to demonstrate to the U.S. government that, indeed, this was the view of the world's stakeholders and here they all were and here they were participating.

And this has had a good side effect which is there are far more newcomers in ICANN and better regional diversity than we have ever had. There's a long way to go, but it has been a very successful program. But now we are moving not just to bringing in newcomers but also to equipping new participants with the skills and the tools to participate in our work.

Because we discovered that we got really quite good at bringing newcomers into ICANN but not so good at keeping them. And



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sometimes they would come and say, “I want to fix the world’s Internet issues.” And we would say, “We don’t do all of that here. We’re focusing on the domain name system, and we’d like you to participate in this working group on data privacy regulation.” “I’m not really very interested in that.”

So we have become much better now at being much clearer. And the new Fellowship program which you may have heard us talk about which will launch next year which has been much debated and you will no doubt be interested in this has a much stronger focus on preparing our Fellows much more thoroughly beforehand to make sure that everyone that comes into something like this is very clear about what we do and we don’t get any confusion where people are coming into ICANN and they think that they can do things, different things to things that we do. Because the goal is to bring you through as fully fledged participants, well equipped to participate in our policy work and to participate in raising awareness and talking to your local communities and encouraging more people like you to want to come into ICANN.

The engagement team, we have eight around the world, each representing a part of ICANN’s region. We have many, many language skills, of course, available to this. They are the front door, as I said, to the ICANN organization. They also run extensive regional engagement programs.

They have a third role, if you like, which is to act as a convener, a facilitator for ICANN in different regions of the world. And they’re going to tell you a bit about that in a minute. And you can understand some

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of the details of that, both in this region – we have Andrea and Jean-Jacques and Gabi from Europe – but also in the Latin America region to give you a little bit of color and you can see how it varies. Some things are similar; many things are different. They are empowered to ensure that to the best of in their judgment their regional community is getting the priorities that regional community actually wants. We don't just have a cookie cutter, the same thing for everyone all around the world.

With those introductory comments, I hope that's a helpful introduction. I am quite envious of you in many ways because ICANN, I don't think it has ever been more confident than it is now. It's maturing quickly now. It's much, much more well-known than it used to be, which is mostly good. Although one of the problems is that there are people in the world that would like us to solve problems that we can't solve like content issues and spam and this sort of thing. So we're always going to have a little bit of a challenge at protecting our mandate, but I think that the organization has a very strong board, a very stable board, a very stable executive leadership group. I hope that you will really enjoy your time with us, and we'll see you in the years to come. You see Rodrigo here. How long ago was that? It was ten years ago?

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Eleven years.

SALLY COSTERTON: Eleven years? Yeah, he was a child when he first went into the Fellowship program.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Sally, by the way, Rudy Daniels also was a Fellow at ICANN 29 and this is his second Fellowship. So after so many years, he is back.

SALLY COSTERTON: Same group. Oh, that is good to know. That's really good to know.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Same class.

SALLY COSTERTON: Same class. It's really great to see. We do have a lot of people in the community who have developed extraordinary – I was going to say careers. I mean, it's a volunteer community, so I use the word careers in a slightly unconventional way. But it's my hope, and we do more and more work in our team on this, that you will feel that you can build your knowledge and you can build your skills not just for the benefit of ICANN but for your own benefit. There should be a lot of alignment between what you learn to do and the skills you develop here and how you use those in the rest of your life and in your professional life. I hope that you will really think about it like that too. That this is a mutual process. What's good for you is good for ICANN, and hopefully vice versa.

So with those comments, how do you want to do this? Do you want to hand over to – who is going to go next?

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think I will hand it over to Jean-Jacques, then Andrea. I know you have to go for some time, but Gabi and Rodrigo will take care of the rest.

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you very much. Yes, Sally is forcing us to leave in five minutes. So good afternoon now. I'm the vice president in charge of stakeholder engagement in Europe. I've actually met a lot of you already in the last few days, so it's nice to see many faces that I recognize. I hope the meeting is going well for you.

You'll hear in a minute from Rodrigo. We look after Europe, which is about 40 countries in the way that ICANN describes Europe. And there's three of us, all of us here at this table. We've got two main goals in GSE Europe. The first one is fairly basic and Sally has covered it. It's raising awareness. A lot of people out there just don't know about ICANN. I think if you ask many of your friends or your colleagues, they probably would never had heard of it, even people who are involved in Internet matters.

For us, it's very important that this wider circle of people is aware of ICANN for a number of reasons. One is one day they might need to start working in the ICANN environment, depending on what they do. Maybe something comes up in the ICANN environment. It's better if they've heard about it before. And then also simply there are people out there who might not be regular participants in ICANN but who might be dealing with ICANN matters.

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I'll take just one example. We deal very often with questions of intellectual property, protecting trademarks in relation to domain names. There are thousands and thousands of intellectual property lawyers out there who use ICANN mechanisms, things called URS and UDRP. I don't know if they've been covered yet in the slides. They deal with it every day. That's their day job. But many of them I meet have barely heard of ICANN, and more importantly they don't realize that we often have consultations to try and improve those processes.

If we weren't there to raise their awareness, to tell them that consultations were coming – that's actually the case at the moment or in the last few months, there have been a few surveys – they would never realize that they have an opportunity to input, to share their expertise, to share their feedback, and to improve how things work. So it's a very important proactive work that we have in reaching out to a vast selection of society and the economy to make them aware of what ICANN is, what it does, and how they can interact with it to improve their day-to-day.

And then the long-term is one that you're involved with today, which is that as part of the mission of ICANN – and it's written down in what we call our bylaws, the sort of constitution of ICANN if you want – ICANN needs to have diverse and active participation in its work. What we try to do is make sure that the people that take part in ICANN working groups, whether it's online or coming to this meeting, come from all regions of the world, that they come from different backgrounds, that they come from different stakeholder groups. We want to have just as many participants from the technical community as from government

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as from business, etc. And we want them to be representative of the global Internet user population. That's very important.

When ICANN started 20 years ago, it was 145 million users that we had. Most of them in the West – U.S. and Europe. Now it's over 4 billion users and we know the growth, certainly the next billion, is going to come from other parts of the globe. And we need to make sure that as we take decisions that impact the technical basics of the Internet, these decisions are inspired, are informed by people from all over the globe representing the Internet users from around the world.

How do we do that? We do this through a number of activities. Awareness raising and what we call capacity development or training activities, the Fellowship and the NextGen being some of those. So you will see us participating in conferences. For instance, we will very often give a speech at an Internet Governance Forum at national level or maybe organize a panel session to discuss some ICANN meetings, all the way to organizing daylong training sessions for this or that stakeholders group.

So it's a busy thing. In Europe, we do between 70 and 100 activities a year of this nature across all the countries, and we really try to go everywhere in Europe and engage with the communities all around the region.

I think what I will do now perhaps is pass on to Gabriella. She'll tell you a bit more about what she does, and she can give you a bit of color and give you a bit of specifics about the sort of events that we run and those that are coming up.

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I'll just leave that with you to wish you a very good rest of the meeting. You will see me around. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to me, ask me any questions. I hope to see you not just for the rest of this week but also online in a working group very soon and at a future ICANN meeting again. Thank you.

ANDREA BECCALLI:

Unfortunately, we have to leave. Hello, everybody. Good morning. But we'll be back. We are just summoned for a meeting, and I really wanted to see you. So it's a bit rude, but we will be back soon. Soon – [50] minutes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Andrea will be back in 15-20 minutes. Thank you. Thank you, Jean-Jacques for coming. The floor is yours, Gabi and Rodrigo. And I also have the pleasure joining us another colleague from Europe, Adam Peake. I'm sure many of you may know him. He deals with civil society group in ICANN. Thank you for joining us, Adam. Hello. Gabi?

GABRIELLA SCHITTEK:

Hello, everyone. Some of you might have already met me or seen me yesterday when I presented myself at some meeting. It is a bit hard to take over after Jean-Jacques. He has already mentioned a lot that I was going to mention, but let me try to give you more concrete examples.

One very crucial thing that we're doing is, as he mentioned, raising awareness. Because for instance, in my region which is central eastern

Europe – I also have the Nordics, but I’ve been working for the central eastern European region the longest – the knowledge of ICANN was really next to none and almost no one had ever attended an ICANN meeting. This was something that I was employed for to change. That was my main task.

What did I do? First of all, I actually reached out to everyone that I thought could have an interest in ICANN. I went to universities, governments, end users including people like Hackerspace, NGOs, business – anyone that I thought should at least be aware of ICANN. I tried to inform them what we’re doing, and I realized it’s quite hard because the DNS is quite blurry. It’s very wishy-washy and not everyone understood. “Yeah, but what does that have to do with me?”

Luckily, I had some topics that were more understandable that I could raise. For instance, the new gTLD program. That’s a topic that everyone understands and, at least in my region, no one knew about. So that was a quite nice shocking story for them when I told them that we’re having over 1,200 new endings because they understood that but they didn’t know that happened.

And it’s quite important for them to know because if we are to open up the new gTLD application period again, then maybe big companies would be interested in, for instance, securing a brand. Cities might be interested, and so on. They had no clue this was happening. I tried to talk to them in a way in concrete examples, an understandable way, what they actually could – why ICANN actually could be interesting for them.



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Jean-Jacques also mentioned other things that we're doing. For instance, we are delivering trainings. ICANN has an Internet security team, so I reached out to various partners that I could partner up with so that they could help me reach out further into the community to, for instance, deliver DNS security trainings. We had people come from business but also from institutions like military, law enforcement, and so on. These are means that we are trying to use to reach out as far as we can. We're trying to partner up with regional partners to do that.

We have already some active community members. For them, we also offer trainings, such as we have registrars trainings for registrars that want to become ICANN accredited, for instance. We do trainings that tell them how they can be involved, what we're doing, how a policy process looks like in our place, and so on.

Last week, I actually had my colleague Adam visiting Warsaw where I am based, and we had set up meetings with universities. We went and spoke to post-graduate students, for instance, where we explained what ICANN is. Because it's good to inform them about our activities already at an early stage so that they know what's going on. Very often we actually have overlapping competencies. Like Adam is available to civil society, universities, academia. So sometimes I'm just asking my colleagues to help me out.

And then, of course, we also interact a lot with governments. I have been trying to set up local IGFs or IGF-type of events. We are very successful in Poland. They are now running the fourth or fifth local IGF.

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I'm actually targeting Hungary right now, so we hope that Hungary will be the next one to set up a local IGF.

What I wanted to tell you that if you happen to be from any of our regions, please let us know because we always need volunteers – always. The more the better. I think we can think of some cool things to do together.

With that, I think I will let one of my colleagues continue. I don't know who wants to be next.

**SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:** I think Rodrigo. Thank you, Gabi. Rodrigo, I would like to give the floor to you to talk about the main strategical points of the regions and not only the LAC region but the overall GSE. What is the main purpose and how you focus also on the integration and engagement component of this. Thank you.

**RODRIGO DE LA PARRA:** Sure. Certainly. Hello, everybody. Welcome to ICANN for the newcomers. It's a real pleasure to be here again with you.

Let me tell you a little bit about the story about this team that [now is called the] Global Stakeholder Engagement team. Because it has evolved over time quite a lot actually. Nine years ago, they started to have this team that was called regional liaisons. It was just only one person as the main touch or contact point for all of the regional stakeholders. Only one per region.

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It was not exactly the same ICANN official regions. You know, ICANN has five regions: Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, and Asia Pacific. But this small team, it was called global partnerships back then, was made up of only one person but they had more regions. The regions were organized more strategically according to other purposes. For example, we had a region for the Middle East, which we still have one now of course. We have one focused on the Asia Pacific region as well with the islands, Oceania and Australasia.

It was serving other purposes. I would say more strategically, politically wise. Back then, it was more sensitive the debate around ICANN and the ecosystem and what was the place of this organization and some governments wanting to take over these functions. So it was really more about this. But this team has a goal in what is now due mainly to a change of the posture of ICANN. ICANN since day one has been a multi-stakeholder model, an open door organization welcoming all volunteers from around the world to work and contribute to the model. But ICANN never actually went there to the regions and invited people to come.

[We're] looking for the right people to come and join ICANN and the different groups or ACs and SOs, and the posture changed. So ICANN said, "If we really want to make sure that the multi-stakeholder model at ICANN is as representative as we want it to be" – because believe me the most important thing is for the multi-stakeholder to really be representative not only sector wise but also geographically wise. So we need people from all geographies, from all different stakeholder groups.

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So these teams grew and actually became regional vice presidents with teams. Now you can say Jean-Jacques is the vice president for Europe and you can see part of his team now here. Andrea was here and Gabi's here. All of the regional teams have grown, and we are based in different countries of the different regions.

And we also have offices now. We have regional offices. ICANN started only with a main office in Los Angeles, and now we have offices around the world. We have now a new international office strategy and we have five offices. For Europe, we have our base in Brussels. For Africa and the Middle East, we have our base in Istanbul. For Asia Pacific, we have our base in Singapore. We have an office in the U.S. different from L.A. It's in Washington, DC. And Latin America and the Caribbean, we have an office in Montevideo. We have people based there who are closer to the different stakeholders and different stakeholder needs.

Another element that most of the regions have, I believe almost all of them, we have what we call a strategic plan. These plans are a good way of learning about the different engagement tools that we have available but also to contrast between the different regions. The strategies, as you may suspect, are not the same.

Let's take, for instance, the example of this function that Sally was mentioning of trying to bring new stakeholders to ICANN in order to participate. Imagine we take a snapshot now of the current map of participation. If you look at North America and Europe and Asia to some extent, you might be able to see that we have a great deal of business already involved and engaged. A lot of contracted parties. Most of the

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registries and the registrars come from these regions, North America and Europe. And now after the new gTLD program from Asia as well.

But if you look at other regions like Africa or Latin America and the Caribbean, you might be able to see that we have very few contracted parties, none of them or very few active in ACs and SOs. So our focus goes more now with the technical community engagement in these regions because the technical community at ICANN has been there forever, even predated ICANN in both African and Latin American regions and mostly in other regions. So we have partnered with them for many, many project, but we still need to go out and find out who from the business sector or potential contracted parties can come to these regions and take part in this multi-stakeholder model.

It's a matter of being diverse. After the transition, this became evident. One of the recommendations [inaudible] of the IANA stewardship transition, I'm sure you've heard of it already, was about now you are an independent organization and now you are accountable to the global multi-stakeholder community. But that means that you need now more than ever to be as diverse as possible because a multi-stakeholder model is given for granted that you have enough representation of different stakeholder groups and different regions and countries in the world to perform your tasks. So it's critically important to perform outreach and engagement activities in order to have this balance in the ICANN multi-stakeholder community and also to have a balanced agenda.

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ICANN's agenda is supposed to be also representative of all the community, all of the different stakeholder groups. That is why now if you look at the agenda, you might be able to see now some regional spaces. Yesterday we had our Latin American and Caribbean space. We have also an APAC space, a Middle East space. So these are meetings or sessions in ICANN meetings where the topics being discussed are of particular interest of stakeholders from these regions. This didn't happen before at ICANN. This is fairly new after the strategies. We've been doing this for six years now, and we have been evolving. These strategies are normally being developed by the community itself.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we have a council and we have two representatives from each stakeholder group, of course from the region, that draft this and plan this strategy and execute the different projects. So I think this is in general more or less how this has evolved. We have, as I mentioned, now teams in the region in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean. We of course, have our office and we have five people working for the region, a couple of them based in Montevideo, of course, which is our regional hub. But we also have people dedicated to particular engagement.

For example, in Brazil, my colleague Daniel Fink based in São Paulo, he is in charge of our engagement with Brazilian stakeholders but also now helping us horizontally with the development of the DNS industry in the region. We have also another colleague Bolivia and we have, of course, my colleague Albert Daniels based in Saint Lucia and helping us with the engagement in the Caribbean. The Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, they need particular attention. These are territories with very specific

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needs, and given the geography of these scattered islands, they need a lot of focus. It's very interesting [to do], but it's challenging at the same time, so that's why we need this special focus there.

Every regional team might have these particularities. You might guess that in Asia, for example, we have a head of India and we have a head of China as well dealing with these particular countries. I think I will maybe stop here, Siranush, if you think that's okay, and maybe I'll open for any questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you. Yes, let's open the floor for the questions for our team. Any specific, particular...? Yes, Rudy. There is a mic over here, so if you can come closer to the mic, that would be great. I thought there would be mics on the tables, but no we don't.

RUDY DANIEL:

Hi. Thank you very much for a great presentation. I liked it. I just wanted to mention one or two things. The last ICANN meeting I went to was in 2007. I think we've established that. It's very interesting to come to this meeting when all that time has elapsed and to see the massive improvements that have been made in conducting the meeting. Because the first meeting I went to, we walked in the room and then we were bombarded with all these acronyms and you just fall down flat. That's it. So it's really quite....

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: That's why you decided not to come for another ten years, Rudy?

RUDY DANIEL: Well, maybe. It's really quite interesting. Let me just get my [notes]. So that was fascinating to just come back and see it really working very, very well. So I'm really appreciative of the fact that the organization has moved on quite a bit.

I think during that time I have not been away from ICANN. I've been participating in the RIRs, particularly ARIN and also locally in the Caribbean region where we do have our issues and problems.

Let me just move on to – I participated in CCWG 1, and I am continuously amazed at what the community can do. When we started the whole transition thing, I don't think anyone realized the amount of work that was necessary to get that report to the commerce department. I don't think anyone in the community realized that we could actually do it, but the process was we just continued doing the work until all of a sudden the report almost popped out like an algorithm. I thought it was fantastic.

I think there's a lot of work to do also in preparing people, participants for – how can I put it? How do you operate in a multi-stakeholder, bottom-up culture? It's a very different thing. You have to listen a lot, and generally people don't listen that much. But from the point of view of actually doing decision making based on a consensus, it's new to all of us and I think it's going to be new for a little while longer. So I think I've learned a hell of a lot from that process.



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I think that's it. One thing I did want to ask which I didn't ask is that I wondered if – the transition was signed off by the Obama administration, I think, right? I just wondered if it had crept into the Trump administration, would we have got it? It's quite an interesting question. But it was quite interesting that it was signed off at the time that it was signed off, just before the Obama administration left. So that was quite good.

One of the sessions I particularly wanted to be involved in here was human rights. I got caught up by everything else and I didn't actually go to any of the human rights sessions. I had done some work on WS2 on human rights, so I just wanted to consolidate some of that but I will get there anyway.

I think ICANN has a lot of work to do with civil society. In the outside world when governments think about doing public-private partnerships, they never think about civil society. I saw the At-Large coming into being, and at the time I actually thought, "Is it At-Large or is it civil society?" I really couldn't quite – "Where am I?" Since then, I think more about civil society than I think about the At-Large community because I think the At-Large community is civil society, but we tend to call it something else.

The other thing I've noticed over the years is that people should be made very, very aware of ICANN the organization as opposed to ICANN the community and know what the difference is. I don't think it's stressed enough that there is a huge difference between the two. Much of the time, I mean, I've heard my regional ICANN guy talk about ICANN.

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But it's not often the case that he explains that there is ICANN the ICANN org and ICANN the community. So to pull people and to get participation, you really have to let them know that ICANN the community has the power and feeds that into ICANN org.

That's my few points. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Rudy. It's also interesting for us for your institutional memory to see that progress and how we are making forward. Rodrigo, any comments?

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Sure. I can take part of the questions, and then I think we have the appropriate person to reply to the civil society bit. My colleague Adam is here and he is in charge of that engagement.

Thank you, Rudy, for coming back and also a very good example of how you can stay engaged with ICANN even if you are not coming to the meetings in person. The transition happened just recently, and Rudy hasn't been to an ICANN meeting ever since, so that means remote participation works. It's a different commitment, but thank you for that.

Yes, this was under the Obama administration. At some point, the transition was politically questioned at the end of the administration of Obama and the beginning of the new one. Luckily, they are worried with other things, and I don't think that's being issue anymore. There was recently a consultation that the NTIA carries out every now and then

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with certain topics, a public consultation, and they touched on ICANN transition whether it's okay and it's working well, and it went without any trouble. So that's the only thing. I think we are good there.

Still, there is a challenge and, as you suggested, this is a huge responsibility now to really have this function being performed with all of the best standards, best practices to do this. We are a unique organization. We are relying, really the world is relying on all of us. When we say all of us, that includes these three. I will add one more division which is the board. So in some of the presentations, you might be able to see the ICANN organization, the ICANN community, and the ICANN board.

It's our responsibility, all of us, to perform these functions. This is particularly important in a multi-stakeholder model. The difference is ICANN the organization is a group of now 400 people based all around the world in these offices that I've mentioned, mostly of them in L.A., and we are full-time paid or contracted folks. Our functions are to implement the policies that the community decides. The community is you. All of the ACs and SOs that you see here are part of the community. [inaudible] community are volunteers. By developing these policies and working in different ACs and SOs, it's how they come about with some instructions to the ICANN org to implement. That's more or less the simplified version of this. So it's really different.

The ICANN board is the ultimate decision making body of this through the bottom-up process. But finally, the bottom-up process reaches this board of directors. And the board of directors is carefully designed to

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be representative of the different ACs and SOs. So the board has 21 seats, and 16 of them are fully right voting members. That includes more or less two seats or one seat per AC and SO. And then there are also eight seats that come from what we call the Nominating Committee. You might have heard of it.

We are inviting people that even though they are not directly related to any of the ACs and SOs at ICANN, they are interested in the development of the Internet in general. So sometimes they also made this distinction. They could be part of the community. Of course, most of them come from the community, but there are others that come from other places.

But at the end, one of the features of the transition was to empower the community. We have now the concept of the Empowered Community that relies on many of the mechanisms and accountability measures that we have now in place. That means that even we have board decisions, the community itself can contest these. They can contest the whole board in general. They can contest one member. They can also put into question the budget and many other things. So it's more or less the balance.

But we at the ICANN.org, we are here to serve the community, to try to help in whatever we can and, of course, try to implement whatever is that you want us to do. One of the most salient examples of this is the new gTLD program. The new gTLD program, the community decided the rules, the guidelines, the applicant guidebook, etc., and then asked the organization to implement this program with all of the things that

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it entails to the evaluation of the applications and then the contracts and all of that. Remember that the community doesn't have any legal nature in itself and the organization we do have. So we are able to implement and enter into contracts, etc.

But I think now Adam might be able to take on civil society.

ADAM PEAKE:

Good afternoon, everyone. As mentioned, I am one of the people taking care of civil society engagement in ICANN. I know many of you are from what we broadly think of as civil society because I get to review, or used to review, your applications as Fellows and many come under this civil society definition.

And, Rudy, thanks for raising it because what we did about three years ago was have a discussion with the community about what they thought civil society was. Of course, it begins with the very common definition that you'd expect of not-for-profit organizations, NGOs, people who are in the civic space as advocates advocating for particular points of view, and in our case around the Internet. And you find those, of course, in the Non-Commercial Users Constituency and the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency. That would be the traditional representatives of civil society that you would see in your general environments and countries.

But we did, yes, consider how the At-Large community fit in this. And you probably know that the At-Large is made up of – I'm sure you do know by now – ALSes, the At-Large Structures. Many of those are

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representative bodies. Of course, they're all representative bodies of individuals and some of them are computer clubs or whatever it would be. Some of them very much are in that advocacy role thinking about policy or concerns about speech or copyright or whatever it would be. But some of them wish to be defined as technical communities and some are actually business users.

So what we did was left it for the ALSes themselves to self-define. If they wished to identify themselves as civil society, then of course we would engage with them. Actually, we wouldn't not engage with them anyway, but the fact is that then they could make that selection for themselves and those of them that felt that they were more technically oriented would work in a different group and those that had a business interest had the other constituencies to participate in.

So it was really asking the community, as we usually do, what do you think is the definition of civil society? So I think it's very good and very powerful that we have the At-Large community involved. They also have this idea, of course, the ALSes and the whole At-Large structure itself is intended to be multi-stakeholder. So we didn't want to tell them you cannot be one thing or another, so it was a self-selection approach to that.

I also like, Rudy, your comments about how we speak to each other and how we converse and basically engage with each other, not in our formal staff roles but how you engage with others in the hall or in this meeting room. I guess all of you know the name Jon Postel. You must, I hope. One of the people who really created the Internet many years ago

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and very important to the creation of the DNS and so on. Postel has a famous quote associated with him which is about the technical implementation. But it's to be liberal in what you accept and to be conservative in what you send.

That was about the transmission and control protocol, TCP/IP or the TCP part of that. That's an engineering concept, but it's very applicable to how you think about working in a multi-stakeholder, consensus driven environment where you're looking to other people's opinions. So be liberal in what you accept from them, understand them, listen to them, and try not to be too dominant in pushing your opinions back, which is the notion of being conservative in what you send. It's also actually a Buddhist principle, which I'm clearly not, but anyway.

So that kind of notion of interaction, I think, is very helpful and it's quite nice to tie it back to Postel's rather famous quote, which is one of the more famous quotes you see around the Internet. This notion of being liberal in what you accept and conservative in what you send. So thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Adam. Any questions? Yes, please, Jose Alberto?

JOSE ALBERTO RODRIGEZ: Hello. Jose Alberto from Cuba. In this case, my question is related to the new generic top-layer domain process because yesterday I heard that one of the key factors that the Latin America region, Africa, and Asia have the less quantity or proportion in the application process is

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related to the process is too expensive. In this case, my question is related to if ICANN has, I don't know, maybe an alternative offer that the Latin America region and Africa have the opportunity to participate in the new generic top-level domains and reduce the payment for [sampling] in this case.

Because, for example, in Cuba we have a [lot of our institutions and individuals] that would like to apply but the price of the process is too expensive. I don't know if this is possible. I know that ICANN has to attain profit in this case, but I don't know if it's possible to offer an alternative for that region to apply to that, to offer a possibility to apply in this case. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA:

Thank you, Jose Alberto. It's really a pleasure to have you here. Thank you for the question because it helps to point out different interesting messages. In the previous round of the new gTLD program, there was a special program for applicants in developing regions. It was called the JAS program or something like that. They had a reduced fee. Instead of paying \$185,000 they paid \$40,000 more or less.

But that can change, and it's really up to the community to change these rules. And actually now at this moment, one of the PDPs or policy development processes being discussed at this meeting and in the ICANN community is what we call the subsequent round procedures. They are trying to look again into the rules, and one of the topics that has been raised is precisely this one. How can we continue to encourage participants from developing regions?



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This is why it's quite relevant for everybody to go there and contribute. You do not need to belong to any AC or SO to have an impact in these discussions. So it would be critical to have these kinds of proposals because there might be somebody else or a group of folks there that are also of the same mind. We should consider that as you have this position, there might be others in the community that might have another position. This is what the multi-stakeholder discussions are all about. But we encourage you to participate.

Tomorrow we are going to have a session on PDP for the LAC region, and the idea of this session is to provide the LAC – in this case the Latin America and Caribbean participants – with the tools required to participate fully in the different PDPs. Tomorrow we'll be showcasing a couple of them, but we also have some initial training so that you know how the PDP process works in ICANN, how can you participate, what are the different stages that you have so that you can have your voice heard.

The amount there, all of the money that we got from that, it was designed to cover for the costs. That's why the community set up that amount. It was not an ICANN organization thing. It was an ICANN community amount. We have been receiving money from that and actually from the auctions from some of the strings, and this money is not part of ICANN operational budget. This is a separate budget. And we have another PDP where the community is trying to decide what to do with this money. This PDP is also happening now. It's called the auction proceeds PDP or something like that. Of course, all of you are also invited to go there and participate and say we think that maybe with

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this money we should be doing X or Y or Z. There are many ideas already on the table there.

But opportunities to participate are there all the time. So if you go to the session tomorrow, you might be able to see that there are many interactions in the PDPs since they start with some initial paper. There are some interactions between the community, between different stakeholder groups. But then along the way they will go outside and have a call for public comments. They will create working groups, which of course are open to anybody. So, yeah, this is precisely what we need to have a well balanced multi-stakeholder model to have everybody heard.

[ADAM PEAKE]:

Of course, it's ICANN, so we can add another layer of slight, not complication, but detail. There's another PDP ongoing which is the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review, and that's an open comment process on a review document and proposals. What that review team were doing – let me just check if I get the language right before I make some silly mistake – yeah, they were looking at the advantages and disadvantages of the new gTLD program that we had in the past. In that, you'll see a review of how they felt that the application support was treated; why there were, as you rightly say, less than we had wished for applications from the Global South which is the definition that they use.

So there's an open process there. There's a reviewed document proposal recommendations to look at. If you do have comments, then

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that's another process to get your ideas and thoughts in. Fortunately, going forward we have a lot more experience, of course, than we had in the past. So, for example, there's a geo names community where people from cities and regions that put in applications and now have running TLDs, operational TLDs for cities and so on, they're a group to come together. So if you had a notion that you wanted to start a new .something-or-other city or subregion or something, then there's expertise there.

Costs should be lower because we now have a lot of companies that are providing the technical backend services. I don't know if the costs – you could anticipate that because we now have a sort of competitive market in the servicing of TLDs, of new top-level domain names, then the costs should be lower. So there's a lot of experience. There's a lot more infrastructure behind the TLD operations. And you do have a lot of comments to put in your own thoughts on how we can improve this, whether it's the subsequent procedures or the consumer trust or auction proceeds and so on. So a lot of things to look at, and a lot of progress has been made of course since the previous round.

GABRIELLA SCHITTEK:

Can I just say that actually I hear that question pretty often in my region as well, which is central eastern Europe. To them, the program was incredibly expensive too. But then again, you have to consider whether you want to make it really affordable to everyone then we end up with millions of top-level domains. Do we want that? Also, if you look at big, big, big brands, this is not that expensive for them actually. Actually, if

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you look at what they do for marketing, they spend much more money on that. So it is all relative, but I just wanted to say that I hear that question a lot from my region too.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Andrea, welcome back. Do you have anything to add?

ANDREA BECCALLI: I don't know to what to add to as I wasn't here. I have my notes from before leaving, so I know what you covered. I guess you went through the activities that we do in Europe? Okay, please.

MIKHAIL KOMAROV: Hello. My name is Mikhail Komarov from Moscow from Russia. Actually, I have quite, again not a smart question, but anyway a question related to the target audience who are not constituencies but people from different constituencies, community.

My question is whether you perform some research activities for different countries. Where and how, which channels you should use to actually communicate with those different types of communities? Because universal approach of regional IGF or conferences doesn't work, I don't know, for youngsters. It doesn't work for academia or some other [colleagues].

And this is extremely important because I found out that this is an issue, not in our region, but this is an issue probably for the ICANN because we are talking about technical things and so we assume that most of

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technical people would attend related to [inaudible]. But from another point of view, you also agree that some of technical people don't know about ICANN but you would like to involve them. So the question is which channels to use for which types of [inaudible]. Have you performed any research activities or have you thought about it or probably it will be for the next year, five years, or something like that? Thank you very much.

ANDREA BECCALLI: Can I just clarify? What's the question? Did that consider new gTLDs or was that just general?

MIKHAIL KOMAROV: It's about capacity building. It's not about new gTLD. About engagement with different communities.

ANDREA BECCALLI: How to engage?

MIKHAIL KOMAROV: Yes. Which channels, which [inaudible] and so on?

ANDREA BECCALLI: Okay, that is hard. It is hard. I really take almost every opportunity that I have. I'm really reaching because that is what multi-stakeholderism is about, that really everyone in theory if you're interested can participate. So I almost take really every opportunity. I actually, for

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instance, had an invitation once from a pharmaceutical company that wanted to learn about ICANN. I said, yes, fine. I'm coming. But if you're looking at me, for instance, if I want to reach business, I'm trying to contact business societies. I'm trying to contact chambers of commerce, for instance, to reach to their members. As mentioned, I'm trying to reach out to universities, academia which Adam is helping me a lot with.

Depending very much on the topic, I can also say, because some topics are easier than others. I had some experience. I tried talk about universal acceptance which is somewhat related with the new gTLDs and it's a very important topic. Just quickly, that is basically that all software developers need to update their products so that you actually can use your new gTLDs. I was tasked to help with that, and I can tell you I miserably failed because that was so not interesting for anyone. It's a very important topic and I think it's very interesting as well, so I thought it was very, very frustrating that I really tried to reach media. I tried to reach conference organizers. I tried to reach CIOs. No one was interested in that.

So I have to say depending a little bit on the topic, but it can be very frustrating. So this is actually what we are employed for to just keep on continuing, trying to search new methods and ways to reach out. Not always successful, but we're doing our best.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: If I may add because this is exactly, you nailed it. This is the challenge. In GSE we are organized more or less like this. We have the people from

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the regions, such as Gabi described. We are supposed to have a good knowledge of each of the regions in that way. Also, we have folks that are dealing with stakeholder groups horizontally like Adam. Adam looks at civil society, so Adam would know how to speak to civil society. I hope. Of course he does. But we also have one person, Chris Mondini, taking care of the business engagement. We have a government engagement area as well. So we take part of regions but also take part of stakeholder groups.

And one additional element, we have a communications department and our communications department also has regional specialists for communications. So we write newsletters in the different languages of the regions. And more or less we're trying to do also not interpretation in terms of language but interpretation in terms of the culture and the things that these regions might want. It's a challenge, but we are trying to have tailored content for stakeholder groups and for different regions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please. Can you come close to mic?

DANIELLE: Thank you for the floor. Hello, everybody. My name is Danielle. I come from Congo. It's a French country, and I am just trying to speak English. Before asking my question I want just to tell you how I came to learn about ICANN. In April, in this month, Mr. Pierre Dandjinou, you know? He come in Congo to launch youth [inaudible] program which is

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completed NextGen and Fellowship program. And that program is to [aware] young people about Internet governance. So I was choosing a coordinator of that program to bring people together to tell them about Internet governance. So it was looking for others, giving information about that. So many people do not know exactly what ICANN is.

After that, the program was just for one day. After, I thought it should be important to keep on doing that job because it should be important. I guess that it was very important. So I've decided to do an association to work with other people so that we can study like any group of ICANN. They are studying by the group and after they [inaudible]. So now we are about to be an association, a recognized association. So we're working on that.

My question is we don't exactly which strategies or which advice that you can give us in order to follow, to be well [inaudible] about what you have to do. We don't want just to make noise. We want to have a goal in what we're doing exactly.

And the second question is that I applied for Fellowship, but it didn't work. I wasn't selected. So myself I decided to look for money to ask invitation so that I can be here because in July I was nominated as a responsible of Internet governance in the direction of telecommunication ministry. So it should be important to get knowledge about that. So that's why I asked people to help me to be here.

My issue is that when I applied, I don't know where I failed. When we do some homework, it's better to correct and then you know, "Oh, here I



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failed.” So now I don’t know. I even applied for [inaudible]. So I don’t know exactly what [inaudible] in my application. So if you can give us some advice after all why we failed and so on, that can help us to better do the next time or next application. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: First of all, thank you for your question and thank you for your interest in the Fellowship program and actually your interest that you came here for our session. It shows that you are really interested. The point is that it’s not that you are bad or good. The point is that the program itself is very competitive itself. And we have just to give the numbers and probably I then will focus a bit on content.

But we received 518 applications for Kobe where we need only to select 45. This gives us very low opportunity per region, so maximum two, three, up to five per region. And we need to keep the balance of gender, regional sector, etc. So it is very hard, and these guys who are commenting on the application know how difficult it is to give priority to someone because all the regions, all the representations, and all the sectors are really very important. But the program provides limited number of Fellowships, so we can’t engage everyone.

My suggestion would be to get more regional engagement first, to get in touch with your regional Global Stakeholder Engagement team. For you, this will be Africa, and Pierre is here actually. If you have a chance, please meet with Pierre. And there is an African strategy session coming, if that happen not. But please go to the schedule and see when the African strategic session is taking place, and please go and

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participate there. So introduce you to African GSE team and see where you can be helpful on regional level.

So the opportunity to be in ICANN and then go back and bring back to your respective community is not only the opportunity to be here in person. So even without being in person here, you can greatly benefit of your remote participation first. But the second with your engagement on the regional level and bringing your community into the level of better engagement within ICANN ecosystem.

If can add anything on this?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. I want to hear the other questions [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah, so please contact Pierre while you are here.

MILI SEMLANI: Hi. I'm Mili from India, and I'm an ICANN Fellow. I would like to thank all the panelists for the time and [views]. I do agree that the Fellowship is an intense program, but I personally believe that the challenge begins now once you're a Fellow and then what?

So as Sally mentioned, ICANN so far has been quite successful in bringing newcomers to the ecosystem. Now it's time to change and elaborate that approach to engaging them more because that's what I think we all experience a lack with. So I wanted to know if it's possible to shed any light and what are the mechanisms and what are some specific steps to engage the newcomers more than just attracting more

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and more of those and how to keep them going in the journey if any such programs have been designed or any such steps are in mind.

And second part of my question is the GSEs I personally think are a great way and I've engaged a lot with the APAC GSE folks. And one of the reasons why I know a little more about ICANN and the ecosystem and the community is because I've been in constant touch with them at regional events and stuff. So one question I'd like to ask to most of the people from GSE here of how we as individual members and newcomers can participate or collaborate with GSEs at regional level to bring in more people, to understand the ecosystem and the community, and to contribute more in a productive way. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

With your first question about the integration engagement and more participation, we do have actually the online courses in place and from now on the new approach will be that the applicant, the newcomer first of all should take those [inaudible] courses and then apply for the Fellowship program. So we are making very strict requirements that the person should be at least aware what is ICANN's mission and what is ICANN multi-stakeholder model and the role which the particular person can have in that multi-stakeholder model.

So within that, we also are organizing the Fellowship session as you can witness now in a way that the coaches who are assigned to you are helping you to find out the communities where you can better integrate. That's why their main purpose of working with you two months prior to the meeting. And from now on, we'll be having new

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mentors assigned by community itself, so different community members will be serving as mentors. And their priority will be identifying those newcomers who have that capacity for further engagement and to direct them properly to the area of their expertise and interest.

And again, one of the key aspects of integration engagement is not taking place on ICANN level. It takes place on regional level at the beginning. And in India, we have huge community who is part of ICANN but at the same time without being at ICANN they are doing the regional work. Like Amrita who is now leading our booth, she is doing not only monthly newsletters for the region but she also is engaged in Internet School of Governance of India. ISOC India is doing a lot of work on this area. So there are many ways of engagement. And I would encourage you also to meet with Samiran who is here.

MICHAEL CASADEVALL:

You addressed part of this on the last question, but I want to flesh it out a little bit more. My concern with the Fellowship, or I should say question is, why isn't there a larger aspect on the remote aspects? The fact of the matter is most ICANN work is handled remotely and by e-mail. And while I had some personal issues that made it difficult for me to get involved with ICANN prior to working with Alfredo, I came here being an active member of the SubPro. I feel like it would be much to the benefit of the Fellowship program if people were actively part of working groups or at least strongly interested before they came to an

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ICANN meeting so that they're not, for lack of a better word, floundering.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Excellent point, Michael, and this is one of the criteria it will be from now on for the program. So people should be at least, particularly those who are coming for the second time. I mean, the newcomer may have not the idea what working groups exist, but that's the purpose of them taking in advance an ICANN Learn course to find out more. But for the second and third time Fellows to be selected, this will be mandatory criteria to be part of any working group and they should prove the participation in that working group.

MICHAEL CASADEVALL: Then as a direct follow up to that previous question, what helped me was the coaching and the sessions I had with Alfredo. Maybe there needs to be a middle ground that that sort of coaching is available without actually having the attendance at the meeting mandatory. Because the coaching is what managed to get me in the door, but I don't think I would have gone that far without. So that's just food for thought.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: The coaching is to help the newcomers who are coming through the Fellowship program to learn about ICANN before coming to the meeting and feeling comfortable at the ICANN meeting. Because if it is your first ICANN meeting, you are lost. So you feel that understanding of being lost. So the coaching is here to help you with that. And mentors who will

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be with the new process in place, they will have even more, a bigger role in helping you out already within the communities. Not only within what is Fellowship and what it is to be a Fellow but also what is ICANN multi-stakeholder community at the beginning. But the coaching process is part of the Fellowship program. I cannot make sure that anyone can have a mentor or coach outside of the program because there are tons of people who would like to have mentor, of course, to learn about ICANN, but we do not have that capacity to support everyone.

MICHAEL CASADEVALL: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

SHAILA SHARMIN: Hi. I'm sure we are running out of time, but I want to make one suggestion actually. I'm an ICANN 63 Fellow and I'm attending for the first time. The thing is while applying for the Fellowship, I felt difficulties to explain my qualification answer in the application form because there was very limitation of word count. So the thing is there is a lot of applications. Siranush already said that 500 applications you are receiving for the judgment. So at least you should do it, like I felt like it, you can ask for the applicants CV to attach with the application [inaudible]. Because other than this, like I wanted to write down a lot of stuff, like I've been working with. I've been working as a network

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engineer for eight years and I'm engaged with the Internet community and technical community mostly. And I'm also a community trainer of [APNIC] earlier and also I've been giving training to SANOG and other NOGs. So I wanted to write some other stuff, but I couldn't write it because of the space limit. If they asked me that....

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Shaila, we are really out of time, please.

SHAILA SHARMIN: Yeah. Why it is important for you to participate the particular ICANN program. Like I want to explain it, but I couldn't explain it [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: There are 500 words limit.

SHAILA SHARMIN: Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I think in 500 words you can be clear why you want to participate at that particular meeting. We don't want and we don't need essays. We need clear specifications why you want to participate and how this meeting can help you in your further engagement.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And you were successful.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And you were successful.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You didn't need more space. No worries.

SHAILA SHARMIN: But still, it's quite tough actually.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah, but you could manage with 500 words to make sure that selection committee selects you. So you are here.

SHAILA SHARMIN: It's word or letter, I guess.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Huh? It's 500.

SHAILA SHARMIN: Okay, fine. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah, thank you. I need to stop this session because there is another session right now here. But please, two guys, if you have any specific questions to our GSE team, they will be here around. Please go to them, contact them, and speak about them because this session was about



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regional engagement, not about the Fellowship program. If you have any questions related to the Fellowship program, please come and see me. Thank you very much.

With that, I would like to thank our regional team for your time to be here for very interesting information. And thank you for participation. See you around.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**