
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – ICANN Board Welcomes Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Participants
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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, welcome everyone. Today we have a very special session with ICANN Board members and ICANN CEO, President and CEO, and I encourage you to use this opportunity to interact and ask important questions and we are here to start our interaction with the Board members, and I'm sure many of them are here with us as well, but some of them will be coming and going; but before we start, let me give the floor to my colleague Fernanda to read the script. Fernanda?

FERNANDA IUNES

Thank you, Siranush. Hello and welcome to our session with the ICANN Board and Fellowship and NextGen participants. My name is Fernanda Iunes. I'm participation manager for this session. Please note that the session is being recorded and governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

Please observe the following guidelines to participate in the session. I've also posted them in the chat for your reference. During the session, questions will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. Interpretation for this session will include English, Hindi and Spanish.

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Only questions posted in the Q&A pod will be read aloud during the session as time permits and when directed by the chair of the session. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English, and speak clearly and at a moderate pace. And with that, I'll hand it back over to Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Fernanda, and it's my great pleasure to introduce you ICANN Board Chair, Tripti Sinha, with her welcoming speech.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. A very, very warm welcome to all of you. This is quite a unique program inside of ICANN and it's geared specifically towards the next generation and the fellows who come in here to help build capacity inside of ICANN and also to continue to ensure that we have representation from across the world.

So as you know, the internet is an infrastructure and a service that touches just about every corner of the world and there are many efforts underway in the world to bring other people into the fold and therefore, we want to ensure that we have voices from everywhere at the table and we want the next generation, because

you are the keepers of this infrastructure and you're the stewards, the ongoing stewards today.

We've got a leadership team in place but we need to turn that over to the next generation and you represent that next generation and you're frankly more in touch with modern technologies than those who have come before you, so your voices are very, very important.

So, a very warm welcome to you. We take this program very seriously. My colleagues are here, several of my colleagues are here with me. They will come and go as Siranush said. They have other meetings as well, but we're here to answer your questions and I hope you've enjoyed this program. I know it's a very rich program. Many of you did presentations recently.

Unfortunately, I know I couldn't attend because I had another meeting, but I've heard amazing reviews about it. So with my opening comments to you, first I want to say, immerse yourself. I hope you've had a good time thus far.

Today's Wednesday, right? Yeah, Wednesday. So, continue to embrace this experience and I know you've all got different backgrounds. Some have technical backgrounds, some have non-technical backgrounds, some of you understand policy very well, some might be looking at human rights, some might be doing you know non-scientific studies. It doesn't matter what your background is.

You will find a home here because we need all these voices at the table. So, with that I'd like to turn it back to Siranush again. A very warm welcome and embrace the experience.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much, Tripti, and welcome to this session. And now I would like to introduce you ICANN President and CEO, Kurtis Lindquist. Kurtis?

KURTIS LINDQUIST

Thank you. I can just echo what Tripti has said. I think you know one of the fantastic, I want to start by apologizing. I need to leave a few minutes before this session is over but I'll stay as long as I can.

And I do think that this is a really important session and having all of you here, hearing your voices. Many of you have come up and talked to me in the hallways which I think is great, you know, please do. I don't bite, I'm not dangerous. But it's also very interesting to hear about your experiences, your thoughts, your ideas.

We had this in the lunch discussions where we learned about your backgrounds, your work, what you're doing and what your thoughts are. I think that's really important for us because many of us have been doing this for a very long time with a lot of experience. We have in one lens that we came from. But having new views, new blood come in is really important. We have some people on the panel up here who will show that you can also take that with you and progress in that program.

Leon will talk about in a second, I guess. And I think that's also great to see how people become leaders in ICANN from this program who starts here. And I really hope that you all set that as your goal to continue to be engaged, to continue to work through the ICANN processes and on the topics that matter to you in the ICANN framework and continue to challenge yourself and rise to that. That's really positive.

And we look forward to these discussions. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Kurtis. First of all, I also would like to welcome all Board members who are here, who joined us. Thank you. I know you have very tough schedule, but thank you for allocating time for this session. But I have a special invitation extended to one of the Board members who is very close to me and to the Fellowship Program. The person who came to ICANN as a Fellow and now serves in the Board. Leon, please, the floor is yours.

LEON SANCHEZ

Thank you very much, Siranush. It's always a pleasure to be back with the Fellows. And some say that Leon was a fellow. And remember, you're always a fellow. So, there's no such thing as a former fellow. And it's great to see new faces. It's also great to see known faces. I've seen some of you in the past in other programs, maybe NextGen, maybe Fellows. And I mean, all time I try to

encourage you guys to jump into sessions that would otherwise seem maybe not natural to the things you do.

What I mean by this is, for example, I am a lawyer, right? I know nobody's perfect, so I'm a lawyer. And when I began my journey in ICANN, I thought that it was natural for me to jump into the IPC sessions because I'm an intellectual property lawyer. And I soon found out that the topics that they were discussing were really not interesting to me, even though I was, or I am, an intellectual property attorney.

The topics that they were discussing back then, they were of no interest to me. So, I started jumping in different sessions with different SOs and ACs. And the topics that other parts of the community were touching upon back then seemed far more appealing to me.

So, what I would encourage you is to jump into sessions that you would think that would not be naturally interesting to you. And you might be surprised, and you might get, you might get caught by a certain topic and begin to engage in more meaningful ways.

Another thing that I always encourage you is to ask questions. People are afraid to ask questions because they think that there might be a dumb question. What I always tell you is there are no dumb questions. There are dumb people that don't ask questions, right? So, please ask the questions that you may have and raise them respectfully.

And I was just talking to one of your colleagues here, Suncica? Suncica? And she was telling me how welcoming they have been to her. And you have the advantage of being a Fellow. People within the ICANN environment, within the ICANN ecosystem, is by nature very friendly. But it's most friendly when they know that you're a Fellow, when they know that you are a newcomer. Because we are just looking so much forward to having new people come in and engage and contribute to ICANN's mission that, of course, we give you guys some sort of VIP treatment, right? We want you to stay. We want you to engage. We want you to contribute to ICANN's mission.

And I've had a long journey so far. I started being involved with ICANN in 2012 in the Prague meeting. That was my first fellowship. Then I continued my journey, fulfilling the fellowship journey with three times of fellowships. And then I became engaged with the ALAC, the At-Large community and the ALAC. I applied for one position in the NomCom, representing Latin America and the Caribbean, which is the region to which I belong. And as soon as I was appointed by the NomCom, I started contributing to this group. Then, you know, my work and, of course, the guidance from many colleagues in the community took me to start exercising different roles in leadership.

And it finally took me to co-lead the effort that we know as the transition, the CCWG on accountability 10 years ago. And that in a way just, you know, catapulted me into growing leadership. And I

got appointed back then by the At-Large community to sit on the Board in seat 15.

And this year I am ending my term as a Board member because I'm term limited. I've already served three terms in the Board. That's almost nine years now. It will be nine years by the end of the AGM this year. But what I want to tell you is that so long as you work hard, you commit yourself, you contribute to ICANN's mission, and you really engage with the people within the community, you will be able to find first your place within the community, then exercise leadership roles.

And, of course, if that is what you want, you can, of course, go up in the ladder for leadership positions. And one thing that is also very important is that when you think about leadership positions in this community, you need to think about leadership as an opportunity to serve, right? It's an opportunity, it's a privilege to serve our community, to exercise these leadership roles.

It's not to serve ourselves. That's definitely not the way you should look at it. It's not that you want to become a leader to get access to whatever privileges you think you will get. I can tell you that maybe you can have two cups of coffee instead of one, but that's pretty much it. But it's a lot of work. And as long as you understand that, as long as you really devote your leadership to serving the community, the community will reward you with their trust and will entrust you with leadership positions.

So, I will need to leave because we have another meeting, and my chair for that meeting is here already looking at me. But I will come back. I will come back. So, please save your questions for when I come back, and I will be glad to answer all your questions if possible. Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Leon, and we're looking forward to seeing you back. As Leon said, he will be stepping out, so we need more Fellows and NextGeners to be on the Board, so think about it. And with that, I would like now to open the floor for questions, and I know there will be a lot of interesting questions. Taruka, let's go ahead with this.

TARUNA KAUR BAMRAH

Taruna Kaur Bamrah, for the record. First of all, I would like to say that I'm truly honored and privileged to be a voice from Northern India, and I've had the wonderful, welcoming experience, and it's not been overwhelming for me because I've been affiliated with ICANN since 2023. I've had a chance. I started my introduction through UA, APAC, NET Missions Academy, and I started my ICANN Learn courses, so yeah, that was it.

But I wanted to ask a question about how should ICANN prioritize DNS resilience against AI-driven threats like deepfakes in emerging markets, because we've seen the reports of the gTLD and the reports that have been published. I want to make sure that the AI

deepfakes and stuff should be inculcated and should lessen the marginalized communities in all of us, so that was my question. Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA

So, could you just repeat it? You said, how do we prioritize? Bring the mic closer to you, if you don't mind.

TARUNA KAUR BAMRAH

How should ICANN prioritize DNS resilience against AI-driven threats like deepfakes in emerging trends, markets? Yes, thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA

So, as you know, AI is, well, it's here. It's not even an emerging field anymore. It's very much in our ecosystem. I think they have to be prioritized equally. We cannot put one above the other, and a lot of DNS resilience depends on how we protect ourselves from all these potential attacks from the new threat landscape.

As you know, Agentic AI has introduced a very new variety of threats, and once they're launched, they could potentially destabilize much of the internet infrastructure ecosystem, depending on what their targets are.

So, to answer your question, we have to prioritize both. They have to go hand in hand, which is, how do we reliably stabilize DNS services in light of AI threats?

I kind of feel bad with AI. Lately, we've been talking about AI more in a negative context, but AI also comes with a lot of good, but sadly, right now, it's being weaponized to do bad things, but not just AI. There are all kinds of threats, but that's how we stabilize our DNS services and plan for risk.

JAMES GALVIN

Hello, I'm James Galvin. I'm the SSAC liaison to the ICANN Board. To add to what Tripti said, I think what I would offer to you is to make a distinction between DNS resilience and AI threats. Those are two different paths of things to think about, because DNS is something that has been around for a long time, 20 years, operations, 20 years.

It certainly has stood the test of time and arguably has a fairly robust and quite good status as far as its resilience and ability to proceed. It too is subject to the new threat of AI. AI is really the new disruptive technology, one of several, but it's a fairly significant one, as Tripti was saying. So, what it's going to do is really still yet to be determined, and its impact on the DNS is still yet to be determined.

But hopefully, we get some measure of comfort out of the success that the DNS has given us over the years. So, think about where you really would like to focus, the new and interesting stuff that would require more investigation or a review of how that applies to the DNS. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Asteway, please go ahead.

ASTEWAY NEGASH

Thank you. This is Asteway Negash. I'm a third-time Fellow. First of all, thank you to ICANN President and CEO and the Board Chair and the rest of the Board members to be here among us and hear our thoughts, give us answers to our questions. Fellows, once a Fellow, always a Fellow. Yeah.

So my question goes, of course, one of the things that we definitely look into is to go into the community as part of being a member of the SOs and AC. But my question would be, what would be your thoughts that you would give us besides going into one of the SOs and ACs? How do you think we can develop our career within the ICANN community? Thanks.

KURTIS LINDQUIST

So, I can start. I mean, SO/ACs are very good to work inside of topics. Like I said, they care about more topics, but they are specialized in, let's use that word, or responsible for. And I think if you know that and if you have that, what I think you're alluding to is that if you don't know what that topic is, then the good thing about they're open, you can you can say SOAC shop, but you can actually get a flavor for what to work with.

Just like Leon just gave an example that he joined the IPC, but felt that was an actually interesting part of what he wanted to work on.

And I can get that broader experience to find the topics you care about and find what's interesting. I mean, to actually have a role or a seat at a table, although I don't quite like that saying, but then you had to be inside the SOACs because they are the policymaking bodies, they are the ones who make the decisions.

But I think to have that influence and build the networking, I think it's also worth recognizing that these ICANN meetings, I mean, most of the work actually happens in the hallways and people do meet across the SOAC boundaries and they have this engagement, they have these discussions.

And I think that's one thing to do. The other thing to do is, of course, ICANN is one microcosm of the wider Internet ecosystem. You have your local network operators' group, you have your local IGFs, you have local ISOC chapters. All of these are the same ecosystem as ICANN and there's a lot of work that you can do, a lot of engagement and outreach you can do to get to know people in that.

Depending on your background, if it's computer science or law or whatever it is, there is one of these groups will fit you and will cover some of those topics. And I think that's a very good way to broaden that horizon and really learn and get ideas of what you think would interest you.

And then when you come back to the ICANN meetings, come back to ICANN, you might have a better idea of which SOAC that you are interested in and what the topic is that you want to work on, be it

policy, be it intellectual property or whatever those topics are. You can build a network on that subject. I hope that answers your question. Maybe someone else has other experiences to share.

TRIPTI SINHA

I just wanted to add to what Kurtis was saying. So, I would start by looking at what your interests are and pursue that. I may or may not fall into your career track depending on what you select. When I look at my own career, I have a computer science background and then got into internet technologies and it was happenstance, but I found where I belong.

So, ICANN is just one of many bodies in the world that do all kinds of things. So, follow your passion first, what really you want to do, and then you'll find your landing spot.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Go ahead, Godsway.

GODSWAY KUBI

Hello, everyone. I'm Godsway Kubi from Ghana, first time Fellow. So, as a first time, I'm just curious and thank you so much for the opportunity by the way. So, I'm just curious to know what you can do or what can ICANN do more to strengthen technical and policy capacity building in development regions so that participation is not only present, but also influential. Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQUIST

So, I mean, we do, if I'll take Universal Acceptance, for example, we have partnered with certain universities in Africa to build curriculums or others, you say build Universal Acceptance into curriculum. So, we do that work already. The teams we have do a lot of outreach and capacity building. So, they tend to be maybe a little bit more targeted. So, we do a lot of work for the ccTLDs. We do a lot of work on best practices and technical capacity building, but we also try to world fund or participate in a lot of, I said, these NOGs or network conferences.

I've got the name of the one in Africa now. Anyway, the one in Africa for operators, it's called the African network. It's not called that. It's not called that. No, that's Asia. I'm not sure. I can't remember the name. But we do attend in a lot of this work and we do training courses associated with that. Then we partner with others like the network startup resource centers and the similar who do a lot of this capacity building and outreach around the technical parts that ICANN does.

We do a lot less of it on the policy side. I'll admit that we don't do so much in that maybe we could do. That's also a little bit comes back to how do you find interested parties who are interested in that. But we do do on the technical side, we do do a lot of capacity building as we do. We also work with, we fund some of the national regional IGFs, for example, there's more to policy side. We do do some of the rest, maybe less capacity building.

GODSWAY KUBI

Thank you.

JAMES GALVIN

If I may, just to add to that, to make it actionable to you to do that. I mean, there is a lot of information that's out there on the ICANN website. They have all of these resources and materials that are available to you. As Tripti had said earlier, we're engaged with a lot of different groups. Maybe ICANN is not necessarily the place where you want to do things. Maybe there are other opportunities local or you should create that opportunity.

And you can get materials and collateral from ICANN and the ICANN website to help you along. And those materials will also have points of contact. You can reach out to see what else might be available to you. But you can take advantage of that and then build it locally for yourself. Maybe here is not the requirement, but enlarging and growing your own local regional area would be. So, something to think about.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Rohan, please.

ROHAN SACHDEVA

Thank you, Siranush. My name is Rohan Sachdeva and I'm an ex-gen Fellow. I also work at .au domain administration. My question is, as we go back to our homes after this fellowship, and also, I want to mention I'm a university student, so I've got six months of

university left. After that, we may all get some full-time jobs and we may get busy with our schedule and different responsibilities.

So my question is, how do we put forward to our employers? What's the value in us participating for ICANN and how can we keep continuing our engagement even with other commitments? Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA

I'll take a stab at answering that, but I'm sure you'll get different answers from each of us. But I'm assuming, where do you go to school? Which university do you go to? And your field is cybersecurity. So, you're in this field more or less, yes. So, what I would do is once you get employed, you would have to look at the value that you gain here and take it back to your employer.

So, you would have to make a very convincing argument with your employer that what you're learning here keeps you in touch with current ongoings and it's a meeting of the minds and you can take back information to your employer. It's not going to be easy. Trust me, I've been there myself, but eventually you will find your way of convincing your employer.

And also, sometimes you may decide a meeting is not important for you to go to either. So, you'll find your sweet spot. But basically, you have to derive value from this meeting and connect it to your current employer. That's the only way it's going to be a win-win.

JAMES GALVIN

So, the only thing that I would add to that is think of ICANN meetings as a networking opportunity. You have an opportunity here to walk around, walk into rooms, see who's here, meet people. As Leon said in the beginning, ask questions, make yourself visible, make yourself known, ask a question that hopefully will make someone come to talk to you. You for yourself, the action is really on you, as Tripti was saying, is to find what you think you can bring here and then you have to bring that back to your employer.

If they're not already engaged in ICANN, there has to be a reason why you think you should be here and that should stand out. And then if you have contacts, you're also looking for people who might be in the same industry as you so that you can reach back and forth with them and help to get some advice. So, making those contacts is a valuable thing to acquire while you're here at an ICANN meeting as much as you can. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Rohan, just sharing my experience, I was not successful with my employer at the beginning and I was taking my own vacations to come to ICANN meeting. At the end, eventually I quit the job. Abotaleb, please go ahead.

JAMES GALVIN

And we thank you every day for that.

ABDULRAHMAN ABOTALEB

Thank you so much. My name is Abdulrahman Abotaleb from Yemen and this is my second time as a Fellow. My question is, how does ICANN Board measure or evaluate the long-term impact of the Fellowship Program on both the policy development and community leadership? And what is the Board's vision for this program in the next years? Thank you so much.

TRIPTI SINHA

All right. You know, I'm going to turn this over to Kurtis as well since he is the CEO, but this has been in the making for 20 years. This is the 20th year, right? Next year will be the 20th and Siranush is actually crafting a survey. So, they're going to go back and look at the alumni, pull all the alumni to capture data that tells us where the alumni, where they are, how they've succeeded, what they've gained and benefited and so forth.

And from that derive success metrics and see how the program can be further honed to ensure that it is successful for both those who participate and for ICANN itself. And now I'm going to turn it over to CEO because he's directly responsible for implementing this.

KURTIS LINDQUIST

Sorry. I mean, there are some internal numerical targets of number of attendees and how many we screen and how many people, you know, covering different regions, how many people come back to the, not to the program, come back to ICANN and we track, as you

just said, how you all evolve inside ICANN, you know, in the community.

I don't necessarily think that that is really half the point though, because I think one of the things that misses is that by you all coming here, by you all engaging and going back to your home constituencies or communities and talking about your experience, that is a phenomenal tool for us to raise awareness and insights into what ICANN is and what we do. And that's very hard to measure. It's very hard to set a target.

You know, we encourage all of you to talk about ICANN every day. And as you heard, you know, I'm not going to say we encourage you to quit your jobs and join ICANN, but, you know, there is a lot of outreaches that comes from this program. There's a lot of awareness raising that is very hard for us to measure, but it's very much part of why this program is successful. I think that is a very large part of the program.

And it also, likewise, the fact that we bring all of you here with very diverse perspectives and that you challenge all of us on the executive Q&A, you know, every meeting, that is a value in itself. And it's also very hard to measure because you bring a different lens into this meeting with you by just coming here.

Again, very hard to put a numerical number on, but we do have success metrics and we do track that. But I actually think that just gives half the story about the success of this program is the fact that you all come here and you all go back to your home countries and

your home universities, your home groups. That's really where the value is. And then the fact that some of you, and I want to come back to this, I hope you come back.

I hope that when you end being a Fellow, you end being a NextGen, you stay with ICANN, you stay with us. And just like Leon, you find a topic you're interested in, might not be the field that you work on, but then raise to it and contribute that way. And you might not even seek a leadership position, but those of you who do, you know, you will raise to that and work to that community. That's really the value of the program.

So, it's very hard. I mean, there's two parts. There's the measurable part, and then there's all these other parts that is really valuable to us. Sorry.

SAJID RAHMAN

Let me add a few more points. So, you know, one of the things we at ICANN, as you know, one of our missions is to create a stable interoperable internet, right? And we need a pipeline of talents who can continue to advocate that across the world, across geographies, across societies.

So, one of the big advantages of this program is we are actually creating ambassadors. We're going out there and whenever you're interacting with people, maybe in a social circle, maybe in your academicians, maybe in your office somewhere, you will be talking about it, right? What ICANN does, how important it is for the global

internet, why it is important for every individual who hasn't even heard of ICANN.

So, I think that value, that sort of informal ambassadorship of our vision is highly important for us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Just to give you an example, currently happening, one of our second time Fellow Jorge from Mexico, before coming here, made a contact with university in Mumbai. And today in the morning, he did the presentation for students here. This is one of the biggest impacts that we can measure, but maybe not quantitative, but qualitative. So, these are different types of measurement as has been mentioned. Suncica, please go ahead.

SUNCICA ROSIC

Suncica Rosic for the record. I was at a very valuable session yesterday together with SSAC and the Board. And something that really struck me positively was the fact that words like Open Source and dependencies were threaded in several times throughout the discussion.

And this sparked my interest in reading more about free and Open Source software and which effect this has on resilience. And please let me know if this is outside the scope of this session. But what I would be interested in, so a big part of DNS runs on Open Source software based on what I understand.

And this is a great opportunity because a lot of people can contribute per bono, but it's also a great risk, especially when it's dependent on libraries like open SSL. So, I wanted to ask, what's the trade-off between opportunity and exposure when it comes to the software and how do you handle that? Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQUIST

Luckily, we had a Board liaison from ASAC here to answer that question.

JAMES GALVIN

Yeah, I mean, I think the short answer is just that that's a case-by-case kind of analysis, right? I mean, it's an operational question and every operation that has to do that kind of thing, run the software and look at those dependencies and make their own decision about what that risk looks like and what those dependencies look like.

It is true that the general resilience question, and I think from the resilience panel that came out on Tuesday, the whole, Monday morning rather, was about raising awareness about changing how we think about security and risk. Resilience is about the trust in all of the components and the parts. And sometimes we don't pay attention to all of those components and parts.

Some of the most spectacular failures recently in the internet at large have been just because some little thing happened over here and it just grew and cascaded out because we weren't paying

attention, as you just pointed out, to dependencies. So, these things have to be looked at in a given environment and individual, those who are in charge of those things, have to evaluate those kinds of risks and decide for themselves if they're going to address them or not.

KURTIS LINDQUIST

I mean, I think I had a previous career in doing a lot of work on resilience and infrastructure. And the statement that a lot of the DNS runs on Open Source is both true and probably false at the same time because it's probably true when it comes to server side, it's probably less true when it comes to resolver side, that it's probably even less so true when it comes to client side.

Although I don't think we actually know all of that because a lot of this is hidden behind firewalls, gateways, and it becomes very complicated very quickly. And so yes, while it's true that some components of the DNS is probably very much dependent on Open Source, and which is why we came from a world where we had one implementation Open Source, and now we have two or three implementations in Open Source, we at least diversified it. You raised the other point is that it's all running an open SSL.

Well, the scary part is the entire world runs an open SSL. And I think all of those diversity in software at the end of the day compile in the same open SSL library with the same bugs. And that is an issue that we need to be aware of. How do we deal with this? To what extent

are these -- that's more of an Open Source question than necessarily has to do with ICANN.

But as Jim says, this recursiveness and the dependency of this is also an issue. But that's what we know that we often describe these systems and this issue that we have that I just did. Reality today is that how we actually deliver a web page is way, way more complicated than that, right? Because you have different components of CDNs will load different parts of the page from different applications and different other parts. And again, this cascaded down to a hierarchy of delivery.

So, if you start looking, if you ever go look at a web page loading and you look on the trace, you will see it as a phenomenal amount of dependencies on how that little page gets delivered, right? And that's even without talking about the DNS, right?

JAMES GALVIN

Quick two finger, Wes Hardaker, the RSSAC liaison to the ICANN Board would chastise me again if I didn't make reference to the fact that RSSAC has recently published a where they actually listed not everything, but a lot of the more common elements that are deployed in the root server system to provide some transparency to the community about the various, what's the word I'm looking for, not commonalities, but the differences in how they're approaching resilience. The fact that there are different black boxes.

So, not everything is tied to everything else. And I wish I could remember the number, but I know it was a recent publication. So, easy to find on the RSSAC website. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. I know Kurtis needs to live, so this will be the last question if you want to ask Kurtis. Cliff, go ahead, please.

MUTEGEKI CLIFF

Thank you, Siranush. My name is Cliff, for the record, and I'm from Uganda. First of all, I want to appreciate ICANN for helping us, the Uganda DNS firm get off the ground last year. In between September and now we've managed to achieve a couple of milestones.

One of them being able to facilitate the NCAS deployment at our IXP. But then one of these days as I was doing my morning run, I kept on reflecting on one world, one internet and how for it to be resilient, every single cell that's part of it needs to be healthy. And ICANN doing just that ensures that the internet is resilient because for us to be able to do such things is really amazing for us.

The other thing I also keep thinking about is still thinking about one world, one internet is how much of the world is in English. And this is in regarding to Universal Acceptance, how the different languages can be brought online by engaging governments, especially through digital public services, because I feel that's one

of the areas that we need to put in more emphasis besides the areas that we are currently focusing on. Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQUIST

So, I think I said it before is that my native language is in English, my native script is in Latin. So, I completely agree with you that it's very important that we bring more scripts and languages online.

Now, when it comes to the content part that's outside ICANN scopes, there are other groups who work on bringing more content online in different scripts and languages onto the internet to make it more accessible.

I think the part that we are responsible for domain names and in association email addresses is very much part of that, because if you can't register your email address, it becomes a bit hard to do everything else. We are pushing for that. There's a lot of work going on from our side on that, the wider topic about content.

So, I just flagged a UNESCO, the UN agency who actually looks after culture and languages. They are running a decade of indigenous scripts at the moment, and we are working with them, by the way, and doing an outreach to the governments who are members of the UN and UNESCO to really highlight how important this is to bring these languages, not just as a preservation, as a cultural preservation, which is not what UNESCO do normally, but actually make them live and usable on the internet.

And that's something we'd be teaming up with UNESCO to bring to governments and really highlight how important this is. So, that, because I think you're right to some extent, governments are the ones who can be most vocal about the importance of scripts and languages, and they are. And I think the work with UNESCO is really helping that to bring how important that is and be part of that UNESCO program for making languages live and useful is, I think, a very important element of that.

So, we are doing that work as well. But a wider part of our content is a little bit outside our scope, but we're pushing very hard for the Universal Acceptance that we do. And I apologize, I need to leave now, but thank you so much all for having me for a while. I look forward to seeing you around for the rest of the week.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Kurtis. Thank you for coming to be here. Cui, my adopted Fellow from Taiwan, NIC, please go ahead.

PETER JIA WEI CUI

Hello, everybody. I'm Peter Jia, which I have asked frequently questions. So, yeah, but I'm not a Fellow from ICANN or I'm not a next gen member of ICANN, but I'll have, I participate in TWNIC Fellowship Program, and then I got the chance to come here as ICANN, to become an ICANN participant. And that is also my first time ICANN meeting.

Well, I come here for one reason, one question in my mind is that because in Taiwan, I think we have a successful and a failed cases about multi-stakeholder governance. We have once a very famous digital platforms code, B-Taiwan, which you actually say is about become the bridges between the civil society and the government to realize the multi-stakeholder governance. And the whole process is actually replicated from the ICANN model.

We get our opinion online and they're allowing more stakeholders to come into the BDB process. But after the government is changed, the whole process becomes more silent so that it's do not have any a formal influence to the government right now.

And I become the coordinator of the community and the project managers of B-Taiwan. Therefore, I had to want to ask to the Board is that, do you find out any challenges about the Multi-Stakeholder Model? Because it is basically the core of the ICANN community. And how would you like to address the challenges as well?

TRIPTI SINHA

I'll start. And my colleagues will certainly add to this. So, you're going into the realm of governance and political ideology. And as you know, there those who love multi-stakeholderism and those who like literalism. So, you probably heard about the WSIS+20, which just concluded. So, that actually was an initiative where you saw exactly what you're pointing out at play, which is the United

Nations, which is multilateral organizations where govern governments come together and make decisions.

There was a strong push that the Internet Governance should come under the purview of the United Nations. And then there was the other push from multi-stakeholderism, which is saying, no, you can't leave out important segments of society. In the end, this Multi-Stakeholder Model prevailed. And it was endorsed in December where there were three important decisions that were made, which is one, the multi-stakeholder process and community was recognized. The technical community was recognized as a distinct body and the IGF was made prominent.

So, what does ICANN do? We put our best foot forward in demonstrating that it is the Multi-Stakeholder Model that has made the governance, at least within our own remit, very, very successful. And we were compelling and convincing enough that we prevailed. We meaning not just ICANN, but this community that supports multi-stakeholderism prevailed.

So, to answer your question, this is, I don't think that if this topic is over yet, it'll continue. The next meeting, the next event will again bring to question is this the right approach? Is it not? You know, some people will support multi-stakeholderism. It's really a battle of ideologies. And I expect this to be an ongoing battle for as long as humans are alive.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yeah.

TRIPTI SINHA

Okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Barnabas, please go ahead.

BARNABAS MUUO PETER

Thank you. My name is Barnabas Peter. I'm a first-time Fellow and last year in Prague; I was also a NextGen. So my question is a bit similar to what she asked on AI. So, given the role of Artificial Intelligence in enabling large-scale DNS Abuse, including automated phishing and malicious domain generation, I wanted to know what is ICANN doing about AI governance? Will they develop a policy in relation to governance of AI? Thank you.

JAMES GALVIN

Okay. So, I think the first thing that I would say is we haven't decided or even considered that we have a role in AI governance. Where we are looking at AI is the potential impact on us.

And since you mentioned DNS Abuse, it actually is the highlight. You imagine that all of the good things about AI, which is how much faster it can do things and how much more it can do in such a short period of time with large amounts of data. And it's natural to ask yourself, well, if the good guys can do it, so can the bad guys.

So, what does that really mean to our ecosystem overall? But we haven't considered that as a governance question. We haven't really thought about having a role in that. AI technology is too new and exactly how it's going to play out, we don't know.

AI doesn't naturally fall into our remit, only to the extent that it impacts us directly. And we're waiting to see what that turns into too. So, certainly be very interested in any detailed thoughts that you have about how to apply all of that, or if you've thought about the space and you have some things to add. I know that SSAC is also thinking about this issue. So, that would be a good place to bring such a discussion. Thank you.

BARNABAS MUUO PETER

Specifically on the registries and registers, because you have a scenario whereby you have automated creation of domains. And yeah, I think this should have an impact on, it should impact ICANN in a way. Yeah.

JAMES GALVIN

Yes, that is true. I mean, as Tripti mentioned earlier too, in response to a separate question, agentic AI in particular is a real concern. Is it a threat? Or is it just a feature that it's going to work so efficiently? There're probably some threat opportunities in there that we have to care about. Because you're right, it can make domain names come and go very quickly.

And that will certainly impact the ability of bad guys, malefactors to have access to domain names. So, it's an interesting question and something that we're certainly paying attention to and tracking. But that's really all we can say about it at the moment. Thanks.

TRIPTI SINHA

Just to add to your question was whether we take a role in AI governance, and you then specifically took it down to agentic AI. And Jim answered that perfectly. But when you look at AI governance, and I speak right now, not wearing my ICANN hat on, just as a technologist, I get very irritated when I hear people talking about AI governance, because what does it mean? What are you governing?

Let's answer that question first. Because when it comes to AI, there are three key elements in producing outcomes. There's the data that you feed into the engines, right? And then there's the algorithms, and then there's a compute infrastructure. So, what are you governing? And so, I think we need to first really peel that onion apart and begin to understand what exactly we mean by governance, and then rally around different aspects of it, because it does need governance. But let's get some clarity on what we're talking about. So, just some food for thought.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Samira, let's go.

SAMIRA ALI DANBURAM

Thank you very much, and good afternoon. Mine is actually a comment. My comment is, I just wanted to thank the ICANN Board for this opportunity given to all of us. I actually even speak for all the Fellows here, especially for me as a woman from Africa on the served community, having such opportunity is actually such a big deal.

It honestly speaks to ICANN's inclusivity, trying to ensure that they carry everyone on Board, regardless of where you come from, what ethnicity, and all of that. So, thank you so much. Just that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thanks, Samira. Dana.

DANA CRAMER

Dana Cramer, third time Fellow. I was curious about what types of preparations the Board has been doing, and potentially also ICANN org, of assessing whether or not there should be a continued high level of community mobilization within kind of like these broader multilateral spaces that we saw with WSIS and the Global Digital Compact, and the risk assessments around the ITU's plenipotentiary this year, especially with the provisions of the ITRs.

Has there been any conversations or any risk assessments as to whether or not it's a good idea to continue that high degree of

community mobilization in some of more of these intricate areas that are purpose-filled? Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA

Actually, indeed, you asked the question about ICANN Org, right? And the CEO is not here, but let me speak on his behalf. Indeed, there's a lot of engagement in that space. Jamie Hedlund, who heads up that space, has Janis Kerkulin, who works for him. And we're going to send a delegation to the plenipotentiary, and we just came out of the WSIS.

So, there's deep engagement in that space to continue to understand what's happening in that ecosystem and what might impact ICANN and our remit. And so, we have to mobilize. We cannot disengage because this ecosystem depends on collaboration. And if we would isolate ourselves from the happenings in all these other different institutions, it would only impact us in a negative way. So, there is a lot of mobilization in this space right now. I hope that answers your question.

DANA CRAMER

I think more what I was wondering is the degree of mobilization, because WSIS was a pretty special example of how high that mobilization was and within more the ITU, like I understand, keeping up open channels of communication. But to that similar degree, if that's something that will continue in the risk assessment

as to whether or not that might be beneficial or to actually cause more harm than good.

TRIPTI SINHA

Maybe I'm not understanding the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

I will give the floor to Chris Buckridge, who is directly engaged with this. Chris, yes, he's here.

TRIPTI SINHA

Okay.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Sure. No, I think you're right, Dana. The WSIS+20 involved a very significant sort of ramp-up in how the community was contributing and how the different organizations were working together with a very sort of focused endpoint of, okay, there was the high-level event that took place in the UN in December last year.

I think there are some ongoing discussions actually about having fostered that new level of cooperation, that new level of collaboration. What do we, well, as you say, how much priority and energy do we give it? But also, what's the risk in letting that dissipate again?

Because I think there's a feeling with particularly some of these longer-scale UN processes that maybe happen every 10 years that

if we work to that and then we just let it all slip away again, then we find ourselves starting from scratch and rebuilding these processes. So, I think there's a lot of interest. There is a lot also going on now that maybe there wasn't in the last cycle around 10 years ago.

So, I think I fully agree with Tripti about AI governance is something that needs to be better defined. But even in the absence of that definition, there is a lot of activity going on around AI governance and around other digital governance issues, both in the UN but also in regional governmental groupings, multilateral spaces, and also in some sort of private sector collaborative spaces.

So, I think ICANN and its community can be really effectively engaged in that. But that efficacy is really enhanced when we're working as a more coordinated technical community. So, I think there is value in maintaining that level of activity and attention going forward.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Chris. Abdul Manaf, please go ahead.

ABDUL MANAF SULEMANA

My name is Abdul Manaf from Ghana, ICANN85 Fellow. My question is, as a Board, you must have access to projections and overview for the next few years and strategic reports. What issues or policy areas does the Board believe will require the most attention from the next generation of community leaders? Thank you.

JAMES GALVIN

I'm sorry, from the next what?

ABDUL MANAF SULEMANA

Next generation of community leaders. So, can I come again? So, I'm saying, as a Board --

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Speak slowly, please, so we can understand.

ABDUL MANAF SULEMANA

As a Board, you must have access to projections and strategic reports. What issues or policies do you believe will require the most attention from the next community leaders?

JAMES GALVIN

Yeah, community leaders. I think this is to Amitabh. So, from the point of view of the Board, what issues could occur that would affect the next generation of community leaders? What issues do we have on our agenda? Is that correct? Is that a fair characterization? Yes. Thank you.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you so much for the question. I think basically relates to the future of ICANN. We have had questions about the multi-stakeholder and the pipeline of leadership and how we are continuously engaged with trying to build and encourage the next

generation of pipeline. It's not about just the young generation. It is also about the newer generation with expertise who will continue to engage with ICANN and its processes and help us keep it agile and forward-looking.

And also, if you look at the Strategic Plan for the FY26-30, we have different components within it which talk to our efforts to promote multi-stakeholderism, our efforts to engage with different multi-stakeholders, increase our reach within communities who are not yet part of the ICANN processes.

So, how do we encourage them? These are the questions that we grapple with at the Board level. We have these discussions with different constituencies as well. And if you are aware, this year we have started a process to review our Strategic Plan because we completed one year of the Strategic Plan which was at output last year.

And I think it's time to basically take inputs from you and it will be a very welcome opportunity for us to have your inputs as to what we can do more if you look at those plans on how to involve more and more community. Because ultimately what the community leaders in the respective areas do will depend on how familiar they are with the processes within ICANN.

So, it is a collaborative effort between the two, bring in more people, keep them in the process. Because one of the questions that also arose was when NextGen Fellows and new people or new stakeholders engage with ICANN, how long do they stay back to get

involved, to contribute? Because you have to spend time to be able to contribute because it takes time to understand the processes. So, you go through that entire cycle.

So, please do have a look at the Strategic Plan. There are quite a few elements in that which talk to what you are referring to, and it has a wide implication for us in terms of our resiliency of the entire process of multi-stakeholderism that we are so proud of. And basically, it's a model that we need to keep promoting. And please do come back to us. You have the opportunity to help us build that plan, work on it, and take it forward.

And anything that you think we need to improve upon some of those issues that might risk our ability to move forward with engaging more and more stakeholders in the process, please do point that to us. It will help us to make our plans and objectives and goals much more-stronger. So, thank you for that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Srijan, please. Very brief, because we have only 15 minutes left, and I want to give the floor to as many as possible.

SRIJAN RAI

I'll be brief. Hi, my name is Srijan. I'm a NextGen. And I was thinking of some of the earlier questions, and we also had a discussion with the Board yesterday, and it relates to two things. One is collaboration within NextGen and Fellows, and sustained

engagement after we go back here. And I have a suggestion to that regard.

From what I understand, there's a grant program that started recently, but I think it's for much larger entities, organizations, large-scale projects. But my suggestion would be if we can think of this is subject to feasibility of collaborative projects between NextGens and Fellows, which are like smaller-scale projects, but relate to the ICANN mandate. And if we can look at a similar smaller-scale program there to support some of the high-impact projects, I think that would be a suggestion from me to the Board.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Thank you for the suggestion. Valerie, please.

VALLARIE YIEGA

Thank you so much. My name is Vallarie Yiega. I'm from Kenya. I just had a quick question on the internal operations when it comes to the PDP process. So, now what we are seeing more of is national regulators coming up with different regulations, and I've done a couple of rounds within the different rooms to understand what's happening. One of the questions that the GAC were addressing was the issue of urgent disclosures when it comes to the RDRS, and that's post-now GDPR and what's happening with WHOIS.

So, with that background, do we see the PDP process changing in terms of if there are any Urgent Requests or emergencies, depending on what the regulations that have come out are, or

would there be a different mechanism because the PDP process sometimes tends to be longer? And then also attending the DNS Abuse process, I saw the chair, Paul McGrady, trying to explain to the members how they needed to have a faster way to reach conclusions.

So, I'm just asking how these issues that we're now seeing that are emerging day-to-day, are they going to affect the PDP process? Are we going to see an additional supplementary track to move things faster, or what's the Board thinking about in that regard? Thank you.

JAMES GALVIN

So, I think I heard three questions. Let me see if I can get them all. You know, the PDP process is essentially defined by the community itself, and it owns that process. There are some significant steps which has to happen along the way in that process. The community itself, as well as the Board, is very interested in trying to create a greater efficiency in all of that. And I know that there is a work team in the GNSO that is put together to do that.

The Board ourselves, we have our own efficiency team. We are looking at ways to speed all of that up. It's a common refrain that things seem to take a long time, but we're all looking for that low-hanging fruit to speed that process up. It's hard to cut steps out, though, when you come right down to it, because part of the Multi-

Stakeholder Model is everyone gets a chance to comment and make all of that work.

You commented about the DNS Abuse PDP. It is just getting off the ground. Yes, the initial draft proposal for how long that process might take was based on a template of how things have gone in the past, but that's not a foregone conclusion yet. It hasn't been decided, and I know that that group would very much like to speed that up. But again, the group will have to decide that for itself.

You also mentioned Urgent Requests. There's a lot around all of that. Maybe the simplest thing to say is just that there's been a lot of work in the last few months on that space, and I know there's a lot going on. I believe a consensus is forming, and some decisions are expected to be made in the not-too-distant future that should bring all that to closure. But again, and I think all of that is happening and is in progress. So, yeah, if you only just got into all of those discussions, a lot behind all of that, but I'm pleased that you picked up on the details in such a short amount of time. So, thank you for that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Jasbinder, please.

JASBINDAR SINGH

Thank you, Chair. My name is Jasbinder Singh, and I'm ICANN85 Fellow from Fiji Islands, and this is my first time at ICANN. My question to the Board is in terms of capacity building with

expansion to internet ecosystem infrastructure, and even more so with the new round of gTLDs coming up, what kind of reviews have been undertaken to capacity building programs in regards to that, looking at how infrastructure grows, especially for SIDs or small island nations such as Fiji and others in the Pacific and in the Caribbean? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

I think your best contact for this will be our Global Stakeholder Engagement team in Oceania. Save, and there are for sure a lot of capacity building activities organized there. So, if you haven't met him, I can connect you with him, but I think the contact will be Save for you to bring this to the table. Thank you. Yes, please, Chris.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

So, I just wanted to note, I think a lot of what the capacity building that ICANN does is often done in collaboration with other community members and community institutions. And so, recently I was at the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy, APIGA, the Australian edition.

So, they have a general regional one, but then they also have a lot of specific national instances. And at that one, ICANN was very involved. ICANN contributed funding, but it also helped fund a number of participants from the Pacific Islands to come to Australia and take part in that session. And that's really, I would really encourage those APIGA events to anyone who's in the region and

has the opportunity, because part of what they also do is a model ICANN event.

So, you've all now been to a real ICANN meeting, but certainly if you have colleagues or anyone who's looking to get a slightly deeper understanding of how ICANN works, those really good activities give some really in-depth understanding to the different constituencies, different viewpoints, how it all sort of works together. So, yeah, happy to recommend that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Valeria, please.

VALERIIA FILINOVYCH

Valeriia Filinovych, for the record. I am a third-time Fellow and also, I am a researcher in the field of legal aspects of DNS resilience and Internet Governance. So, my question is maybe of capacity build, of policy building nature. So, how does ICANN see the role of countries facing ongoing hybrid and cyber threats in strengthening their DNS resilience ecosystem? Thank you.

JAMES GALVIN

So, I don't know that ICANN with respect to registries and registrars, there are certain rules and requirements and expectations on the level of service that they provide and how they provide that. But I think if you're asking about other deeper

policies and broader kinds of issues, ICANN doesn't really directly have a role in that.

We don't tell individual companies how to do their things. On the other hand, since we've been talking about capacity building, ICANN does have a lot of capacity building programs with the intent of helping to provide some additional information to companies for how they can address some issues that they would experience.

I'm not sure I'm getting at your question too directly, but I'm trying to find ICANN's role in your question. It's not clear to me that ICANN has a direct role.

VALERIIA FILINOVYCH

Let me try to reformulate it. I mean, how does ICANN sees the role of countries who are facing ongoing hybrid threats, cyber threats in strengthening their resilience of DNS ecosystem? I mean, the country's policy making, providing different mechanisms and so on.

JAMES GALVIN

Right. So, I think your question is how do we help countries improve their infrastructure and resilience in the face of problems? Do you want to speak to that?

TRIPTI SINHA

Sure. Okay, yeah. So, I'm trying to make sure I understand your question correctly. So you're talking about physical infrastructure

and services. How does ICANN help countries make themselves resilient when it comes to that? We don't necessarily advise people on how to upgrade their internet infrastructure. Am I getting at it? No?

SAJID RAHMAN

We do have something called GAC, Government Advisory Council, where we have one representation from the GAC in the Board. So, there is a lot of two-way process between ICANN and different government representatives on different policy issues, and we interact with them quite closely.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yes, thank you. And I'll take the question posted online. How does the Board balance community-driven policy development with the need for timely implementation of policies that affect the stability of DNS? Who would like to take this?

JAMES GALVIN

I think the question is getting at the issue of how long it takes to get from development to deployment, if you will. And we are certainly the Board is very concerned, as is the community, with the efficiency of our processes. You know, there is a sense that they might take a little longer than they really could. We should find ways to do things differently. And I think the general answer is that we are now actively both ends of our process from chartering to eventual deployment.

All of those engaged in that, from Org to the Board and the community at large, are looking for ways to do that more efficiently. And there's work to be done. Some changes have been made recently, and I suspect more will come as time goes on. So, it's hard to speak specifically about things other than that at the moment.

TRIPTI SINHA

I'll just add to that. So, some of the efficiencies we put in place recently. In the past, well, first, let me just explain very quickly how the policy development process works. It comes from the community. The community goes through a PDP process. When that work is done, it's submitted to the organization. The organization does its checks and balances and then sends it to the Board that then approves it. And once we approve the policy, it goes back to the organization for implementation.

In the past, the policies were very broad. In other words, we were trying to boil the ocean. And what I mean by that is the scope was extremely large. So, in order to be more agile and efficient, one tact that we're taking is to scope them tightly, very tightly and well-defined, and give them a timeline of, say, six months to come back with the proposed policy. So, it's an ongoing battle. It's hard work, and we're not going to get there today, but we are making improvements daily. I hope that answers your question.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Just one thing I wanted to acknowledge. I think the question is framed very adroitly well in noting that it is a balance. I think there is absolutely concern about how quickly, how effectively, how efficiently we can move through these processes. But multi-stakeholder governance is difficult. And to be truly inclusive, to be truly considering all the different aspects and all the different stakeholders that might be affected, it takes time.

So, I think finding that balance of how do we make this effective and responsive to a very rapidly changing environment, while also running an inclusive and multi-stakeholder process, it's a challenge that the Board is never going to win, maybe. It's always going to be the primary job of this Board to find that balance. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Rupam?

RUPAM BARUI

Very short. Good evening, everyone. I am Rupam, NextGen ICANN85. Given the increasing risk of impersonation and DNS Abuse, does the Board think restricted or verified TLD models, where registrants must meet eligibility requirements, could play a larger role in improving the trust in DNS, like the .bank or .shop, where registrants are not allowed to set up something that is not part of this protected domain's description, so that if they are doing anything malicious, it is easier to retaliate and also improve the trust, like the Indian government decided for .bank and .finance.

How does ICANN support such a model globally, while maintaining openness and competition in the DNS ecosystem? Thank you.

JAMES GALVIN

So, the need and the concept of know your customer, and actually know your customer in a validated and verified way is a topic which has been around for quite some time. I know that there are some countries in particular that require that for the purposes of their registrations and what they do.

There is some assertion that has an impact on DNS Abuse. I think it is important to point out that that has an impact on a particular type of DNS Abuse, malicious registrations in particular, but DNS Abuse is much bigger and much broader than that, and even the things which fall into ICANN's remit are bigger and broader than that.

Malware and phishing and those kinds of things are not covered by know your customer kinds of issues. Those issues fall on web hosting companies and service providers. So, it is an ongoing dialogue. There are certainly two schools of thought on whether it is important that everybody should do validated registration data, and there are others who suggest that, well, it is interesting and useful, but not required for what we are doing.

Certainly, if you have thoughts and ideas about all that, it is something to contribute to and be a part of that dialogue, because it has not been decided as yet. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Before closing this session, I would like to give the floor to Tripti and any Board members for final call to action to the new faces, new people here.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. First, I would like to thank all of you on behalf of the Board for inviting us to your meeting, and I hope this was a good exchange and you derived value from our being here and answering your questions. Thank you for being NextGen and Fellows. This is an amazing experience that you are putting yourselves through, and please engage and embrace and participate.

I hope you find your sweet spot, how you want to be effective in this ecosystem or any other ecosystem that you pick for your career track. As I said, you are young, very young. Your careers will evolve and develop and take all kinds of twists and turns, and enjoy the experience. Once again, it has been our pleasure, for sure, and thank you for inviting us to your meeting. Good luck.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Leon would like to say.

LEON SANCHEZ

Thank you, Siranush. Well, I'm sorry I had to go and come back and didn't get to enjoy as much time as I usually do with you guys. But

as I said when I first addressed you, just think of this as an opportunity to build something bigger than us, to contribute to something that is really meaningful to the world and to communities and spread the word back home, right? Go back to your places of origin and spread the word and help others apply and access to these wonderful programs. And lastly, just thank you for being here and contributing to ICANN's mission.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

And on behalf of the Fellowship and NextGen program, we appreciate Board members to be here with us and extend our thank you to you as well. And with that, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]