
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – ccNSO: Casual Meet Up for ccNSO Newcomers
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 9:00 to 10:00 IST

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Hello and welcome to the casual meetup for ccNSO Newcomers. My name is Claudia Ruiz and I, along with my colleague Joke Braeken, are the participation managers for this session. Please note this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

Please observe the following guidelines to participate in this session. They will also be posted in the chat for your reference. During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form as noted in the chat.

If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will unmute their microphone. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Thank you and with that I will now hand the floor over to Biyi Oladipo, moderator for this session. Thank you.

BIYI OLADIPO

Thank you so much, Claudia. Good morning, everyone. This is a casual meetup, so I don't think we should make it too formal. Let's make it as informal as possible, and then we could just generally

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

get the benefit of it. This is to formally welcome the newcomers to the ccNSO, and this meetup was put together to get to know you a lot better. I know that some of you put up your hands at the welcome session, and then you stood up to signify that you were just coming for the first time.

So, having said that, I'm acting on behalf of Jenifer Lopez, who is the Chair of the OMC. I said I was not going to be using all these acronyms as much as possible, because where I come from, if there are certain acronyms that we use here, that if you use them back at home, it means a completely different thing. In Nigeria, if you say PDP, PDP is a political party. That's the first thing that comes into people's minds, People's Democratic Party.

So you go to a meeting and you say PDP, everybody thinks you're talking about the party. So, the OMC is the Onboarding Mentoring Committee of the ccNSO, which is charged with the task of helping people who are just coming into the ccNSO to get up to speed quickly, get to understand what is happening and how to come up to speed, if you understand what I mean. So, I'd like to welcome everyone and try and introduce the, do an introduction to the ccNSO Body Program. Bart, you want to help us with that?

BART BOSWINKEL

Nothing to add to this one.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. The Body Program is actually meant to help pair people with newcomers, with more experienced people to assist in helping you move around and get a grasp of issues that are happening, provides assistance during and around ICANN meetings, and then helps you to get your feedback on what your experience has been and also to assist you in figuring things out as the time goes.

So, we match bodies with newcomers and have them work with you over the period. Okay. So, we'll do a tour the tab around the room. You just tell us your name, your affiliation, and then you will also tell us, for the bodies, you will tell us your ICANN experience and then for the newcomers, just tell us what your interest is as far as the ccNSO is concerned. So, I'm going to start with Nick and we'll go around the room.

NICHOLAS LESSER

Thanks, PG. I'm Nicholas Lesser from .na and I've been coming to ICANN since about 2008, so I'm fairly well-seasoned at such a young age. And yeah, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

BIYI OLADIPO

All right. Thank you. Charles?

CHARLES NOIR

Hi, everyone. Charles Noir from CIRA. I started in the GAC, in the government part of ICANN in 2017. I joined CIRA about three years ago, so I've been in the rooms, just not on council. And at the end

of this session, I believe I will be stepping up to councilor. Great to be here.

BIYI OLADIPO

Is that a belief? That means it's fate.

JORDAN CARTER

Good morning, everyone. Hi, Rohan. My name is Jordan. For those who I don't know, which is none of you, Rowan and I are colleagues at auDA. I have been involved with ICANN on and off since 2006, but on since 2013 through .nz and now .au. And I'm the vice chair of the council, along with Biyi, and Alejandra is our chair. It would be weird to have three vice chairs and no chairs. And I got here from a public policy background, so I'm more interested in the policy than the technical side of ICANN.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Good morning, everyone. My name is Alejandra Reynoso. I am originally from Guatemala. I now live in Spain. I started coming to ICANN meetings since 2011. And my interest has always been on the technical side, but I've been drawn more on the policy side and internet governance side through the years. Well, as Jordan said, I'm chair of the ccNSO and happy to be here.

BIYI OLADIPO

I guess I've been introduced already. My name is Biyi Oladipo from the .ng registry. I have been coming to ICANN since 2007. I really

can't believe that I've stayed here that long. It's the longest I've stayed anywhere in my life, apart from being alive.

Initially, for you, when I started coming, everything sounded like Greek. I just didn't understand a word of what was happening, but I kept coming. And over the years, I've found an interest in the policy side of things, and I've stayed true to it since then. I just used to be a visitor coming in and out until I decided that this is the path that I want to take. And then that has been -- the story is different today. Today, I'm one of the vice chairs alongside Jordan, and we work well together. Thank you.

BART BOSWINKEL

Now the embarrassing part. This is my 83rd meeting. So, my first meeting was number two in Berlin in 1999, and I was with .nl at the time. And then I moved along, and then I joined ICANN. So, I'm ICANN staff since 2005. And I'm supporting the ccNSO since 2007. That's more or less what I do.

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Hello, my name is Claudia, ccNSO Secretariat. I've been with ICANN for, I think, eight years now. Yeah, so I think the main reason for this also is to get everyone comfortable and let them know that even us as staff, when we were first here, it's very overwhelming and we felt lost.

And it's important to ask the questions because there are probably other people who have the same questions who are maybe don't

feel comfortable asking, but go ahead and ask because we've all been there and completely know how you're feeling and can help you and, you know, answer any questions you will have and make it a lot easier for you. That's what we're here for. Thanks.

JOKE BRAEKEN

I was a little bit distracted by a strike that prevents me probably from going home, but anyways, exactly. Sorry. No, Lufthansa to Germany. We'll see. I joined the ccNSO Secretariat in 2016 and before that I used to work for a ccTLD manager, .eu, and before that for a registrar. So, my first ICANN meeting, we checked yesterday, the calendar, was ICANN number seven in Marina del Rey, but I haven't attended all meetings since.

I remember from the very first meeting lots of abbreviations, as P mentioned, being very confused, also with the accent. Everything happening in English was, yeah, daunting, but all good now, I guess, I hope.

ROHAN SACHDEVA

Thank you, everyone, for a warm welcome. My name is Rohan Sachdeva and, as Jordan mentioned, I work at .eu domain administration and, yeah, this is my first ICANN. I'm doing the NextGen Fellowship Program and I'm actually feeling a bit weird because if I was not here then this meeting was not required. But, yeah, thank you so much and I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and learning from everyone. Thank you.

BIYI OLADIPO

Thank you so much, Rohan. Thank you, everyone. The important thing is for you, one, to decide on which direction you want to go and then the other is finding someone who can help you in the journey and all of us here are available. I'm glad that you know Jordan and Jordan is a veteran. He would handhold you through all the things that are required and, if you have any questions, please don't -- I don't like using the word don't hesitate because when you say don't hesitate, what it means is that you would ordinarily hesitate so you'd be afraid to.

So if you have any questions, walk up to anybody and ask and I'm sure that if we, if that person doesn't have an answer, would know exactly where to get the answer from and that would help to get you up to speed. I don't know if anyone has a word for Rohan.

BART BOSWINKEL

Maybe just to, yes, to reconfirm what Biyi said, you heard I attended a lot of ICANN meetings and I've been involved for quite some time. I think it took me three, four years to feel comfortable. At the time when I started being involved in ICANN, it was a zoo and with unknown animals. It was the first time to get met in public and it was what you see in those theatre pieces where people start throwing tomatoes and everything at the stage. It sounded and it felt like this.

So, we've come a long way, but it was overwhelming. I was just with .nl for four weeks before I attended that meeting. So, if you feel lost, talk about it, let people know and it's natural. Probably you can reverse it. If you feel comfortable in this arena and you've never been there, then you should question yourself. What did I miss? That's just a word of advice. So, question whatever you see and if you don't understand, please ask people. It's natural.

BIYI OLADIPO

Ale?

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Well, it's the ICANN awarding in the sense of we all feel lost in our first meetings, but what helps is to partner up or to join someone and have conversations together. Because as Bart was mentioning before, sometimes we feel we understand something until we start talking about it and we're like, oh, it was completely different.

So, my recommendation for anyone arriving here is find your person or persons, and whenever entering a room, try to sit next to them so that when conversations are happening, either you write your questions or you discuss it briefly with them. That helped me a lot. That's how I started. I remember many of my, well, now long-time friends, I would see them, sit next to them and whenever I said, some questions feel strange, as in like, does this make sense? And they're like, not really, but we will get there at the point. And I'm like, oh, okay. So, it's not just me.

So, I think that would be my advice. Like, talk about it, discuss it, just not to get stuck with preconceptions or thinking that your first glance is what you understand, because sometimes it's a little bit deeper than that.

BIYI OLADIPO

Okay. So, you see, it's always glad when you know you're not the only one. Okay, all right. I think that's about it. Like he said, if he wasn't here, maybe we shouldn't have this meeting, but since he's here, I guess we have -- except if Nick has something to say to it. All right.

So, thank you so much, everyone, for coming and we have more bodies in the room than newcomers, but that's fine. So, it means you have a large pool to take a body from. All right. Thank you so much. And this meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]