
ICANN86 Seville | PF – At-Large EURALO meets with NetGen@86 and Fellows
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – 10:00 to 11:15 CEST

MICHELLE DESMYTER

Hello and welcome, everyone, to the At-Large EURALO Meets with NextGen at ICANN86 and Fellows. My name is Michelle DeSmyter, and I am the Remote Participation Manager for this morning's session.

Please note that this session is being recorded and governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. During today's session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod.

Interpretation for today's session will include English, French, and Spanish. If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak, if speaking a language other than English. And please speak at a reasonable pace for our interpreters today. And with this, I will now hand the floor over to Frederic Taes, your EURALO Chair. Please begin.

FREDERIC TAES

Frederic speaking. Thank you very much, Michelle, and welcome everyone. And thank you to be there, all of you from the At-Large

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.

and broader ICANN community, to support the NextGen. This is really appreciated because it's a new generation and really important to onboard them. I have to thank also Natalia Filina to have prepared the agenda of this session, including with the idea to not only speak about EURELO and what's happening in Europe, but to give a broader perspective. So, we start with this just to highlight what is happening in the different RALOs, so Regional At-Large Organizations.

And given we have some, I would say the delays with the shuttle, with photographs, to have all NextGen here, we will not start by EURALO, but more the other RALO. So, if you can show the slides in the presentation. Next one. Okay, so EURALO, we'll just speak a little bit later. I have more people in the room. Thank you.

Okay, so AFRALO. Okay, do we have someone from Africa here to present? No? There is also the AFRALO, African space now at the same time, but just to highlight, Africa is really a big continent. They have 82 ALSs located in 34 countries and territories, 58 environmental members and a few observers. They are structured not really with a board as we are in Europe, but really with a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and ALAC members and others participating and giving the governance to Africa.

And the main topic of interest is about DNS security, cyberspace, Universal Acceptance, highly important with the different alphabets, languages. I know, more than 2,000 different languages in the continent. The new gTLD program, ICANN accountability and

transparency, are topics being discussed together with the broader At-Large community in CPWG and OFB working groups. Our direction is really about outreach engagement, and you have also the link in the presentation for more information.

The main project of the RALO is to engage the community in ICANN ecosystem, increase participation of NextGen and fellows from Africa. I think that we can share those objectives, capacity development, Universal Acceptance, and engage African community internet governance in general to strengthen also AFRALO effectiveness, regional presence. With CIP, we have many acronyms at ICANN, it's a Continuous Improvement Program. So, the idea is to get the feedback, the input from the community to really improve our way of working and be more effective.

The achievements of RALO is really to grow the number of ALSs and individual members, increase participation of those people and structures, more activities conducted, especially in Internet governance and Universal Acceptance. And they have developed a four-year strategic plan aligned, of course, with the ICANN one and new members are taking roles.

And also, we engage to have some cross RALO collaboration activities and we can do that especially between Europe and Africa because it's the same time zone. So, it's also an opportunity to have some meetings together. And they host also AFRALO UA regional events. So, that was for Africa. And I see some NextGen

coming. Welcome, everyone. So, that was for Africa. Thank you. We can go to the next slide, please.

LACRALO, I think we have people from LACRALO here. And Lance, really, thank you to be there with broken arms, et cetera. You are really, how to say that, engaged in the community; the floor is yours, Lance. Okay, please activate the microphone.

LANCE HINDS

Ah, here we go. My name is Lance Hinds. I am the current chair of LACRALO, which is the Latin American and Caribbean At-Large Organization. We were the first RALO that was created. We were created in 2006 during ICANN27 in Sao Paulo, big sign-up and picture-taking and all of that that we had there in Brazil. We also cover a geographic area from Mexico to Chile, inclusive of the Caribbean islands. Over that geographic area, we have 69 ALSs that are structured over 25 countries and territories.

In terms of our main projects, A driving call for us is to continue to improve ALS capacity in LACRALO in order for them to be able to participate better. So, that is a constant work in progress for us. We have been experimenting with improving our communication between the board and the RALO. And what we mean by that is that the RALO informed us or fretted a bit about the fact that we have so much content during a meeting.

One of the things that they felt is that they didn't get a chance to participate. So, what we are experimenting with are some different

things where like, for example, during a meeting, we can highlight about three or four ALSs and what they're doing. And then we're also looking at kind of town hall solution where we can have ALSs ask questions. So, this will be a meeting that will have about three or four items the first couple of minutes and then after that, the rest of the hour and a half is going to be to field any questions that are submitted from the RALO.

We have some outstanding matters. We have to finalize membership classifications and come up to scratch with everybody else. Especially this year and next year, we want to strengthen policymaking capacity, again, to be able to participate at a higher level, and also put it even further in the annual ALAC, ICANN, and RALO work plans. We feel that that needs a bit more participation, but, of course, everybody's got to be trained.

In the interest of time, I think in the At-Large, we now have a majority female board. I'm the only male on the board, so I'm left to the mercy zone, but I'm quite happy. I'm very happy. We do have improved skill sets and I say that from really a 20-year discussion. When I look at, you know, we have more engineers in these roles, in the working groups and stuff like that, we had different skill sets in those days so, you know, we really have more people now. Once we get it right, we can get people who can participate more in the working groups.

Of course, diversity is always a focal point for us and more involvement in general in the working groups, because that is what

we are generally here for, to be able to be that vanguard and that front in terms of getting inputs from the At-Large and from the average user in order to help develop policy. Thank you, Chair. I think that's it.

FREDERIC TAES

Frederic speaking. Thank you very much, Lance. That's clear. And please deactivate your microphone. Thank you. Okay. I propose now in this world tour to go to APRALO, Asia-Pacific. We have someone from the region Asia-Pacific here in the room to present? No? Okay. Yeah, so I will highlight also what is happening in APRALO.

So, the main information about RALO, so it's Asia, Pacific, Australia, it's really big, including some countries in the Middle East. So, it's the largest and most diverse region, and they are really there to celebrate diversity. The government structure, they have 68 ALSs and 65 individuals from 35 countries.

And the structure is to have chair, two vice-chair, elected members, NomCom elected member, and one person representing individual members and also in the leadership governance of the Asia-Pacific region. And the activities are really aligned on the strategic plan. So, they start from the strategic plan, get the input from the community, and just make the match together for the activities.

The main project of the RALO is updated to their rules and procedures. It's a policy forum, webinars, a policy discussion, and

APRALO Bytes. I think it's something interesting. It's how they communicate really with short message about what is happening in the region. And they have also some issue-based small teams on the CIP. So, again, it's a Continuous Improvement Program, so how to make the organization much more fit for purpose, efficient and they have onboarding sessions.

A hot topic survey also they are making, and I will show you also what we made from Europe. It is more informal. The way they organize it is more called community. Okay, what is really important? What are the top hot topics to discuss today? And they use that to complement their activities from the strategic plan.

There are also onboarding sessions, encouraging young community members to join and support in outreach and engagement. We share, by the way, the same program between all RALOs. We have a crop, so it's really some funding. You can have to participate to some ICANN meetings and other meetings, just as here. So, we share also different support from ICANN in the different regions and also in Asia-Pacific.

The achievements of the RALO, it's really a vibrant and active community engaged in outreach engagement, Universal Acceptance, and DNS capacity building. They have an active youth engagement in the policy forum, outreach engagement with different initiatives, leading national internet governance initiative in Asia-Pacific region, and they're leading small teams on some topics, especially hot topics.

Many committee members engage and participate, despite also not being a member. So, it's also broader than the official members. There are some involved in the work because it's open to anyone, basically. The ICANN multi-stakeholder, the At-Large is open to anyone. So, that was for the Asia-Pacific region.

The next one will be for NARALO, so North America. Do we have someone from North America here? Yeah.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Maciek Piasecki, I'm with EURALO. I see that we have at least one fellow who's active in APRALO, so maybe they would like to speak a few words about the -- Okay.

FREDERIC TAES

Thank you. Yeah, we just make here a round table, and we have afterwards Maciek more plays for open-end discussion. So, he just our tour and on all the regions and now North America, do we have someone from North America here? No? Okay. So, again, I will just present briefly what NARALO is doing at a glance.

So, NARALO represent the interest of Internet end user in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico, which has really a special status, part of the USA, but not entirely. I will not enter into the details. NARALO consists of 26 ALSs and 61 individual members. It's less ALSs, but they have also less countries. The leadership is with Gregory Shatan, chair, with the different people. You see the

name there, and also ALAC members and NomCom delegates are part of the NARALO leadership. That's how they are organized.

And their primary projects, it's really structured on different areas. The first one is outreach, focused on member growth and general awareness. The second one is about engagement with education, capacity building, improving participation, and community development. Afterwards, it's not readable here with the yellow background. It's supporting internet policy development, and together with CPWG, so the working group, Consolidated Policy Development, awareness and adoption of Universal Acceptance, increased regional presence and representation, and supporting also digital accessibility and inclusion initiative. That's really a highly important topic for North America.

The achievements, they are expanding the number of individual members accredited ALS in North America, but also their participation and participation of end users in policy development process. They are promoting and have promoted Universal Acceptance initiatives, which is, I think, great, especially when you think it's really English-speaking for a big part. But, yeah, it's also important and they have other countries, some are Spanish with other languages, but they are supporting also really the broader Universal Acceptance outside their boundaries.

And they have prepared five years, the NARALO Outreach and Engagement Plan aligned with the strategic plan. That's how they did. And that was for really the world tour of the different RALOs.

And now, as I see, much, much more people and NextGen being there in the room after the photo and the shuttle. So, welcome again and we go to Europe. So, the first slide here what we are doing in Europe. So, a little bit of history.

We are not the first RALO. It was in 2007 and some people in the room, I recognize here Sébastien Bachelet notably have led to create this European At-Large Organization, which has now 32 ALSs located in 17 countries and territories, and about 100 is 99 individual members. So, if you want to be the member number 100, please apply now. Don't wait. And we have also six observers.

The structure of EURALO governance is to have chair, secretary, five vote members. However, we work also together with ex-officio from the broader extended board with liaison to different groups, with former chair, with ALAC members to have really more community engagement and broader input.

Our topic in focus first is ICANN mainstream. What is coming from ICANN and the strategic plan, the new round of gTLD is really one big important thing, especially this year, the application support program, DNS abuse, Universal Acceptance, Continuous Improvement Program, and recommendation of ICANN reviews and policy. Yeah, this is quite common, basically and your direction is really stability, security, access to DNS and the Internet. I will speak more afterwards about the survey we made after some months, but that was it. And the main project of RALO, I think that's

Ricardo, who will explain to you from the individual user association. Ricardo?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST

Yes, I am the one looking for the member 100, for the individual members. If you don't mind, I will continue in Spanish. Welcome to Seville, everyone. And I would like to speak in Spanish so that the NextGen and the fellows because it happens a lot, that English is not our first language. And it's really hard for us to be able to be integrated in these meetings because we don't understand.

So, I understand that Spanish and French are the only languages that have a translation in this room and in many of them, but in many of them, they have a translation to even seven languages. So, do not worry because you're not being understood. Speak in your native language. This is one of the languages that are being translated and, you know, for us to be understood.

You know, unless you're talking about policy and fighting for a policy or making a decision in a policy or trying to give your point of view in a policy, it really doesn't make sense to argue in any other language, but in a language that you understood. In Europe, 42 languages, that is a little bit more complicated. In Spain, we have seven, so they only translate into Spanish, so it's a little bit more complicated.

But the main project of EURALO, that is what we're going to be talking about, is we have a very important project and one of the

members of ALAC, we're going to do an update or an improvement of our incorporation bylaws. And to speak with the different parts of Europe, not only with the other communities, but also internally. We're trying to improve a lot the channels for interrelationships between all the parts and to improve, not only through the email, but to LinkedIn and other channels also.

And a collaboration that is really important that RALO has approved is to collaborate between the different RALOs and to focus in being EURALO in the European users, that we are the Europeans and what do we want as Europeans? So, is another one of the focuses. And Frederic, at the end of this presentation, is going to do a survey that already did in the different organizations that are present in EURALO, just for that, to be able to find out what is it that people want.

Within the goals that we have in EURALO is real diversity. We're not just only having a chair that is a male and the rest women. At least we want some more and, you know, the chairs we're almost all men except Joanna and we have individual members. And I also want to take advantage of there's a lot of fellows from Europe.

Individual members means that if you're not a member of an organization, but if you want to work with EURALO, work with ICANN, and know about the bylaws and know what's happening with the policies, being individual, it just means this is an umbrella. Everybody can participate because there's close to 100, we're 99, and a good part of the board are individual users. The secretary or

three or four, they're members of the board and that says a lot that the newcomers are also welcome. And we have people on the board also, ALAC members, that have the experience. They've been having four or five years, three years in this ICANN world. So, do not feel worried that you have to be here for 25 years.

Well, we also have those, but I've been there in 2007 when this all started, when this was founded, but we have people like Sébastien that before ICANN, he was already working here. Well, he was already as a leader. So, we have people that only have been here for a year, but that will also be here for a long time. So, the flexibility and the response that has that there's a lot of European of us, and it has a lot of point of view. So, that's it. Thank you very much.

FREDERIC TAES

Frederic speaking. I will speak in French. I'm going to follow Ricardo's example. I could speak the dialect we speak in Belgium, a mix of Flemish and French, but I will stick to French, and I would like to thank the interpreters for providing their services.

At the RALO level, we really have a true diversity, gender diversity. As Ricardo said, women participation is not yet enough, but we do have female members at ALAC and we thank them for being here. We also have an important regional diversity, even if through the survey we saw that the Balkans is a region that needs to be further developed. And with the global supporting engagement at ICANN,

we've started working on development projects so as to have more people from this region.

Now, that being said, thanks to individual users, we are present in many different countries, and we have a member from the Czech Republic. Even if we don't have an At-Large structure there, we do have one foot in many different countries in Europe, and that is very positive. And we also have experts in different fields, and this is how we were able to organize different roundtables on DNS security, on DNSSEC, on different programs and topics and this is really important.

One of the goals we have today, especially towards young people, is to know what you expect from the future, what are your projects? I'm sure we can work together. And if you're passionate, you're going to be performing at a very high level, and this is really important to have. And we're also quite flexible. Sometimes we run into technical glitches, but we know how to adapt and we know how to deal with topics that come up all of a sudden and we are quite proactive as a community. This is very important to us.

We are all ears. We want to listen to everything you have to say and we wish for as many NextGen-ers as possible to join the RALO family. You are all welcome. And I'd like to take a couple of minutes to advertise about the body program. We'll hear Maciek talk about this in a minute and Joanna will talk about the European school governance, one minute and thank you. Maciek, you have the floor.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Hello, Maciek Piasecki again. I'm with EURALO. I will be future ALAC so that means there's a lot of opportunities to get out of EURALO and other RALOs. So, I strongly invite you to join. I'm also the lead for the trainings on the phishing campaign that ALAC is organizing and I strongly encourage you to get engaged with the ACs team. But what I wanted to talk about is a new piloting program that we are going to have in EURALO which is complementary to the fellowship program so it's much more informal. We don't want it to be competitive anyway and from what I spoke, it can work alongside it.

What it's going to mean for you is that you can find someone who's also a newcomer, who knows a little bit more than you because I remember being like straightly fresh, it's been very intimidating for me. Some things are still intimidating so what you're going to do in ICANN, you're going to learn all the time. So, it's not like the more experienced people know everything here. We're constantly learning.

So, if you'd like to find someone who shares your interest, whether you're interested in security or finance or policymaking, we're going to make sure with the EURALO team that you can find someone who can support you with maybe the more simple questions that don't need to go to your mentor, like signing up for different groups or what the working groups are doing. We're here

for you. Please contact whether me or Natalia. I'm going to put my name in the chat, so looking forward to hear from you.

FREDERIC TAES

Thank you, Maciek. And now, Joanna, you have a wonderful program here.

JOANNA KULESZA

Thank you. My name is Joanna Kulesza for transcription purposes, and I will not speak in Polish, although we do have a strong, forever-growing Polish representation. Maybe just in terms of contributing to the wonderful points that you guys have made. Siranush always says, once a fellow, always a fellow. Once an individual member, always an individual member.

Although the prescribed trajectory for us is to indeed put feet on the ground, and I have done my best to try. and do that. I'm a professor of international law at the University of Lodz in Poland. I also run a research center there that is focused on internet governance and international law. So, if we have PhD students, master's students, University of Lodz might be one of the options you guys might wish to look into.

And the Lodz Cyber Hub is an ALS, so an At-Large structure, or more specifically the only Polish, or I'll argue Central European, At-Large structure. So, we do our best to represent the interests of end users locally, including students at the University of Lodz or those who

come to visit us, which brings me probably to mention what Frederic kindly requested I do in this session.

We have been organizing for a couple of years now a summer school on internet governance and international law. Something tells me there will be ones among you who feel as strongly about geopolitics or international law as I do. There is a forever encroaching international law approach to internet governance. So, to explore that theme, we have hosted previous editions. I'm proud to say Maciek is one of our original summer school Sigil fellows.

MACIEK PIASECKI

Strongly recommend.

JOANNA KULESZA

Thank you. And the buddy program is great, but I would also like to bow down to Glenn for navigating Maciek as a mentor inside the ICANN community. This is to say we will be doing another edition of the summer school. ICANN likes for these to be relatively harmonious. So, the summer school, I have leaflets. So, the university is very proud of this. They gave me leaflets. I have leaflets. I'm happy to share them with you and you can scan the QR code.

This is an Erasmus program this year. So, if we have European students, you're going to get four ECTSs. How cool is that, no? And we have partner institutions. So, this year, it's your regular

European commission-funded program, but there is community engagement. So, there is engagement. RIPE will be coming with a very cool interactive exercise. It's late July. I'm happy to speak the details there, but this is maybe just to flag that the community in EURALO works beyond just this air-conditioned format that you're seeing here.

There's a lot of work put on the ground by volunteers to make sure that the network remains alive. This is one of the renditions. And the addition that Maciek participated in resulted also, oh, let me do that, in a book, and I have the book with me here. It was part of a project that focused on the global governance of low-Earth orbit satellites, so if anyone is into Starlink, SpaceX, stuff like that, come talk to me. We have free copies available at the university, so I can have them shipped to you if that's what you're interested in. That's all the time I have. Thank you.

FREDERIC TAES

Thank you very much, Joanna. And now some words from Natalia Filina.

NATALIA FILINA

Thank you very much, Frederic. My name is Natalia Filina. I'm secretary of EURALO and I'm so happy to see a whole audience this morning. And just to conclude all of the information you've got from all our RALOs, all our Regionals At-Large Organizations. So, we have common goals. We are working together. We are not

divided and we have a main project and we are working together on this. And we are very happy to report about our achievements.

And we really do want to see you as a part of our community, just because it's about passion. It's about being engaged on the international level in all related DNS, internet governance, any kind of policy we are discussing here, and you may have input, you may take leadership positions. And I think you clearly see this great opportunity for you, for your future, for our future together. And we are a little bit maybe diverse with our structure of governance in our RALOs, but we all are together.

And now Frederic Taes will present a very interesting result of survey about how broader set of interest we inside of our community have. So, we are focusing on policy inside of ICANN, but please look now at the slides. We will have slides, yeah? And you will see that you will find your place here. Thank you.

FREDERIC TAES

Frederic speaking. Thank you very much, Natalia. I would like to have authorization to share my screen. I send a request to the people managing the call. Maybe I need to start again to send a request.

MICHELLE DESMYTER

Hi, Frederic. This is Michelle. Yes, we can take care of that. Ali, can you promote Frederic to co-host? Thank you. And I will stop sharing.

FREDERIC TAES

Thank you. Okay, so now I need to request again, I think.

MICHELLE DESMYTER

Actually, you are a co-host.

FREDERIC TAES

Okay, I'm co-host, okay. So, do we see the screen? Yeah, in full screen. Okay. So, we made a survey with all our At-Large structure. We don't have yet the results, and we can organize another survey with the individual members to complementary the results here. But it was really to reach out to the different At-Large structure.

You see here the map, the countries in green, we have ALSs having answered. In yellow, we have ALSs, no answer. And we have some countries where we don't have ALSs currently. That's why I mentioned the Balkans notably, but that's already good diversity with different countries and interesting results. So, we have taken all the topics presented during ICANN85 in Mumbai. All topics there are listed here and we need to get the input from the ALS, what speaks to you from those topics. And here we have the top ranking of the interests of the different ALSs.

The first one is the trust on the Internet. And yesterday, if you were not there, I encourage you to watch the recording of the ALAC open house. We had a presentation from RIPE and CEC about trust on the Internet. That's really the top number one topic in online security. The second one, raised by the community, is about

privacy and protection of personal data. What comes also true, for example, who is owner, who is managing the person behind a DNS and we had an excellent presentation yesterday from NextGen. Thank you for that. And I encourage you to also present that during another EURALO meeting.

The third topic is about artificial intelligence. Also, I saw some presentations, really good and the impact on domain names, it can be on different areas. Artificial intelligence is quite broad. On the fourth place, we have human rights and DNS abuse equal, so the same amount of interest in terms of importance. I can make a Zoom afterwards to see the different variants we have. And then to end the top five is the end user interest. And I would like also to mention a good work that Nati initiated with really a document described the end user interest. And I encourage you, not only to look at this document, but also to enrich it yourself. So, it's really community work, and you can really influence and have an impact on the evolution of the Internet, especially from the end user's perspective in the case of At-Large.

We have also asked, and we go quicker on this part, topic of interest of the broader Internet scope, Internet governance, legal regulatory, geopolitics, and resilience. The result is highly important for many ALSs, the Internet governance, less the legal regulatory, and Internet resilience geopolitics. You see here the figures I think it's quite self-explanatory about the importance of those topics.

Also, the partnerships are important. We had the EuroDIG event. I don't know if some of you participated, but it was really a European conference forum about digital Internet governance. We have also the Internet IGF, local IGF, regional IGF, Internet Society chapters, followed by RIPE-NCC, and much less a center and collaboration between At-Large structure, something that we can also work on in the future.

I have here more detailed results. You can see trust is really highly important for almost all attached structure and just high important, but not the top priority for some. Even more than artificial intelligence, which is the trendy topic, but that's not the most important for the community. When we see some more technical topics, we see that DNSSEC has less attraction compared to online security and trust on the internet in general. The same for domain names and DNS abuse.

DNS abuse is really more concerned for more At-Large structure than just about domain names, even if there is a link privacy is really even more important and we have also other topics. I will not enter into the details. We have also some texts and proposals behind what to do about human rights and user interests, but you can also participate to that.

Universal Acceptance is less a focus in Europe now, and intellectual property even less for the At-Large community and IP address allocation. ICANN Accountability and transparency, that's important, so that's why also we need you to participate. It's

important for half the people, high importance for a third of the people, medium importance for half of the people.

We received some suggestions about quantum internet, quantum computing, resilience, digital civil rights, and some others, but we would like also to receive your opinion about this. And I will end with this. I think the time is more than over. And we go to the next phase, really, of this meeting, much more interactive with you, and led by Simone and Mohamed. I give you the floor.

SIMONE CATANIA

Hi everyone, my name is Simone, I'm a board member at the EURALO, and I'm here with Atif.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Hi everyone, I'm also part of the board here, and once I was a fellow, and always a fellow. And I'm very happy to welcome you all to this interactive discussion where we will discuss some key themes.

And there are three questions that you can see on your screen. It is for NextGen and the fellows, how you see and evaluate ICANN policy priority for 2026, what would you suggest to improve, and technical governance of Internet, how do you resonate with the ICANN achievements? So, to make it simpler for you, I can list the four key themes of 2026 till 2030 priority strategic plan that ICANN has.

The first focus is on strengthening the multi-stakeholder model. The second is on making policy development process more

iterative, agile, and effective. The third one is evolving internet unique identifier systems, like you would have heard about DNS, domain names, internationalized domain names, IDNs, Universal Acceptance, how to champion those topics. And lastly, strengthening security, stability, and resilience of the DNS. I'm sure you would have attended the session of SSAC and exposed to the technical details of how ICANN works in those topics.

So, think from your regional perspective you already got a very good overview of how different RALOs work. From the end user perspective, how do you see ICANN policy priority resonating with the work that you have been doing? I have been hearing some great presentations from the NextGen fellows here. I heard about privacy. I heard about Universal Acceptance. So, how can you find synergy in the ICANN policy priority, and how do you share your feedback with us? So, open to you guys. The Internet is yours, and feel free to whatever you want to share in this space. Thank you.

Please don't force me to pick up names because Siranush has already given me some names secretly to pick up, but we are not in a school so feel free. Like Maciek also shared that we have very good priority areas where we will be sharing cybersecurity phishing campaign that we have been running as part of the At-Large community engagement subcommittee group.

So, that is a program which we aim to build cyber resilience. So, from EURALO or from fellows from the Asia-Pacific, do you see the need of cyber resilience in your area? Or do you resonate with

other topics that Frederick shared on his screen, which were the result of the survey that we did? Do you resonate with it? Open to NextGen fellows.

NATALIA FILINA

Sorry, so don't be shy, please.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Yes.

NATALIA FILINA

We would love to have a dialogue with you just because we are here not for talking about ourselves. We would love to know about your vision, about your opinion. And of course, we would use this opportunity to improve our work together with you. So, please take the microphone.

AMAAN ALI

Hello. Hi, my name is Amaan Ali, and I study at UCL London. I am doing my law degree there, and I did my presentation on privacy and data protection yesterday. So, how I see and evaluate ICANN policy, I even discussed this yesterday, that there has been policy work that has been going on, and I really appreciate that. It's open right now as well.

There are comments, public comments that are open on how we can do the timelines when we talk more about the data you can get from ICANN. And there was 22 points of recommendations as well

in February, if I remember correctly, which was rejected, rightly so, because that was not good enough. And in my opinion, I believe that we have the technical capabilities, we have the structure in place, but we are still lacking the policy decisions to actually make the internet governance and data privacy work in relation with ICANN's work.

So, for example, we have gone opaque totally right after when GDPR came and as I discussed, there is 79% denial rate. So, basically four out of five legitimate requests are being denied right now and we really need policy to actually work it out. And SSAD actually, it made the tiered structure that how different people can get different information. And it depended on who wants the information for what purpose, but it never worked. And I think that is where we should be heading right now, especially in the space of privacy and data protection. I understand privacy is a fundamental right. It should be there, but it should be balanced more and more with the accountability as well.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Good point. Yeah, sure.

RYM BADRAN

Hi, everyone. My name is Rym Badran. I'm also NextGen, and I'm pursuing the European Master in Law, Data and AI, which is also an Erasmus Mundus program between Ireland, France, and Italy. And for me, I would most probably answer the first question, which are

what could be, oh no, the second one, like the priorities of ICANN. And I would focus mostly on the multi-stakeholder model because I think there's no hidden point about how much this model is under pressure considering the current political climate and the fact that it's one of the most distinguishing points of the ICANN.

So, I'm presenting today, but part of my research is also like a comparative lens of DNS abuse in between Europe and the Middle East. So, I'm already interested in seeing how we can ensure that there is dialogue between the different regions, because when a policy is being developed at ICANN, it's mostly a global policy.

And also, for example, on how policies are being evaluated, we have seen it, for example, with a lot of representatives from civil society organizations that they don't want suspended accounts to be a way to evaluate the effectiveness of the DNS abuse policy. Because if we do that, there are human rights implications.

So yeah, I would say mostly the multi-stakeholder model, ensuring that there's a diversity in the regions that are represented and I think this is a great job. Like for example, for all of us NextGen, we were talking yesterday, like we're European NextGen, but most of us come from other regions. And also, how to ensure the balance that civil society and governments and other stakeholders are always represented. So, yeah.

MACIEK PIASECKI

So, a quick [inaudible - 00:49:29], please join the CPWG where we're discussing DNS abuse PDP that is happening right now, and you can also become an observer in the actual working group so strongly encourage.

HUGO RAMIREZ

Hello, my name is Hugo. I come from Queen Mary University of London, well, I'm doing research over there, but one of the points that resonated with me is, how can we improve the policy development process and my research goes a bit around that. So, analyzing long conversations, two or three years plus, that are like really tough to read going backwards.

So, my research aims to describe how the community has evolved by how the speed of the conversations go and how the sentiment of the interactions are. Cool findings about that is also we can start to pinpoint if there are geopolitical tensions in the conversations. My presentation is in an hour, but my study case is the ITF, and we found that in the ITF they're more technical, but no geopolitics over there.

But I came here to the ICANN, and I found that there are lots of things in common in the development process, which are long. And I think I consider that this research could shed light to, not just the community, but just to the working group chairs as well, to see to what are they jumping in. If the conversation is long, the relevant topics and if you want to take more easy steps on how to tackle the conversation and to give more push into the policy development.

Yeah, I'll be happy to have talks after the session, but I hope this also could be useful to the ICANN as well. Thank you.

SIMONE CATANIA

Yeah, I see also someone had a presentation yesterday about AI and agent AI. Maybe you want to present what it's all about. Yeah, please. Go ahead.

OMRAN ADAM

Yes. You know, my name is Omran Adam and, yes, I'm a medical doctor and data scientist and AI master's student at Kyrgyzstan University in Oslo, Norway. So, lately there have been a lot of discussions in the AI and the cybersecurity about how, like, you know, AI is being integrated into our daily life, and it's increasingly integrated. How can that be more secure, as well as in the community level? And also, when we talk about integration, we find out that there is a huge gap between communities. There are communities that are completely integrated, and there are communities that are completely left behind so that has to do with like internet access and et cetera.

But also, like, about privacy, if privacy, according to the GDPR means like, your name, surname, email, et cetera, now privacy in AI, it means everything Because people talk to AI, I mean, they give everything, right? They talk about their emotions, about their personal life, about everything, about their career and et cetera, and that information is not controlled, you know, securely. As a lot

of companies are actually saying publicly that they're actually not willing or they're willing to sell the data to third parties.

So, it's like if we take this like into three categories, AI, internet governors, and communities or end users, and also as the future of AI, of course, integrates and it just becomes larger, what is the role of EURALO of, you know, including these communities and also making it safe. And also, like, you know, applying policies that will maybe also like support local initiatives in digital literacy, education, health care, and also, what do you think is the role? How do you see the role of local communities and of EURALO in supporting local communities and Internet governors? Thank you.

SIMONE CATANIA

Yeah, I believe we do that through ALS. Maybe someone who is more in the topic data protection. Yeah, please, Joanna.

JOANNA KULESZA

I think it might make sense for us to take this offline, to be quite honest with you, but we do have dedicated courses and classes on the difference between privacy, data protection, and personal data protection. So, I'll refrain from turning this into a 20-minute presentation, but it's definitely a very hot topic, and drawing that line is particularly or I would like to continue that. Is that a good enough answer? I kind of don't want to grab the spotlight here and tell you that we have discovered, right, the University of London,

but it's a very interesting topic and I feel like there are a lot of guardrails in terms of what AI could be, the AI Act included.

There's a lot of risk assessment to be done, but I feel like we have some guardrails, at least to address the issues that you're talking about. I think that's helpful, and I don't want to overbear our NextGen-er here with replies, but it's a very good question, so thank you for sharing.

MACIEK PIASECKI

So, just a quick info, we've got a very active community engagement subcommittee at ALAC, which might be very relevant to you, and we could use your expertise most likely. Please let me know if you need any help on joining.

NATALIA FILINA

May I could add some words and I think we will go to the next part, right? I would say that we have in our plan for EURALO to organize a roundtable, maybe not only one, at least first one. We would invite you with your projects and we would invite, so for us it will be European experts who relate to your topics and to your research. And we would discuss what is interesting for you and for our community. And I think it would be a very good step forward of working together. So, thank you very much for your work.

SIMONE CATANIA

Go ahead.

SONGO NORE

For the records, my name is Songo Nore, and I am from Papua New Guinea in the Pacific Islands. I am just quite curious to ask what ICANN or EURALO has done to integrate local languages based on oral traditions into the Internet governance ecosystem. This is due to the fact that most of our languages, especially in the Pacific Islands, where I came from in my country alone, there are about 800 plus languages, officially speaking. Unofficially, it could be 1,000 plus or 1,000 plus languages. Only two languages that are official in the country, one is English, and the other one is Tok Pisin that unites the entire country, but the other 800 plus languages, they don't have a digital foot print in the internet.

So, I'm just wondering, because we were discussing all these discussions about UA and IDNs, but as for me coming from the Pacific Islands, I felt like we've been excluded because what are the efforts that have been done by ICANN in regard to the technical governance of internet? What are their achievements? Or the EURALO, what have they done to integrate those local languages especially based on oral traditions? What have they done to integrate them into the internet?

I'm saying this because I've interviewed a couple of youths from my community. I was working as one of the inaugural research working group members for Coalition on Digital Impact and I realized that most of the youths, due to the impact of globalization and westernization and influence mostly from social medias, they

tend to lose their languages. Like when I speak to them in a local dialect, they can hear and they can understand, but to communicate back to me in their own tongue, they cannot.

So, languages, they are slowly disappearing and this is part of our cultural heritage and it's also our cultural identity as well. How do we protect and how do we govern that? What are the ICANN achievements that have been done whether in the past or currently? Or what are the achievements of EURALO that has been done whether in the past or currently that leads to the integration of local languages, especially indigenous languages that are based on oral traditions? I just want to hear that. I'm curious about that. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

I just want to interfere here. So, just yesterday, UNESCO and ICANN jointly introduced their policy brief on advancing a multilingual Internet and how Universal Acceptance steering group is working in adoption. So, now they have already done the technical standards, and they are in the phase of adoption where they are inviting entities to contribute more for creating this multilingual internet.

So, my suggestion is do go through it, read it, and then you would be in a better position to frame your response for whatever further discussions come in that space. But do join the Universal Acceptance steering group and visit their website, see how UA days

are conducted. But you mentioned about Universal Acceptance, yeah.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Yeah. So, Songo, there are two things. Amrita, for the record. What you're talking is about a serious thing where content is not digitized or not even written, those are traditions. So, that's a different thing.

ICANN's mandate is very limited to just names and numbers. If those languages are there and they are not available in the domain name structure, then the Universal Acceptance or IDNs can help, but when you're talking about the greater issue of oral traditions, language is being missed, that's a different conversation which has to be happened. It's a very important one, but a different conversation. Unfortunately, ICANN's mandate is just limited. Then we can speak later outside. It's a big issue, but this forum may not be able to look at it and since time is less, I'll stop at that.

SONGO NORE

Thank you, Amrita.

FREDERIC TAES

Frederic speaking. I would like to add something really important. It's the split between the infrastructure and the content. When you're speaking about the content, it's not something that ICANN

is managing even all the bodies participating to the Internet ecosystem, it's more the use of the Internet.

And so, we have already, with the new gTDL, 27 different alphabets supported. So, that's really a step forward, and we need really to encourage the global adoptions of those. So, that is the mandate of ICANN. Thank you. Back to you, Simone.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Joanna, yes. She wanted to speak.

SIMONE CATANIA

Oh, sure, please.

JOANNA KULESZA

Thank you. Just to chime in, maybe in a supportive manner, I share the picket fence frustration, but maybe just to highlight that the mandate of ALSs is a little bit broader. So, speaking for our EURALO ALSs, last year's edition of the summer school was co-hosted with the GFC Pacific Hub. We hosted five GFC fellows from the Pacific, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea included. We talked about how to preserve data. We talked about cybersecurity. We talked about digital infrastructures.

So, maybe this is just to note that there is a bridge of communication and those concerns that you raised are duly noted. As much as they may be beyond the ICANN org mandate, as colleagues have rightfully pointed out, there is a platform for us to

have these conversations among and between ALSs, individual members, end users, if you will, and I'm always happy to have an academic dialogue if that's useful.

So, maybe just to flag that we see these concerns. I think these are unique conversations so the experiences that you guys have in digitalizing heritage are impressive and amazing, and I know there's an urgency to do that. So, this is just maybe to recognize your concerns, and again, I'm happy to speak more if it's useful on one we can actually do on the ground to build those bridges or make them tighter. Okay? Thank you.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Alfredo, you can speak next.

ALFREDO CALDERON

Yes, I'm Alfredo. I'm a mentor for the NextGen and actually, Joanna and I have been working, have worked together, and I think I was your mentor at one time in the fellowship program. Oh, yes.

So, the thing is that, I invite you to hear the recording that happened yesterday was on Universal Acceptance because actually, some of you are aware of it, but not all of you, I managed with a couple of other colleagues within ICANN and outside of ICANN, the Virtual School of Internet Governance. We have the course, which is a 10-module course in different languages, and one of the languages we piloted last year in December was Bengali. And one of the outcomes was that due, not to the content itself, but

to the platform we were using that didn't accept the scripts in the native language because Universal acceptance wasn't incorporated with the scripts in that platform.

So, there's different aspects, as Joanna mentioned, that need to be considered. Some of them are outside of ICANN, as was evident when we did this experiment in Bengali. And there's a framework that we developed through the Virtual School of Internet Governance that we presented to ICANN and see if it can be used as a shortcut to solve some of the issues with the different dialects and languages that are not available yet through ICANN and the LG system. Thank you.

SIMONE CATANIA

Thanks. I want to give the floor to the NextGen again. I see there is a paper from Ariba about Universal Acceptance. So, maybe it's nice if you can present us with it, if you have findings or your interest in the Universal Acceptance topic. Thank you.

ARIBA ALEEM

Thank you for pointing that out here. My name is Ariba Aleem, and I'm a student at the University of Bonn in Germany. So, my presentation topic for today is Universal Acceptance, which is very much on the policy agenda for ICANN as well, this year as well as in previous ICANN sessions. And I'm looking to have more discussions on Universal Acceptance and I was also happy to hear a lot of perspectives on Universal Acceptance today in this session.

So, it's quite interesting to engage in these multilingual discussions that happen to make the Internet more multilingual. And today I will explore it from a change management perspective and discuss it specifically through the European context. So, this is a relevant topic, I guess and it's very much an ongoing topic which needs more discussions and more participation. So, it is also connected to the multi-stakeholder model that the ICANN and Internet governance are propagating. So, yeah, I'm just happy to present on that topic and ask questions on that, yeah.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Okay, thank you. So, we look forward to your presentation today and very good discussions initiated, so maybe not right in the purview if ICANN, but later it might be the expansion of the purview where we see more deliberations on this topic.

So, different themes we have discussed on policy, Universal Acceptance, inclusivity in policymaking, agentic AI being leveraged in adoption processes, policy building. So, now the next question that we have open is new round of global top-level domains, how it changes the end user's life, and what the ICANN community focus should be. So, this is an open mic for all the participants. Feel free to share your opinion and any suggestions that you have and what you think about this topic.

NATALIA FILINA

We also invite to the microphone fellows, not only NextGen-ers, so please feel free to put some words about your expectations and dreams about next round of gTLD for end users.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Yes, there has been more engagement from the NextGen-ers, so I invite my fellows as well, and the returning fellows as well. I see quite a few of them. What has been your reflection in this particular ICANN, and what do you think on this topic, or any of the topics that we discussed here?

MACIEK PIASECKI

Maciek Piasecki. So, I have a bit more of a specific question relating to this to narrow it down. I know in the global majority countries, a lot of people, the first experience with the internet was the walled garden of the corporate apps of Facebook, WhatsApp, et cetera. Do you think these new gTLDs will be even adopted or has your market matured in different ways where having a top-level domain or a localized domain is in any point relevant?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST

Your silence, it's worrisome. Okay. I don't know, one of the good things of the AI, although everything is a threat for the AI or cybersecurity, is that now we have tools to build websites and to build complete solutions, and these solutions need dot something. And what we are talking here is new dot somethings. Do we need these dot somethings? I don't know, but we are in a round right

now and people are suffering and asking ICANN for new dot somethings.

And maybe it's something that you're going to use in the future. Not only .com, .org, .mail. And they want 1,300 dot somethings that are there. So, it may be your community, may be your nationality, may be all as immigrants from a different part of the world to other parts of the world that need some kind of relationship with our country or something like that. So, that's what we want to hear from you, what this new thought something means to you and if you think this changed something, that it's important, it's relevant. Or that you feel that just having .com, it's enough. Thank you.

FREDERIC TAES

Thank you, Ricardo, for speaking. For the new gTLD, many things to say. I think if we can organize a big topic on this, we have at least 27 new alphabets supported, but I would like to give the floor to Fernanda lunes and Siranush to talk about the newcomer and onboarding program at ICANN. If you can talk a little bit about that. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Hi, everyone, Siranush Vardanyan for the record. ICANN has the onboarding program for newcomers, which we implement at annual general meeting and community forum. And this is because for the policy forum, the program requirements for the fellowship program is to be the returning alumni. So, those who are here for

policy forum, they had been already part of that onboarding program and we don't have those additional two days for the policy forum to implement this onboarding for newcomers. But NextGen-ers for whom this is the first time they went to some introductory onboarding sessions virtually before coming here.

What relates to AGM and Community Forum Annual General Meeting and Community Forum onboarding, these are two days of interaction with the community where we invite all the stakeholders who are part of ICANN multi-stakeholder model to come and talk to newcomers. And these onboarding sessions are not limited to fellows and NextGen-ers only for whom this is the first meeting when they are coming, but for any newcomer who is coming to ICANN.

So, they are able to explore the community in action, explore the community first to learn about who they are, what is their main goal, and how to get engaged. And then the rest of the week the newcomers are given the opportunity to explore the communities in action. So, they go to their sessions to understand the topics they are discussing, the way they are discussing, and ask more questions and probably do a bit of deep dive into the specific community which they might select for further engagement and when they come back next time.

So, this is the main objective of the onboarding, capacity development, learning, and knowing about the multi-stakeholder model. Prior to that, all the newcomers who are part of the

fellowship and NextGen, they have mandatory ICANN Learn courses to be taken, which is some kind of prerequisite for their learning to be ready to hear about those communities.

And the important part of this also, that during the onboarding, we usually request not to use acronyms. This is something, so they start hearing the acronyms, but behind the acronyms, they know the meaning of them. But as the experience showed, all those newcomers who then coming back, they start to talk with those acronyms, so it's becoming usual language for them. So, this is the main purpose of the onboarding which we are implementing, and if you have more questions on this, happy to provide more. Thank you.

FREDERIC TAES

Frederic speaking. Thank you very much, Siranush, and all the ICANN staff working on this, and all the people I see. Glenn notably here, giving wonderful support to the newcomers and yeah, I see some people really --

FERNANDA IUNES

Just one thing I'd like to add. We also have a few newcomer webinars we did in the past that are on the ICANN website. There was one on Universal Acceptance, one on ICANN in general. So, if you go in the newcomer pages on the ICANN website, you'll find a link to those webinars as well and they're there archived for you all to see too.

FREDERIC TAES

Thank you for this complimentary information, Fernanda. And I have to say that even for non-NextGen, the learning program is really amazing also for people going from a community to another one. So, I will close here the meeting and invite you for first hour. Thank you all for your participation. I invite also all the people here, not NextGen, to assist to the next presentation in about half an hour.

About the NextGen presentation, I was there yesterday. It was a really amazing presentation. You did a great job. So, I will go to that meeting and encourage also the others to do the same. Thank you. And thank you to the moderators. Thank you to Natalia for preparation of this meeting and all the RALO who also participated and our interpreters. Thank you.

MOHAMED ATIF ALEEM

Thank you so much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]