
ICANN84 | AGM – Get to Know ICANN Community: SSAC GNSO IDN and UA concepts
Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 10:30 to 12:00 IST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back. And before we start, let me give the floor to my colleague, Fernanda, for the script.

FERNANDA IUNES

Hello, everybody. Welcome back. Welcome to the Get to Know the ICANN Community session today. Right now, we'll have quite a few. So we have the SSAC, the GNSO, and then IDNs and UA concepts. My name is Fernanda Iunes. I'm a participation manager for this session. Please note that the session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. Please observe the following guidelines to participate in the session. I'll also post 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 the session will include English, French and Spanish. If you'd 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. 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

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session. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English, and speak clearly at a moderate pace. And with that, I'll hand the floor back over to Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Fernanda. And yes, we continue to learn about the ICANN Community. And this is part of the onboarding session for all newcomers here. And I welcome all Fellows and Next Genners and all those for whom this is their first ICANN meeting. All the newcomers, thank you for joining us. And today we will start the session with covering what is SSAC. And this is a new abbreviation for many of you. SSAC stands for Security and Stability Advisory Committee. And it's my pleasure and honor to introduce very good folks, friends of ours, our programs and us, Ram Mohan as Security and Stability Advisory Committee Chair, and Tara Whalen, Vice Chair of the same group. And without further ado, I will give the floor to you. And we have moving mics over there. Whenever you have a question, you can raise your hand, and two guys there will help me with the mics and questions. Thank you. Ram, the floor is yours.

RAM MOHAN

Siranush. Thank you, Fernanda. Hello. And nice to be here. Good morning to the Fellows and the Next Gen folks who are here. It's a real pleasure to be with you. So I'm the chair of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. We are chartered inside of the ICANN

ecosystem. And the biggest thing that we do is to provide advice to the ICANN Board and to the ICANN community on issues that relate to the security and stability of the identifier systems that are within the ICANN remit. So that's the primary thing that we do. Tara is here on my right, and down there on in the audience is Jeff Bedset. And we're all members of the SSAC. And it's a small group, 30-something people right now, from around the world. And we are generally pretty technically focused. We often look at important current issues, evolving issues. We are generally not focused on operational matters. So for example, if you came to us and said, "What is your opinion on the AWS outage that happened earlier in the week that had a DNS component to it?", we'll probably say you should go read the incident report because that's not about security and stability of the Internet naming system. That's a particular operational incident that happens. And you will get many of those. However, if you look at the reports that we've written (and we've written over 130 reports in the last 25 years of our existence), you will see that we cover many topics. So I'm really pleased to be here. I'm so glad that Siranush runs this program on behalf of the Internet community, selects you, and brings all of you in here. It's really important, and it's important for the SSAC to be here. So we appreciate always being invited and being able to be here. Tara is going to be here for the entire session. Jeff and I unfortunately have another session to go to in a few minutes time. So we'll be here for the first part of it and then Tara will stay for the

rest of it and then respond to any questions and queries that you have. So with that, let me hand it over to you, Tara.

TARA WHALEN

Thank you, Ram. So I think Ram gave a pretty good intro to the role of SSAC inside of ICANN. So looking at the mission around stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems, that's what we are all here to do as the technical experts who are feeding into that process. So we're here to provide counsel on these matters. And of course, we're an advisory Board to the community and advisory group to the Board. And this is why sometimes people are running between different meetings: because they're looking for our advice all over during this meeting as well. So here we've laid out several of our responsibilities. What we're really doing in SSAC is doing things like conducting a rigorous analysis of potential threats to the naming systems. We may assess operational vulnerabilities. As Ram says, we're mostly not operational, but a lot of the threats will have knock-on effects, carry-on effects, to things that will interfere with operations of the systems, and then we may deliver recommendations on how we might mitigate some of these risks. And so we have recommendations, but also we like to provide deep dives sometimes. We have technical expertise in a lot of areas and so we like to share that with people who could benefit from that kind of a deep dive, explanations of some emerging technologies and particularly what effects they may have on the DNS. And DNS and its related systems have a lot of moving parts, so we have to

coordinate with a lot of other entities. Some of these are going to be inside ICANN; so RSSAC for the root server system, but there's also outside groups such as the IETF. So the Internet Engineering Task Force has related responsibilities for other parts of the Internet ecosystems. And so we need to coordinate and work together. And we do try to keep our security advice in our direction aligned as much as possible to try to ensure that we're all moving in the same direction on these large complex systems. And of course, we also connect with the Board and with the community, and we inform them about our recommendations. So there are a lot of topics that we could be focusing on and we have focused on over the decades of SSAC's lifespan, but we've had a particular focus on some issues that we are calling keystone topics. So these are core topics that we return to repeatedly. And we've kind of become a go-to resource on these topics because of the fact that they are persistent, they're significant or often timely, and people will need strong expert advice on these repeatedly at junctures of particular importance. And what we have at this stage is an extensive library of documents that we have made; reports, advisories and commentary. And we're trying to be sure that that information gets out to the broader community as much as possible. So it's a combination of taking what we've written and are writing and trying to be sure that that is accessible and also digestible. So we're very much focusing on not having a very dry report that we write and make a PDF on and stick on the shelf somewhere. We're trying to be sure that the recommendations and the advice that we have goes out broadly, that it reaches a variety

of audiences who could benefit from it. And we want to focus on very concrete steps that once you read the advice on, you say, well what do I do now? And we want to be in a position to give you actionable advice out of our documents. So what we've started doing, for instance, as one of our initiatives is to publish some short summaries that go along with some of the documents that we've produced on these topics (so snapshots, little 500-word summaries) so that you can get a quick idea of the content, the recommendations that may be in it. And that might encourage you to read deeper into that document if you see fit or at least have a takeaway message from what we said on that particular topic. And so these are our five keystone topics. If you are going to any of our presentations this week, you may see these being described in some of our presentations. So the first one of these is on DNS abuse, and I'd say this has been a focus of the SSAC pretty much from the beginning of its of its lifetime. So this is looking at a variety of security threats, for example, like phishing, how domain names are used in phishing campaigns. And last year in 2024 there were the DNS abuse amendments to the ICANN Registry, and the registrar/registry contracts went into effect. So that became written down in the contracts. And so of course people are looking for advice as to how to fulfill their obligations under the contracts. And we've given a lot of presentations in this area. I think at ICANN81 we for example talked about how AI is being used for DNS abuse for things like phishing campaigns. And in fact we're just starting to look at whether or not we will spin up work party in this area. So we had a lively discussion this morning on that topic. And

we continue to study this area, coming up with recommendations, observations, for improving the integrity of DNS, really trying to lower abuse and foster a more secure online environment. On the next topic of new gTLDs, well, you'll probably notice this is pretty timely at this meeting, but there have been of course new gTLDs being rolled out about as long again as SSAC has been around, around 2001. And we have the new round coming up and, ahead of that round, several issues coming up. For example, there were those studied in the Name Collision Analysis Project or NCAP (I think that took about four years or so—six?; we have six; not even four; it was six; thank you, Ram), which were addressing the risk management of this. It was a multi-year, multi-party, very substantial effort that I came in, I guess, on the tail end of. And I could see the huge amount of work that went into this to prepare for what happens when new strings may be released into the naming systems. So when there's an expansion of the namespace, then we look at things about confusion. What happens when you have a name that was supposed to be only seen internally gets put out to the main network? That will be a cause of confusion, and we want to get ahead of some of these issues; hence a very large analysis project.

RAM MOHAN

Thank you again. I unfortunately need to leave, but you're in great hands with Tara.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Thank you, Ram.

TARA WHALEN

So I'll jump onto the next of our topics, which is DNSSEC. So we do spend a certain amount of our time looking at DNSSEC; so DNS security extensions, of course—security; that's what we're all about. And this is a technology that is relied on for maintaining the integrity of DNS information. And this is a major focus of SSAC. I'll mention there's also a new SSAC work party which is DNSSEC Operational Considerations. So that is really to look at what's going on in the current state of deployment, looking at any kind of operational or technical considerations, what things will help and what things will impede the deployment of DNSSEC, why do you deploy it or why might groups not deploy it, and then see what recommendations that we can make. And I'll note that I think, in this and every one of the ICANN meetings, there's a DNSSEC and Security workshop that happens. Several of the SCAC members are involved in this every year, and I think they've had something like 40 or 50 meetings in which they've had this workshop. And if you're a technically minded person, you will probably enjoy these sessions quite a bit. So I encourage you to attend. I believe they're on Wednesday, if you're able to get away to see that. And these are sessions that are open to everyone. So if you're interested, I do encourage you to go. Another one of our topics is on alternative namespaces. So I think this probably came to people's minds in recent discussions around things like the blockchain, and people were discussing deploying additional namespaces for dealing with

things like cryptocurrency wallets, for instance. But this isn't the first time that this issue has come up, where there's been discussions about what it means to have a naming system that's not based on the DNS. So the general discussion is, well, what does this mean for the DNS? Like, for example, how do these systems coexist and still have a stable and secure Internet? We actually have a work party that's fairly new in this area called Responsible Integration into the DNS Ecosystem, or RIDE. So this was created because new technologies like blockchain and other decentralized platforms do provide novel challenges to stability and security of the DNS. And we'd like to proactively address these challenges to maintain user trust and prevent potential abuse. It can be difficult to know, if you're buying a domain name in one of these spaces, what are the promises, what things happen that may not be what you expect because it may not look like or have the same promises as something that you bought under a traditional.org or.com name. And the final one of our topics is on security and stability aspects of Internet governance. So something that's as globally significant as the Internet is of course accompanied by serious governance issues, including security and stability issues. And there are major technological policy aspects there. And as technologists, we want to be able to provide good advice for policymakers. People are making decisions on technical policy issues, and we feel it would be valuable for those recommendations to be founded in good technical advice. These are people who may not understand how the DNS works, and that can lead to some misguided solutions. And so we'd like to help

there. And we're trying to find ways so that our advice is pitched in a way that can be accessible to someone that's trying to reason about it while making some kind of a policy decision; so telling them what are the crucial security, stability and resiliency topics and how it actually works, and to make them aware of the implications of certain choices. So sometimes they need to not only look at what effect is intended, but are there unintended side effects of a regulation? So one example of this is for recent publication of merits is SAC132, which is that the domain name system runs on free and open source software. And this was motivated because many cybersecurity regulations need to take into account properties of open source software, which underpins a lot of the DNS functionality. So we are presenting this work also at multiple sessions during ICANN 84. This was actually written with a lot of feedback from colleagues in the policy world. We had this in mind while we were developing the report to try to shape it effectively for that audience. And I believe there is a recent ICANN blog post about this as well if you would like a snapshot of the work. So here we've done a quick snapshot of many of the publications. We have a large library that I encourage you to dip into, but these are in categories of several of the major categories that we have here around DNS security, DNS management, registration data, a lot of work, for example on the WHOIS data routing, security, all of those things. There's a variety of subjects. We hope something there might tickle your fancy. We encourage you to dip in, and as we say, we've been trying to do some summaries around these to give you a quick taste of them, and that might help you decide

which one you might want to read. And this list continues to grow as we issue more publications. But to highlight a few of our recent publications and some of the active work (I just mentioned SAC 132 on free and open source software), we also sometimes do comments which are a slightly different document. In that case there are questions that are posed to us or requests made to SSAC and sometimes to other groups which may be in response for a public comment period, for instance, and we might have short comments or we might have a more lengthy document depending on the issue, and it depends on the extent to which this is something that SSAC has been studying. And so we will write a document and send that as a as a comment. And two that were here were about the functional model for root server system governance and also comments on the name collision guidelines for the draft next-round applicant guidebook. A couple of items of current active work: I mentioned these in our major areas of work. There was the DNSSEC Operational Considerations and the Responsible Integration into the DNS Ecosystem groups. And these are then going to be developing publications which will then be released which you can look forward to that work when we have it ready to go. A quick picture of who we are. Just so you realize, you saw me and Ram and Jeff, but we are not all of the SSAC. Here's a snapshot of all of us. We are 38 people at the moment. This is us and our happy smiling faces. We are a set of technical experts from around the world. We've had a lot of new members join, and we're absolutely delighted to have them and their expertise contributing to our work. Geographically, we're still a bit concentrated in North

America and Europe, but it has gotten better recently with our newer members, and we want to do even better in having good global representation. And finally, a little snapshot of the leadership team. You got an introduction to some of us here. We have kind of a steering committee in SSAC. So Ram and I have the formal roles as the chair and the vice chair, and we have Jim Galvin as our Board liaison. And we have two other members who stepped up to do significant responsibilities. We had Jeff and Barry who work with us to help advance our work, and we found this really helpful for balancing our workloads. There's a lot of things we get called to do. As you see, we had to cover two things at the same time at this meeting. And so having lots of people to delegate and take things on has been really helpful for balancing our workloads, leveraging our different skill sets, and just having more hands on deck for moving our initiatives forward and, as I said, stepping in when someone has another ICANN session to attend. But we work very collaboratively, and that's only some of the team. It's worth noting that the ICANN policy support staff are an absolutely essential part of our work, and we would not be getting all the work we've done in such an effective way without their efforts. And they have expertise that's vital for our accomplishing our goals. I mean, for some folks, it's policy training, and that helps us shape our messages, or they have strong writing skills that help us with our technical content to be clearer, or we have research skills sometimes that help find us a helpful resource, and, of course, just project management skills, because for any complex initiative, those project management skills are absolutely necessary. And

also I'm going to note a lot of people here have really deep connections in the ICANN community, and that's really key for us having this successful collaboration and ensuring the advice that we put out is both technically sound and directly relevant to what ICANN and the community need. So that's the end of the overview. I'm going to say if you see any of us, we're happy to meet you during the session. Please say hello. We have a lot of open sessions, and you are more than welcome and encouraged to attend. And I'm always pleased to meet all of you and say hello, and I thank you for having me at your session.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Tara. Thank you very much. Yes, just for all those who don't know SSAC, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, used to meet behind closed doors, but they open the doors for the community during ICANN meetings. Now their sessions are open. And this open mic session is always very informative for all those who are interested to know the security and stability part of how Internet works. So yes, go there. And we can take one or two questions. So please, over there. Yes, please. And thank you guys for helping me with the mic.

SAKSHAM JAIN

Hi, my name is Saksham. I'm with the NextGen program. Thank you for your presentation. Just a little context. So I work with DNS abuse at .au, and my question really is ... So we've had so many sessions since yesterday, and in every single session I've heard that

everyone's working on DNS abuse. Like we had someone from IROS said that they're working on DNS abuse ,and the non-commercial guys are working on DNS abuse. And I also know there's one session by the GNSO at level one going on about DNS abuse. And you mentioned you're working on DNS abuse. So what exactly is everyone doing? And alternate to that, if you can't answer for the others, what is SSAC doing in comparison to what others are doing for DNS abuse?

TARA WHALEN

Yes, I think the amount of attention on it is probably due to the scale and complexity of the problem. So I guess you can say we can definitely say we're working on something relevant. So for us this can really take a variety of forms as to what we look at for DNS abuse. Like I mentioned, for instance, we're not yet sure if we're going to pick up the work in AI, but we had presentations on that specifically about things like how AI is being used to deploy ... We call it attack campaigns at scale; so the way in which AI can be used to tailor something in a language or to impersonate someone with some of the deep fakes so that people might again allow them to download something or follow messages from someone they believe is their CEO. So our role would be to look at the technical aspects of that. Like, are there things that could be put in place to mitigate that risk if anything. So that is very much ours. Is it going to be, I guess, a technical piece? We have people that work in that domain in their own workplaces sometimes. So we can have members at SSAC who may be working at a registrar, for example,

and they'll be seeing what can they use for measuring the risk that something is a domain that's an abusive domain. There's a lot of work with places that are recording data on some of these. And so if there's a company that's recording information like a NetBeacon or something of that nature, then you can look at the research to then feed into like a report or to tell people in the community what are the big attack vectors that are happening. So that's the piece that I would say SSAC works on, if that helps you.

SAKSHAM JAIN

Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Very brief short question so we have time to cover one more.

FURKAN COLHAK

Okay. I'm Furkan Colhak. I'm a Fellow and also founder of PhiShark. I've also presented my paper in ICANN81: AI Techniques in DNS Abuse Mitigation. But the problem is we can develop lots of techniques for detecting phishing and DNS abuse for malware distribution, but I think the problem is we are not providing any layered option for regulations to registrars or domain name providers because they didn't take any of the credentials, any of something. You can easily take [amaz0] and.com, for instance, without anything, and I can sign it like Bruce Wayne. So nothing, not anyone, can find me. Also I can publish it. Are there any regulations for this kind of domain name providers? I had a

research on that, too, and I found that lots of very huge providers have serving malicious activities like GoDaddy and Namecheap. It was an analysis from .IST, Istanbul. This is my question. Are there any regulations for domain name providers?

TARA WHALEN

This is where I would like to hand it to Jeff, who's on our team. He does DNS abuse work all the time. So in terms of regulations, I think we do have a tendency to stay very much in the technical end of things and not push too hard on that except where we can find a place where the technical advice is helpful. I think the biggest change that we would have seen in terms of anything, if it's not regulatory, is I think the amendments to the contract was a big change, sort of putting obligations on mitigating DNS abuse. If you're going to point to something that was a bit more concrete in the ICANN space, it would be that. But I know that there is often a balance to be struck about who is meant to be responsible for which pieces and what things are to be regulated and by whom. And I think a lot of the multi-stakeholder model we have here is trying to find those balance points. And so I think I understand what you were saying about the need for “if regulation were in place, that could be more effective” point for working on that. And there's a big gulf, I think, between that there should be a regulation and the rolling out of a regulation that we feel is effective because it's a complex problem. But I'd also like to continue that conversation. And please come talk to us for a little more on that,

and we can see if we can get a little more nuance and also to find out more about what you're working on. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. And the last question, Miracle.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

Thank you very much, Tara, for your time. My name is Miracle, an ICANN 84 Fellow. By design, the SSAC is really purely an advisory team. And because of the kind of work it does, its membership is constituted of really, really technical people. But I'm curious to know how you find the balance, because you're really an advisory team. You don't implement. So how do you find the balance between all of the policy recommendations that you make, which is as a result of the technical expertise that you have, and making sure that that level of technical expertise is also represented in the body that implements? How do you find that balance between ... because you can't really do it. You just advise, and the folks that get to implement ... I'm sure there's probably some friction, and I'm curious to know how you manage that and the delta between the advisory and the actual implementation. Thank you.

TARA WHALEN

Okay, if I've interpreted your question correctly, it's so we have sort of deeply technical information, but you're also trying to get a message out to people who might be at a different sort of level. They may be, like, very policy, they may be very heads-down in a

particular piece of operational. And we're trying to bridge a lot of different sort of levels of complexity and levels of technical complexity. So we're trying at this stage to take some of the documents and perhaps extract them in a particular way for a particular audience. So the actual technical advisory stays technical, but it's trying to extract messages out of that and put that through some kind of a perhaps communication strategy of some kind, perhaps a blog post or a conversation with a group. When we talk to different groups (we do have meetings with ALAC or GAC, for instance), we will tailor the nature of our conversations to what we feel is their needs and then try to get feedback about that. If we come up with a recommendation, and it turns out that it isn't addressing an issue or something we thought was important, and there's a gulf there, that's something that we want to address. We don't want to be someone who says, "We've just decided what's important, and we're telling the rest of you." It's meant to be more of a two-way conversation, and we're definitely trying to work to build the bridge so that on our messaging, while still remaining technical, we have some way of extracting the salient points for the audience at the level that addresses their need of what level of technical information will help them make a decision in their space, in their policy space, in their customer facing space or whatever the space is that they need a little boost on the technical side. But you are right, that's a difficult balance. And what we often do is rely also on the breadth of skill sets in the SSAC where we have people who are from different areas, and they can also help us

shape the message to the audience as well. But it is a tricky balance.

FERNANDA IUNES

Before we move on, just a quick note for the NextGen: for those of you with a technical background or technical interest, the RSSAC and SSAC open mic community session is on Wednesday morning at 9AM. And we do have our photo shoot at 9:30, so don't be late for that. But you can join their meeting for the first few minutes if that's of interest to you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Tara. Thank you for being here, and I really appreciate it. And let's thank the Security and Stability team for being with us. Thank you. And we move forward to learn more about the GNSO. So what is the GNSO? Generic Name Supporting Organization. And it my pleasure to introduce you to Philippe, who is a former GNSO Chair but current ISPCP Chair, and we will learn what is ISPCP by the end of today. So Philippe, without further ado, the floor is yours.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART

Thank you. Thank you, Siranush, and thanks for the introduction. My name is Philippe. Indeed I'm the current ISPCP chair. I work for Orange. That's a French-based operator. We have operations in a number of different countries. We've been involved in ICANN for probably since before ICANN ever existed; hence the sort of

historical approach that the cue cards that you have on the screen take. So the Generic Names Supporting Organization is one of the three supporting organizations according to the bylaws. It was created, strictly speaking, 22 years ago and resulted from a split from what was called the Domain Name Supporting Organization back then, and that led to the creation of, on one hand, the Country Code Name Supporting Organization (I believe you should have a presentation on that) as well as the Generic Name Supporting Organization. At the time, there were only few TLDs, but since then you might have heard about what was then the new round in 2012, which resulted in more than a thousand new gTLDs in the root zone file. And you may have heard about the new new round, which we will have next year, which hopefully will lead to a few more generic top-level domains in the DNS. So how are we organized? There are essentially two houses. There are two houses in our supporting organization, the Contracted Party House, which is, as the name indicates, those of us who have contracts or agreements, depending on the term, with ICANN, on one hand, and, on the other, those who do not have such contracts with ICANN. Among the contracted parties, you will find the registries on one hand with some sort of ad hoc subgroups like the [Run] Registry Group or the goTLD Group. And the second stakeholder group of the house is called the Registrars Stakeholder Group. So that's for one part. And the other, which I come from, is the Non-Contracted Party House, which is itself subdivided into stakeholder groups, where we have the B.C. (Business Constituency), the IPC, the IP (Intellectual Property, not Internet Protocol, for those who were wondering; for

a number of us, IP here means intellectual property; not necessary for me, by the way; I've got an engineering background; but anyway, there we are) and the ICP constituency That's the Internet service providers and connectivity providers. I believe there's "connectivity" missing there on the screen. So that's for the first subpart of the NCPH (Non-Contracted Party House). And if you're still with me, the second part of the NCPH is the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, which itself consists of the users on one hand and the non-for-profit organizations on the other. So all of this constitutes the GNSO. We actually discuss a number of topics that are policy- and non-policy-related. And it's fair to say that a large part of what we do relates to the development of policies, especially those that relate to generic top-level domains. And I think that's what will be discussed on the next slide, if that would work. So the policy development process, which may take a number of different forms ... I'm not going to go into the detail here, but the point is that we have within the GNSO a policy oversight body which is called the GNSO Council. I would by the way, encourage you to attend the Sunday sessions of the GNSO Council, where you can have an update on the ongoing work as well as the opportunity to ask questions during the open mic. So that's certainly something that you'd like to attend if you can. So anecdotally, back when the GNSO was created, some people actually called the GNSO Council the GNSO Policy Council. It was at the time a bit of a joke, but it's also telling of the fact that this is not an oversight body for the whole GNSO. It is very much a policy-oriented oversight body. It's in charge of making sure that the

policy development process is adhered to in terms of form rather than substance. In addition to that, it is in charge of sort of maintaining and ensuring project management of the policy development. And for them to do that, the stakeholder groups and constituencies in the GNSO have representatives at the GNSO Council. I'll go into the detail on the next slide, but as a work method, these people meet every month as well as at every ICANN meeting. As I said, there's an open mic. Traditionally the Sunday sessions are devoted to sort of an update on this. And given that it's the AGM, the Wednesday meeting of Council is also devoted to the change of guards, as we say, meaning that the newly elected councilors will be seated. So it's always interesting to see. So I would also encourage you to attend the Wednesday session of Council. What do they do in terms of managing the PDP? Well, they take the problem to be solved at the very beginning, as you would expect. They define the scope and the remit of the problem as well as write the charters of those PDPs. And by the way, you will note that people, including myself, tend to call the working groups or the projects the PDPs. So that's sometimes confusing. So the term applies to both the process and the working groups. So the Council is also in charge of overseeing the progress of those PDPs, of those working groups, one example being the Subsequent Procedure that you may have heard about, the implementation of which is wrapping up literally these days. We would also encourage you to attend those sessions that are identified as the IRTs on SubPro. That's the Implementation Review Team that's in charge of the new round. Council is also in charge of reviewing the reports from the

working groups that develop policies, as well as making sure, as I said, that the policy development process is a deal too. And once approved ... And by "approval," I mean that the councilors actually go back to their constituencies and stakeholder groups and see whether they can support the approval in terms of whether the process was followed. And ultimately the reports, the policies that are approved at council, are transmitted to the Board for final approval and ultimately implementation. I'll say a word about the whole process later on. I think we can get to the next slide if it could work. Thank you. Now, in practice, how does that look like? So as I said, you have sort of a representative model whereby the registries and registrars are represented at council, and the other side of the GNSO are also represented. Each stakeholder group has, if my memory serves me well, six members, which is, if you add to that the ... So all together, that would make the 21 councilors that you have on the screen. There are three NomCom appointees to council, one of which is non-voting, as well as three liaisons. I forget why two plus one is not three on the screen. So there's one liaison for ALAC, one for the GAC and one for the ccNSO. Leadership consists of a chair and two vice chairs. The chair will be elected at the AGM, and, on the vice chairs, at least their names will be communicated at the AGM as well. So there's a sort of a rotation of the guard, as you would expect. So that's the layout of the PDP stewardship body. We can go to the next slide. So as the slide indicates, it's a good bunch of people, all members of the GNSO community with their respective expertise. Okay, I think we can move on. And finally, that's a diagram that you would see very

often. That's the Z-shape PDP (Policy Development Process), whereby the process is broken down into the various steps that you would expect. I would say that a policy within the GNSO may be relative to a number of different topics, which could well be essentially the process of developing a policy, such as if you look it up, you may find things like PDP 3.0, for example, which was the actual policy development process. So that's very much a sort of inward-looking sort of work, as opposed to say DNS abuse, for example, which is more sort of substantive. And the GNSO is in fact the only supporting organization where once, for at least for some policies, they are approved and implemented, they would lead to contractual amendments for those companies that I referred to earlier that are subject to contracts and agreement. And that's the way (because there was a reference to regulation with a small R a moment ago) the policies are quote-unquote enforced. And that's the way we make sure that whatever the community develops and ultimately what the Board approves is actually put in place in the contract and in real life. So that Z-shape actually describes how you would actually frame the problem at the very beginning, eventually defines how you define the charter, how you staff the working group. The call for participants, participants to the working group would certainly encourage you to ... And some of the working groups are open to observers. So you don't need to be a member of the GNSO community to be part of them. So you can, even without attending ICANN meetings, be part of a working group. That's always enlightening. I would encourage you to do that if you're interested in policy development. Certainly,

depending on the type of working groups, the GNSO Council, as I said, oversees the development of the policy, and there are different steps in that through the publication. And all of this is transparent to the community in terms of the calls being open as well as the reports being published for open comments, public comments, as well as the final report, which is ultimately reviewed process-wise by the GNSO Council and hopefully approved, which will then go to the Board and if approved by the Board, then implemented by the organization with the help of community members. I'm sort of oversimplifying this, but you get the picture of how we go from essentially a rough problem statement that we need to resolve up to a point where, for example, provisions are inserted into contracts and agreements for contracted parties. So I think I can stop here and see whether you have questions. Again, I can only repeat the benefit of attending some of the sessions that are relative to these examples being of a PDP that's in flight. There's the Latin Diacritics PDP that's meeting this week, which is sort of the phase that you have in amber orange on this slide. You can attend the IRTs, which is more like the end phase. I think that that's the blue part that you have here and hopefully the very end of it, because you will see that the IRT meetings are actually outreach. So it's really the end, hopefully, of that process for SubPro. But again, it's just a call for you to attend those meetings. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you, Philippe. Very important overview of GNSO work and the policy development process. And we do have a couple of

questions. Deepak, I see you, and I'm sorry if I miss the names because I don't see well from here because of the slides. So wherever I identify the person, I may call the name Deepak.

DEEPAK DESAI

Hi, I'm Deepak Desai, a current ICANN Fellow. So I noticed that each of the steps in the process can take like two to four months. That would total to about two years. So I was wondering how do you cope with a change in the timeline? Let's say you start something today and then two years down the line the policy might not be current and may not be relevant at that time. I was wondering how do you cope with that? Or do you have a plan for that ready when you start the process?

PHILIPPE FOUQUART

Thank you. You see, that's why I like the Fellows sessions: because even from the first question you get a sense that you pinpoint some of the issues that are really crucial, one example being DNS abuse, over which there's a discussion about a policy on that topic. And the question that you asked is at the crux of the issue; and I'm not saying that the answer is yes or no to what I'm going to be saying, but just to illustrate what you just said. As you noted, all of this in terms of timeline and in terms of, for example, the duration of the public comments period for the initial report as well as for the final report and the staffing of the working group, there's always so much you can do in a certain amount of time. So if you put that together according to the PDP manual and the GNSO operating

procedures, this will lead to a certain duration that you can't squeeze out. And the duration of this is indeed a challenge. It's indeed a challenge. And what you ask is a question that Council is always asked, is always wary of, when they consider the point possibility of creating a new PDP. What you asked, as to whether a policy is the right mechanism to address a certain topic, is exactly what is what will be discussed on DNS abuse, for example, whether at this meeting or at the next call for Council. I'm not sure there's a simple answer to this. We can always say with hindsight that, for example, having an all-encompassing PDP where you put a number, an exhaustive list, of questions to be addressed is the right way but then would lead to a very long and tedious process and is better than small, focused PDPs which may well not take into account the dependencies between the various questions. So there's a timeline with this. Once we decide to create a PDP, it means that it will have to take a certain amount of time, which arguably will be too long for the problem at hand, which may be considered too long for a problem at hand. And the question you ask, I think is something that even beyond the GNSO, ICANN and the community should be wary of because it really has a huge impact as to how ICANN as a whole is perceived by the outside world and whether it is perceived as an effective policy development body. The solution that a PDP can come up with is an element of that, but the ability as far as the process, the ability of the community to deliver in due time, is also crucial. So it's not a simple answer to your question, but that's a tough one, and I hope you can appreciate. I would encourage you to have a look on this,

to have a look at the discussions on the potential creation of a policy development for DNS abuse because that's the sort of trade-off that people will be trying to come up with.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Any other question? Yes, I see. Tinuade, correct? Yes. And Maciek, you have the question.

TINUADE OGUNTUYI

Thank you so much. Tinuade Oguntuyi, ICANN Fellow from Nigeria. From one of the slides, you showed the organization structure, and I see, like, dots to ALAC and ccNSO. Can you just please maybe explain what that part is? Secondly is the question that my co-Fellow asked about this policy taking so long. I happened to join the GNSO Council mailing list as an observer, and every other time, I think the famous name I hear most is Tomslin always sending this mail we have sat with. So is it possible that maybe while this work is ongoing, there is some form of temporal measures to still deal with the matter before the final document so that, like you said, is not by the time the policy is ready, [when] the issue is even long gone? Thank you.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART

Thank you. All good questions, obviously. On the first one, yes, there are three liaisons, as I said, to ALAC, the ccNSO, as well as the GAC. The reason for this is arguably the importance of the policies that are developed by the GNSO and ultimately the impact of those

for the whole ICANN community and the Internet in general; hence the need to liaise and consider the views of our ALAC, cc's, ccNSO and GAC colleagues. Those are liaisons, so it's not like we are mandated to accommodate advice from our colleagues, if you see what I mean. This is not mandatory, but we're also conscious of the next steps, as I said, in terms of what happens when a GNSO policy is approved and the fact that, down the road, there will be advice by those advisory committees. So it just is right and proper that we liaise with them and, more than a liaison, that we consider, in the initial stages of the policy development, their opinions on whether a certain remit is better than another. One example of a corporation that was done two years ago, three years ago, on closed generics, which was a bit of a special beast, shall I say, is we did put together a group of ... Not only that was relative to a potential, down the road, gTLD policy ... Now, nonetheless, beyond council, it gathered people from ALAC, the cc's as well as the GAC to consider whether in that specific case whether closed generics TLDs would be a good idea or not. So all of this is to say that the reason for those liaisons are essentially to make sure that the ... I guess a blunt way to say this would be that what we develop through the PDPs are not short-lived and may go to the Board, be approved with those major inputs from our colleagues included, if you see what I mean, rather than having advice at the end of the Z-shape and having to revise either during public comments or even later on the end result of a PDP. So that's for the first question, I think. The second was more on the how council works and the notion of observers on the list. I think you're right. I think there's

no way to, even from a sort of administrative standpoint, to ... Now, the list is public. Now, arguably the wiki is (I was the first to say that) really poor. It's very 20th-century, but we are where we are. It's not handy at all. And I think you're right: I don't think there's a way for observers to subscribe to the list. You have to go to the wiki, you have to go to the archive, which is a bit too tedious. Certainly it's something to consider, given that the list is public anyway. You will not have posting rights. Only councilors do. But it's something that we can take forward as feedback. I think that's a good remark. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

So you know now that people are reviewing, and it should be user-friendly, especially for the first timers to go and find out the information. We are not able to take more questions unfortunately, but Philippe, thank you very much. Thank you for being here and thank you for always being supportive to newcomers. Thank you. And with that if we can have our last slides up, I would like to introduce my two colleagues from ICANN, Seda and Pitinan. They both are dealing with universal acceptance, and I know many of you are interested in this topic. Many of us are coming from the countries where English is not the first language, and we want to see our languages on the Internet. So these two ladies will tell us how this this universal acceptance concept works and whatever is behind them. So the floor is yours, ladies.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA Thank you, Siranush. And I'm very pleased to be here with all the Fellows and NextGen.. So I am Pitinan, and on my left is Seda, my colleagues. So we are from the Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance Team. Long names, but it's the IDN and UA Team. So I will go over a little bit on the IDN part, and then I'll pass over to Seda to talk about the universal acceptance. So just a overview. We normally get used to the domain names in English on the top per se. Technically we call it the American Standard Code of Information and Interchange or, in short, ASCII domain names. And just a show hands: how many of us actually speak non-English at home, for example? All of us on the panel as well. So I have a lot of friends. And how many of us think that we can communicate way better? We can tell jokes better if we use our own language of course, right? So it's the same thing on the Internet. We also hope that if we also have the internationalized domain names or the ones below, that will create meaningful access for the Internet users. And basically for all of us, we may be able to communicate in English as well, but we also have another few more billions people on the globe where they actually don't even have English as an option. So we hope that for this work we actually work together with the community. We will also help in bringing those people to become online and also enjoy the benefit of the Internet. So to do that, our program objective is to enable the deployment of domain names in local languages and scripts used by the community globally, but it has to be in a secure and stable manner. And just to note the terms language and scripts, for example, when we talk about English language or French language, those are the

languages that use the Latin script, for example. For the Russian language, it uses the Cyrillic script. So sometimes you may have heard language and the scripts used interchangeably. So to enable all these new languages and scripts on the Internet, we actually have a few considerations we need to go through because we also need to make sure that they are stable. So three main things I'll go through later in the slide as well. First is to identify what are the set of characters that actually needs for that language or script. Secondly, there's a concept of variant, which is something quite interesting you will see later. And the last one is, what are the rules that needed for the language and the scripts? So the first bit of it is, when we talk about the IDN for language or the scripts, what are the code points or character that should be allowed? So if you imagine the ASCII characters, they are actually the ones that we see on the keyboard normally. On the ASCII itself, the total is 127 code points or characters. And basically there are more things that may be not usable for names; for example, the mathematic symbols like minus, plus and equal sign. Or also there are some things that cannot be even seen, like the space bar, the [new line], for example. So it's just only in the ASCII via the Internet standard that is already shortlisted; only 63 code points can be used in domain names, which is A to Z and digits and hyphen. So if we go to the Unicode standard, which encode a lot more characters in our many languages and scripts, in this current version, 16.0, is already encoded 172 scripts which is almost 300,000 code points. So that's something we need to work with the community to shortlist the ones that really are needed in everyday use. Otherwise you kind of

enable something unnecessary. And the more code points you add in also present some risk as well. For example, you imagine I and L or O and 0, which are already kind of able to confuse. So if you add more things which is not used, it's actually not worth the risk that is gained. So that's the first part. Then the second part of the rules is something we call variant. And this is the concept that may be news to you. So the variants means something that is perceived as the same by the script community, and it can be in two aspects. First is same [and] it needs to be defined for the security purpose. So if you see the word “epic” in blue on the left/up, it is actually from Latin scripts. So the digits below is from the Latin code point in Unicode. And then if you see the words that look like “epic” (it is not the correct spelling), that's from the Cyrillic code chart. Basically if you see [behind], it is a different code point altogether. So these blue things in two labels, to the human eyes, are exactly the same. We cannot tell the difference. But if you type it into the browsers, you may end up in different places because the computer think this is different places. So in this case, the Latin community and the Cyrillic community come together and define that, okay, the 0065 and 0435 are variants to make sure that if one version is in the domain names, the other version shouldn't exist. Otherwise this can be confusing. So that's one aspect of variant for security. There is also another aspect of variant for usability. And this one may relate more to the Chinese or Arabic community. So if you see the example for Chinese on the far right, the Chinese have two versions of Chinese: the simplified Chinese used in the mainland and the traditional Chinese used by some others

elsewhere. So the Chinese community will be able to see these two versions and recognize it as the same. And they understand it's the same thing and is pronounced the same way, meaning the same thing. And if you imagine you are a brand owner in China mainland and you want to have your domain name accessible to many places in the world, you may want to have two versions of it alive at the same time. So in this case, the Chinese community will come together and then define that, okay, 95E8 and 9580 are variants, but they have some identified as the type allocatable. So it'll be able to be used at the same time, but it needs to go to the same owner per se. And similarly on the Arabic scripts, because the Arabic script has been used in many languages also, over time it changed some of the characters into some other version of it. But similarly, if you are a business owner in one country, and want your customer from any Arabic country to access, you might want to have more than one version alive. So this is the second concept of how to enable the IDNs if they are variant, either for the security perspective or usability perspective. That needs to be defined. And we work with the relevant community to define all this. And then lastly, it's about the rules. I don't have the slide for that, but you can imagine something like if you spell cafe with the E with the accent, it will be very strange if you have the accent (like, more than one) on the E. So there are some scripts that need some certain rules that some of the vowels shouldn't be in a different place. Otherwise, it cannot be rendered properly. So all these three parts (the code point, the variants and the rules) we, in general, call label generation rules or LGR, and these are the rules that need to be

defined by the communities before we can enable any language [order] scripts into the domain name system. We have the rule for two separate levels. On the root zone we have the root zone LGR which now we cover 27 scripts for. And for the second level we cover 28 scripts and also 32 languages. And this is because it's slightly different in the rules: on the second level you also allowed to use digits and hyphen and so on, which is by the standard not allowed on the top-level domain. So moving on, that is the technical background with that we have been working with community on and making ready. Now on the current situations, on the top level, if you look at the middle columns of the digits, on the IDN TLDS, in total we have 151 already on the root zone. 61 of them are the ccTLDs, and we also have 90 of them from the gTLDs. These cover 23 scripts and 37 languages. So I hope you can see your own languages listed there hopefully. Okay, then on the second level, within ICANN we have the data, the zone file from the generic top-level domain. So within the gTLD itself, the number is around 1.4 million registrations. Half of it is from Chinese or Han scripts. And interestingly the second largest registration, about 28%, is from Latin. We thought that maybe Latin script users might be more used to English, but actually they also have some characters that is not available in ASCII, and that is something they like to do. And we have all these Korean, Cyrillic, Japanese and so on. There may be more registration under ccTLDs as well. By the report from the IDN World Report, it should be about 4 million. But this is the data within ICANN that we can present. So with that I think that's about it from my part. I will hand it over to my colleague, Seda. But

before I hand it over, I'm not sure I can take maybe one or two questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Yes, I see Umair has one question, and we'll see if we can take more. But if not, the ladies will stay like for 10, 15 minutes more for responding.

UMAIR SUHAIDI

Thank you for your presentation. For the record, I'm Umair, one of the NextGen participants from Malaysia. And I've been organizing Universal Acceptance day in Malaysia for two years, 2024 and 2025. I'm happy to do it. So my question is that I understand that ICANN has been strongly committed to promoting Internet inclusivity through UA and IDNs. So do you think that it's time for ICANN itself to adopt UA-ready or IDN-based domains to set an example and encourage broader implementation? We see that now we have ICANN.org which is in Latin, right? So don't you think that we should adopt an IDN for an ICANN domain itself? So thank you so much for your presentation and, yeah, I'm looking forward to your answer. Thank you.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA

Thank you for your question. We actually been we've been considering it, talking about it, internally, but I guess step-by-step what we are now doing is to make sure our ICANN system become

UA-ready. And I think we do we have that case study? So maybe for UA part I'd ask for the case study.

SEDA AKBULUT

Yeah. Regarding the UA readiness, we have a case study published already that shows our progress in a step-by-step approach, and we are also regularly reporting on ICANN systems' UA-readiness. Recently on the community update session, we have given the details of the this, I think it was around 93% as the UA-readiness level that has been achieved so far but it's continuing because there are some dependencies on the other third-party vendors.

UMAIR SUHAIDI

Amazing. Happy to know that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you. Maybe one more? Go ahead.

RIYADH ZEHLAH

Thank you. Riyadh Zerah, ICANN84 Fellow. Could you please put to us the link for the case study?

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA

Thank you. Then I guess I will close the IDN part and I will also end over to Seda for universal acceptance, which relates to your question as well. And for the IDN bit, I believe you will have the slide later. If you don't see your language or script listed, and you would

like to discuss how to add them, please contact us as IDNprogram@icann.org. Or if it's already listed and you want to start having your own IDNs and don't know how to start, you are also welcome to contact us, and we can perhaps can guide you. And with that I hand it over to Seda. Thank you.

SEDA AKBULUT

Thank you, Pitinan. Thank you, Siranush. So IDNs and UA are the most important topics as we can say because they are paving the way to the future of the Internet. And I'm happy to be here for this opportunity to meet and interact with the future of the Internet, as you hear. I'm going to introduce universal acceptance and talk about the benefits of universal acceptance, how you can help make the Internet make more multilingual and diverse, and how you can participate in UA Day 2026 and then we will hopefully have some time for questions. Originally designed in English, the Internet has evolved and now it's supporting more than 30 languages as mentioned. So the technical structures, architectures and the standards are available and largely exist for registering domain names and email addresses in different kinds. But when it comes to using them, your experience relies on the vendors and how the software systems were designed and depends on whether they deployed the required standards in their systems to recognize your email IDs or domain names. So there are more than 5.5 billion Internet users in the world and, still unconnected, 2.6 billion people, more or less, whose languages are not the English as the first language. So imagine how they will experience the Internet

when they first become online, how they will type and then read their email addresses or domain names on a typical browser. This illustration is showing how actually the user experience may look like in different scenarios. So to put in a Shakespearean way: “To be UA-ready or not to be UA-ready. That is the question.” So if your system is accepting the email IDs in different languages or scripts, or if a website is displaying the domain name correctly in the original script, or whether it is resolving or not, then it becomes UA-ready. So in the first example on top, you see a full English domain name that is just longer than usual three-characters after the dot on the right side, and when typed on the address bar, the website resolves. And in the second example, again the IDN domain name is displaying correctly and also resolving the page, and you can register your email address internationalization on a website on a typical traditional domain name. So those three first examples show us how the UA readiness may look like. But if the domain name is not displayed correctly or the website doesn't resolve, or your valid email address is not recognized, just like the examples on the red lines in the second line, then it means that those are not UA-ready and not meeting the UA readiness principles. So we want to achieve the first three examples here. And what are those UA readiness principles? What is UA? So let's define. So universal acceptance is a fundamental requirements for interoperable and digitally inclusive Internet where all domain names and email addresses work in all Internet applications, devices and systems regardless of the script language and the character length. And its scope is limited with the domain names and email addresses only,

but in in different script languages and character length, and also in different directions when it comes to writing from left to right. So at the bottom you see the five UA readiness principles. So for us to say that a system is UA-ready, that must accept, validate, process, store and display all the valid types of email addresses, domain names, including the IDNs and new gTLDs, correctly and consistently. So why does UA matter, and what's in it for you? With UA, everybody can experience the full benefits of the Internet whether they can speak English or not. And they can navigate and communicate on the Internet using their chosen domain name that best represents their identity, that best represents their business, culture, language and so on. And there's of course also an economic side of it. If UA is not adopted, then businesses face the potential lost revenue, lost customer satisfaction and more. A business study that was conducted in 2017 found out that there is a 9.8 billion opportunity when UA is implemented. And this is a conservative estimation. And UA also brings career opportunities. Becoming proficient is not requiring learning a new category of coding, but rather you can build upon your existing skill set that just helps you to configure the systems to support the UA. Believe me, this is one of the most meaningful experiences one would imagine in their career because fixing it just requires a few codes lines, but the impact is global. I hope you get this kind of joy in your career. And how can you can help shape the Internet? UA readiness requires considerable effort by all of us. It cannot be done by isolation. So if my email system or website is UA-ready but not others, then we have a communication problem. It's not

interoperable. So everybody needs to do something, and everybody takes on responsibility. It's not something ICANN can do by its own while we are doing it and focus on UA readiness. But it's not something we can do by ourselves. For example, my role is UA Program Manager, but it's not something I can do by myself. So we need collaboration and cooperation from different stakeholders. So ICANN actually has this topic, UA and IDN and multilingual Internet and digital inclusiveness, in its five-year strategic goals. And we regularly report our progress on the UA work. On the other hand, on the stakeholders, as we define some of them here, governments are the drivers on UA readiness, and they may encourage the UA adoption in the procurement policies and reach their citizens in their own local languages using their own scripts. And businesses on the other hand, may reach the untapped 2.6 billion or more people and all the Internet users with just the right configuration and just by updating their systems, configuring them and supporting UA using the UA-friendly libraries, our free sample codes or an email system that can be self-hosted using our codes. So those can be achieved by businesses. On the other hand, the academic institutions and universities are also an important part of our stakeholders to push UA by design. Just by for example integrating the UA curriculum in their existing IT related courses, the students may graduate with these skill sets and use those skills in the new systems that they may generate.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Seda, just to let you know, we have only three minutes left.

SEDA AKBULUT

Okay. So I think this is the last one. So another thing that you can do is to be part of UA Day 2026. Since 2023 we've been organizing annual events, and this is going to be the 4th annual event. The call for proposal was published, and we are now accepting the proposals that are submitted and that can be submitted on the Universal Acceptance Day page. And we are estimating to have around 30 events mostly focusing on UA adoption. And the events will take place from 25th March to 30th May 2026. In this effort we are collaborating with UNESCO, similar to the UA Day 2025, and you can find more details on our website if you want to be part of this mobilization towards a multilingual and inclusive Internet. So you can either submit a proposal or participate in one of the events that are happening. So the events will be listed on our websites. And you can still collaborate and contribute on UA and learn more about that, more about UA and IDNs. And there will be two more sessions left in ICANN 84. One is tomorrow about a roadmap towards UA adoption, and the other one will be led by Pitinan on Tuesday. So we all welcome you to join these events. And that's the end of our session, I guess, and I will be more than happy to get your questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much. And we might get one question over there.

SAMEER GAHLOT

Sameer, for the record, current ICANN Fellow. One question. Currently ICANN is collaborating with the African region. They have this initiative, the Coalition on Digital Africa, wherein they are disseminating UA-related programs to academia or to educational institutions. What are the plans for the other regions? Like, the Asia-Pacific region has one of the most vibrant and the most young population currently. Because if we would want to disseminate UA, then we cannot skip the Asia-Pacific region on that part.

SEDA AKBULUT

Thank you for the question. Yes, we are collaborating with the Coalition on Digital Africa, an association of Africa Universities. That's one example. But we also have collaboration with the local initiatives. So we have currently local initiatives in the APAC region; one in China, one in Sri Lanka. So there are more. So you may be collaborating with them. And UA Day is actually happening all around the world. It, for example, had participants in 82 countries by 23,000 of people, and many of them were in the APAC region and in the Africa region because those regions are having non-English language as their first language. So UA Day is one of the options. Local initiatives are there but we have also the Global Stakeholder Engagement team that may be also helping with your interactions, I guess. Yeah, the Curriculum Integration Program is another option as I just briefly mentioned. So if the academic institutions or universities are interested in implementing UA, that may be a good

option that you can contact us for at UAprogram@icann.org. Just let us know how you can start integrating the courses. We have 12 micromodules that cover internationalization, university acceptance and other topics. So step-by-step, it can be also a good option for the universities to adopt the UA curriculum.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Thank you very much, ladies, and I appreciate your time. All the PowerPoint presentations are available on our schedule, so please, if you need any details from those, you can easily download them. And with that, the session is adjourned. See you on the next session after the lunch. Downstairs. Ground floor, [Forum 3] room. ccNSO and RRSAC overview. So we'll get to know those two communities. See you soon. And thank you, Philippe. Thank you, Seda. Thank you, Pitinan.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]