

## Applicant Information

**First Name:** Zakir

**Last Name:** Syed

**Gender:** Male

**Country of Residence:** Pakistan

**Stakeholder Group/Constituency Affiliation:** NCSG.NCUC

## Questions

### **1. Current employer and position. Please describe the type of work you perform:**

**Answer:** Currently working as independent/freelance consultant, I am an ICT strategy and research professional having in depth knowledge of emerging technologies and innovation, Internet governance and latest trends in the role of ICTs in different sectors. I have over 10 years of experience in the ICT policy & regulation. I have been part of the annual national SIG as faculty member for the past 5 year and am also an ISOC Certified Moderator for IG course and have successfully moderated a number of rounds over the past few years.

### **2. Education:**

- BSE (Hons) Software Engineering
- MBA

### **3. Please identify any GNSO Working Groups and/or chartered teams in which you are participating:**

**Answer:** I have been an active part of the ICANN community both at regional and beyond region level. As an active member of ICANN Strategy Working Group (Middle East) I have contributed to a number of statement and initiatives including the ME DNS Forum, MEAC SIG, etc etc. I also have been a multiple times ICANN Fellow and Fellowship Program Coach in the past. I am a member of NCSG/NCUC and have been following the mailing lists regularly and contribute to the discussion as and when I think I am in a position to.

### **4. Please describe any past involvement in the ICANN Fellowship Program, if applicable. For example, have you previously been a fellow or served as a program mentor?**

**Answer:** Yes. I have been an ICANN Fellow in the past and have also been a fellowship program mentor/coach. Besides, I have, in the past, co-lead the ICANN info booth which is considered to be the hub on information and help for ICANN fellows.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to mentor and moderate IG course for the fellows of different national and regional Internet governance initiatives, including PKSIG, MEAC-SIG, APIGA, and APRIGF among others.

5. **Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience and expertise address the criteria listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.**

- **Active participant in GNSO structures and policy development processes with a track record of engagement**

**Answer:** I am a regular member of the NCUC/NCSG and have been following the discussions on the mailing lists and where necessary and feel comfortable I contribute.

Apart from NCUC/NCSG involvement, I have been an active member of (ICANN's) regional strategy working group (for the Middle East) and have contributed to drafting the strategy, charters, and statements of the said WG.

I have a good understanding of the ICANN ecosystem and the working.

- **Previous experience serving as a mentor, teacher, or learning facilitator is a plus**

**Answer:** I have been an ICANN Fellow in the past and have also been a fellowship program mentor/coach. Besides, I have, in the past, co-lead the ICANN info booth which is considered to be the hub on information and help for ICANN fellows.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to mentor and moderate IG course for the fellows of different national and regional Internet governance initiatives, including PKSIG, MEAC-SIG, APIGA, and APRIGF among others.

- **Strong written and verbal communication skills**

**Answer:** I have strong written and verbal communications skills and have been regularly attending webinars/calls by the ICANN community and other related foras.

Also, I have completed all my university education from universities where the medium of instruction, the course content, and examination were all in English.

I have over 10 years of professional experience working for and with international organizations where the primary medium of communication has been English.

I have been attending meetings, conferences and taking trainings in English.

As a trainer and visiting/guest lecturer, I have been giving trainings and lectures in English.

- **Project management and coordination skills**

**Answer:** I have good project management and coordination skill and can handle multiple tasks/projects at a time. This is in fact one of the major requirement for the work and so I can comfortable manage projects/tasks and coordinate effectively.

- **Networking skills**

**Answer:** I have good networking skills, both, when it comes to the ICANN community as well as the broader Internet governance landscape, all at local, regional and global level.

6. **Please assess and explain how your knowledge, experience & personality meet the desired attributes listed below. Leave the response blank if not applicable to you.**

- **Member of a GNSO Stakeholder Group and/or Constituency  
NCSG/NCUS**

**Answer:** Having been involved in the in the ICANN community and being an alumni of the ICANN fellowship program, I have a good understanding of ICANN community, the Org, and the significance of its role in the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet and the global root of the DNS.

I am a member of NCUC/NCSG and have a good understanding of the overall structures within the ICANN community, including but not limited to the SOs, ACs, and the CCWGs.

- **Understanding of the ICANN’s mission, structure, and multistakeholder model**

**Answer:** Yes, I have a very good understating of the ICANN’s mission, structure and the multistakeholder model. As part of the regional Strategy WG for the Middle East, I am very closely looking at the ICANN strategic plan, for the regional strategy that is being developed has to be in line with ICANN’s Strategic Plan.

- **Willingness to devote the necessary time a resources prior to and during the ICANN meeting**

**Answer:** Yes, I am very much willing to devote the necessary time for the mentorship process.

- **Ability to create a supportive atmosphere for mentees by being open, accessible, and approachable**

**Answer:** Yes, I have extensive experience in this regard and have been working with groups there by being available to them on different communication means, including but not limited to email, phone, whatsapp, etc. I also am well versed with zoom, and good docs, which are extensive being used in the work of ICANN community and so allows me to collaborate, coordinate and work with, team in such programs.

- **Robust network within the ICANN community and ability to leverage and share that network**

**Answer:** Yes, I have a very good network within the ICANN community and so will definitely be leveraging that network. I did similar activities in the past during ICANN meetings thereby inviting ICANN board member, community leaders, and staff to ICANN info booth for short talks to the fellows.

- **Ability to present information in a manner that is simple and easy to understand**

**Answer:** Yes, I have the necessary skill and experience required for such a role to be able to communicate information in an easy to understand and friendly manner.

I am also Internet Society Certified Moderator have got the training that will be of great help in this role.

- **Ability to establish weekly projects and deliverables for mentees using a clear and consistent learning approach**

**Answer:** Yes, having been ICANN Fellowship Program coach and ISOC expert moderator, I have well versed in this and have been doing similar activities for years now. Likewise, I am a self-starter capable of managing multiple projects, setting goals, and meeting deadlines and well heling meet deadlines by the team. I would use these skills to meet deadlines, and provide performance that meet the needs by this role.

**7. Please explain your interest in serving as a mentor and what you will bring to the Fellowship Program if selected.**

**Answer:** Having been part of the ICANN community for years and mainly focusing on ICANN's work in the region, in addition to participation in the NCUC/NCSG and the CCWGs, I believe more is needed from the fellow from our region. This would be an opportunity to mentor and help guide new comers particularly in the policy development processes. The fellowship program is a great opportunity for new comers to shape their experience and knowledge tremendously and for the mentors to make it easy for them to delve deeply into the ICANN community and contribute effectively.