
YESIM SAGLAM:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO ICANN 77 readout taking place on Thursday, 6th of July 2023 at 6:00 UTC. We will not be doing a roll call for the sake of time. However, all attendees both on the Zoom room and on the phone bridge will be recorded after the call. I would like to remind all participants to please mute your lines when not speaking to prevent any background noise and also to state your name when taking the floor, please. And thank you all for joining. And now I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Cheryl. Thank you very much.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

And thank you, Yesim, and thank everybody else for turning up for today's Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organization, in other words, APRALO, our policy forum. But we're doing a readout on the recent ICANN 77 meeting, which was held in Washington, D.C.

Okay, we have five fabulous and deeply engaged individuals here today who are going to give their very personal perspectives from their experiences out of ICANN 77. And we've asked them to think about three particular questions that I'll approach and we'll give them probably three to four minutes each to respond to these. I'll sort of start waving frantically when they hit the four minute mark. And if they can wrap up at around that time, that will be great because it'll take a little bit of a moment for us to transition.

I'm going to ask Yesim to put into the chat, however, the link to the wiki page, which is associated with today's meeting. Because what I do want

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you all to do is have a look at the little bit of material that is on there about each and every one of these speakers. If I was to read through introductions and go through the great details that I think you should know about each of them, we'd be taking far too much time. So I'm just going to go through them in a very random order, although I might start with the order that they are on the agenda just to begin with. And we're going to take a quick round robin and move on to the next set of discussions.

During this time, please, every one of you participating here, feel free to interact in the chat if you are comfortable doing so. We will capture any particular questions and if anybody would like to have one or other of the panelists particularly pay attention to something you want to raise, just pop their name at the beginning so we can draw attention as we go through and do a little bit of a rounding up. And it might prompt them for one of the later questions in our round. That's my allocated time done now.

So I'm going to start off by just asking each of you to take, as I say, just a couple of minutes to bring to our attention from your point of view what the takeaways were from ICANN 77 for the part of ICANN that you were there and representing. So the GAC, the ccNSO, the GNSO, Fellowship, or as I'm going to start with Amrita, APRALO. Amrita, over to you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Cheryl. If I want to keep it very succinct, one of the significant progresses was gearing up towards the new gTLD round

while the community is working to iron out the issues which the board had labelled as pending for us. You know, the work on IDNs, universal acceptance, making the applicant support program more, I would say, friendly and kind of remove the barriers which can stop diverse applicants from kind of applying in the next round. And also deep diving on how the At-Large community can support in this round, looking at ways in which we can do is something which is very important for us. Obviously, to build the trust on the Internet, issues like DNS abuse, how those can, you know, what policies are coming, those are of importance. There were some significant discussions on that between the registry agreements, etc. So those were of importance to us.

But yes, overall, the next round is something which we are actively watching. And from the At-Large community, we would want to contribute significantly and we know we can do so. And perhaps in your next questions, I would be able to respond to that. And I hope I've kept up to my time.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Not only kept up, you've gained us some. So thank you very much. If you all do that, well, I'll be very pleased indeed. I'm going to move now to Juliana. Now, as a part of the fellowship alumni, we'd all be very, very interested to hear your perspective, what takeaways you would have been wanting to share with us from your ICANN 77 experience. Juliana, I'm sorry, she doesn't have video, but let's listen carefully.

JULIANA HARSIANTI:

OK, thank you, Cheryl. It's Juliana from Indonesia for the record. I'm ICANN 77 fellowship alumni and I think this is my take from the ICANN 77. From my point of view in general, certain issues have progressed during the meeting, especially the new application progress for the gTLDs, DNS abuse and digital inclusion.

The process has brought a voice [inaudible] stakeholders to make decisions more inclusive and could have more impact to the diverse communities. On the DNS abuse issue, the discussion talks about to move into legal framework, which I think is a good thing. I think DNS abuse is a serious issue and continuous multistakeholder cooperation is need to [inaudible] and it's also become the topic [in APAC DNS] forum from yesterday.

ICANN 77 was also embraced the digital inclusive, especially to work more on universal acceptance. It is indeed to bring more people to getting closer with the Internet as people around the world have different language system and alphabetical. And what's next for us as the end user to have more engaged on this discussion and the process as mostly of us has experience in IGF, Internet Governance Forum, multistakeholder model cooperation might take more time to convey. We might get the work and spirit on certain issue and use all available channel at ICANN to continuously give the feedback for the community. I think this is for me for now.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Well, thank you very much Juliana, appreciate all of that, I must say, and you're all setting a very high standard for very succinct interventions,

which means we might actually get some time for more interaction and even hopefully deal with some questions and participation from our audience. Antonia, I know you're in a very public place and we will forgive you for all background noise. From the GNSO Council perspective, and obviously from the registrar perspective as well, what are your takeaways you'd like to share with us?

ANTONIA CHU:

Yes, thanks, Cheryl. First, I want to say that this is actually my first official APRALO meeting and I feel very privileged and I hope my input that you will find useful. For my personal takeaway from ICANN77 and yes, I'm coming from the GNSO side, I think the most important two programs, actually our previous speakers already mentioned that the first one, of course, is the progress of the next round of new gTLD. We all know that this process has been going on for quite a long time. Yes, and for the Cancun ICANN meeting, the board, ICANN board actually gave GNSO Council some homework to do. There are several, if I remember correctly, there are 38 pending issues for the GNSO Council to solve before the ICANN77 meeting. And yes, the GNSO Council has finished the work and delivered all the documents to the ICANN board in time. And I'm sure very soon the ICANN team will come up with some more official timeline and plan for how we are going to proceed and when the next round will actually come.

And another very important topic for the GNSO community is about the DNS abuse. You may know that back from last year, the GNSO community, to be specific, the registries and the registrars have organized a team to work with ICANN staff and also ICANN compliance

to negotiate how to amend the current registry agreement and the registrar accreditation agreement. And the negotiation work is also going on quite well. And the amendment version is now on public comment and which will end next week, I think. So if any of you are interested in what exactly the amendments are, I would suggest you to, you can just check the public comment version and yeah, if you have any questions for now, I'd love to answer that during our following discussion. Yeah. Thank you. That's all the things from me for now.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Kristina, as the advisor to the Armenian GAC representation, you will have spent an awful lot of time listening to the GAC at ICANN 77. We'd be really interested to hear not just from your Armenian and personal perspective, but a bit of general overall, where was the GAC focusing? What was the GAC doing during ICANN 77? Over to you.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN:

Hello, everyone. This is Kristina for the record. And thanks for inviting me as a speaker. I'm honored to be here. So among the topics discussed during the GAC session, I've mentioned two of them. This is about DNS abuse, which is always interesting for each community, for each stakeholders, etc. And of course, the emerging technologies, which caught my attention. It was very new and intriguing. I don't know if everybody knows about it, but this was really new topic during the GAC session.

So in addition to my role with ICANN GAC, I'm a board member of Internet Society NGO, which is a ccTLD manager in Armenia. So the DNS

abuse is a top topic for our community, for the government as well. And as a representative of ccTLD, we always diligently monitor all developments to ensure our registry infrastructure and DNS system remain up to date.

Regarding emerging technologies, it is rapidly growing process in our region as well. So GAC briefly discussed emerging technologies with a focus on artificial intelligence and alternative DNS roots, also the blockchain. So the alternative DNS roots was a topic which was unknown almost to everyone. That's it should be more discussed during the ICANN 78, but we will talk about it later. And also the WIPO take the floor and talk about the right protection within this area. So at the moment, I think the two of top topics was relevant to my representation to, I mean, as a ccTLD as well. So at the moment, these two topics are more takeaways for me. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

And thank you, Kristina. Now, Jordan, that was a segue leading perfectly into the ccNSO. So over to you.

JORDAN CARTER:

Thanks, Cheryl. And hi, everyone. It's been a while since I've participated in any APRALO work as well. Coming to you from the .AU ccTLD these days. Oh, look, we've got our fire and a pumpkin. It's like it's winter down here, Cheryl.

At risk of repeating topics other people have raised, I wanted to just try and inject a little bit of a sense of what the ccNSO is working on as well.

So I'm going to try and squeeze in three topics very quickly. We've got a policy development process, a PDP going on in respect of IDNs. And that's because the rules around IDN ccTLDs were only established as a sort of fast track a long time ago. I think it was 2009 that that framework was put in place. So we've been going back and reviewing the policy framework that applies for IDN ccTLDs and improving it. And there's a lot of technical work done along issues like sort of variant selection and string collisions and so on, which the GNSO PDP is relying on as well. So that ccNSO work is supporting the GNSO and the two are coordinating. So it's just worth knowing that's happening. It's a key component, of course, of universal acceptance, making sure people can have top level domains in their own scripts as well.

The second one I'm going to mention is DNS abuse. We have a DNS abuse standing committee in the ccNSO. It's been doing some work putting together a repository of information because all the ccNSO will do about DNS abuse is share experience, policy approaches, operational approaches. We won't be setting any global policy in relation to this. An interesting tidbit, we did a survey of managers asking what levels of DNS abuse they were finding, and the self-reported levels were a little bit higher than the information that the DNS Abuse Institute has been collecting. So I think that's interesting to know. Not worryingly higher, but a little bit higher. So I'm sure that CCs will keep talking about this problem because it is of interest.

I had a personal observation on the method that's been used in the negotiations between the registries and registrars and ICANN Compliance about the changes to the contract on this, because to me, it leads to an interesting thing for us all to think about, about what

decisions are made to the consensus policy framework through PDPs, and what changes are made through contractual negotiations where ALAC and GAC and other parties aren't directly in the room when these bilateral sorts of negotiations happen. So I think that's something to keep an eye on.

And the third thing I was just going to mention really briefly was that you may or may not know that the ccNSO has a group called the Internet Governance Liaison Committee, which is to get ccTLD managers together who are interested in broader policy or internet governance topics beyond the narrow remit of ICANN. It had a really interesting set of sessions on cybersecurity legislation that are coming in countries from Slovenia to Canada to three or four others. So if you're interested in that topic, you might want to check out the ccNSO wiki to find the presentation. Those are some of the things that caught my eye, Cheryl. Hopefully I haven't talked too long. Back to you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

You've all been absolutely perfect timekeepers. Your internal clocks are running beautifully. Thank you, one and all. I haven't seen any particular questions through while we had that little run through on that first drill down on our takeaways. But we do have a couple of moments to spare if anyone from our participation group here would like to either pop something in chat or even put up your hand and very briefly raise any questions regarding any of the takeaways or something that might have struck a chord with you. I agree with Maureen in chat, the interesting information about the ccTLD managers experience and their self-reporting. That's one to continue to watch for sure.

If not, then there's nothing wrong with moving on to our next steps. And feel free to pop a question in chat. And if you wanted to address a particular person, put their name at the beginning, please. All right, then I may switch the order around simply so we don't get bored. I haven't decided what the order will be, so it'll all happen momentarily in a second.

The next area that I'd like you to contemplate is building on that very first group of interactions that you shared with our audience today. And that is, are there any particular next steps that you or your group will be carrying out, either just to generally progress these areas, whatever they are, getting ready for next round to do with, you know, DNS abuse, whatever it is that is a particular issue for you all? And are these things going to be progressed in a particular way between now and say ICANN 78 or between now and some particular deadline? I can either start calling you out, panelists, or one of you can step up if I give you an opportunity to jump in if one of you is chafing at the bit to answer that question. If not, then I'm going to go to Kristina. Kristina, from your perspective, are there any of those takeaways that you're going to be taking a particular progress or set of next steps in towards?

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN:

Thank you. So as I said, the two topics of my interest and the interest of my representation, that was DNS abuse, which is always top relevant. And the new one is was emerging technologies. So the GAC has agreed to conduct a capacity building sessions on this topic during ICANN 78 in Hamburg. Also, GAC decided to collaborate with ICANN technical

community and ICANN organization to identify experts who will deliver presentation during the capacity building workshop during ICANN 78.

But additionally, we, I mean, the Internet Society NGO of Armenia, which is the ccTLD of .am and .hwj are planning to initiate discussions with the technical community and the government representatives in Armenia to explore the possibility of implementing similar workshops locally. We are decided to start from the small community, which is a technical operator of ccTLD, and then spread the information to other technical communities, to ISPs, to Internet service providers, I mean, and other private sector companies which also are deeply involved in the process of new technologies like artificial intelligence, like blockchains and etc. So I see the perspectives of the two topics, like, as I say, and at the moment, that's what I want to say. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: And thank you very much. I am particularly interested in Amrita's following on from some of that. I suspect she may have been inspired to respond from an APRALO perspective. But Justine, you have your hand up first, please go ahead.

JUSTINE CHEW: Thank you, Cheryl. This is Justine for the record. I actually had a question for Kristina. Kristina, you mentioned about workshops that's been conducted within GAC. I believe it's a capacity building for GAC members. Is there any room or interest for each GAC member to then, how do you say, pass on the knowledge to communities within their own countries? Or is that specifically just for the GAC representations?

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN: I'm not sure, actually, but the idea which comes to me when I was talking with Joanna, we decided to [inaudible] communities. I mean, if GAC decided to do some workshops, we decided to invite some other communities, ALAC as well, because if they are organizing workshops, that couldn't be only for GAC representatives, it should be for all communities as end users, as I don't know, technical community or private sector or something like that. So to be honest, I don't know which decided for whom this workshop, but I know that I should work to the way to join some communities to the same workshop. That's what I think.

JUSTINE CHEW: Can I respond? That's a fantastic answer, and people should note that I believe that Kristina is also the recently appointed point of contact for GAC within the ALAC. So there is an extra dimension of the relationship with the ALAC. So that's great. And it's great to hear that you're working closely with Joanna to try and form some, strengthen some collaboration between ALAC and GAC in terms of the communities at the different countries. Thank you for that.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yes, indeed, we've got our clutches well and truly into Kristina. She's one of us now. So we're looking forward to a fantastic set of opportunities coming up between Joanna and Kristina in the few years, notice that, few years of this relationship to come. Amrita, now, if that

wasn't a segue handed to you on a silver platter, I don't know what was. And you're going to pick up Imran's question as well.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Right. Thanks, Cheryl. And just to go back, I think we are interested in the next round and from At-Large and APRILO and the end user community, what we want to see is a diverse set of registries coming not only from the LDCs or developing countries, but also from areas in developed countries which are not represented. It could be communities, etc. coming.

And for that, we want the process to be made more simplified, easier. The applicant support program should not be restrictive, as I mentioned it earlier. Similarly, we have concerns about private auctions, etc. We plan to work with the GAC to come up with certain responses. And many of us, Justine, etc. from our community who are in various PDPs involved are trying to bring back the voice of the end users into the conversation, because we think the feedback from the end user community, who is actually at the grassroots to come back with the concerns. The feedback mechanism should work just as ICANN can percolate what ICANN is thinking or the community's thinking through the end users.

Similarly, the users can be the sounding board. So we can bring that value to the table. And that is what we are trying to do. But yes, for that, we have to develop the capacity of our ALSes, At-Large structures or the individual members. And for that, we are starting to work from the ground. For example, we have our General Assembly in September

where we plan to have certain amount of capacity, at least at the level to bring everyone on par, because we are very diverse. We have different levels of capacity, but our clutches within the society is quite high. And what we did during the Universal Acceptance Day is just, I would say, a teaser. It is just a teaser. We can do much more because while businesses go and discuss things within a country or governments speak, even if the end user community can resonate those voices, can be the voice of reason, they're explaining it more into the communities. It helps [inaudible] it.

Because we understand the work on IDNs, you're making domain names universally acceptable is something which is happening. And we also understand that languages are going to be something which is of prime importance, not only for Asia-Pacific, but also for majority of the world. So we support this work. We will continue to support this work, but we want to build capacity.

And one thing which is important is we have At-Large, and especially APRALO has shown interest to support in the next round. But we also need to build capacity. And if we are kind of part of the planning process from now itself, when the ICANN org is planning, we can help to give our input. So if we can be brought into the picture to at least give our input, we can be good sounding board for the entire community. Many times the end users are thought to be a separate group, but no, we can support. So, yes, Cheryl, I have been taking a bit of time, but I think I've responded to your question.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: You haven't taken too much time because there was still a smile on my face, so not a problem at all. Now, I'm going to go to Antonia because some of what Amrita and others were saying, we're talking sometimes the scary stuff. You know, we advisory committees getting together and starting to talk. Oh, dear. What on earth is industry going to do in reaction to this? So pop on your Contracted Party House hat, please and not only deal with the, are there things that you're going to be progressing from a GNSO council perspective between now and 78, but also is there some reactions to what you're hearing in this discourse here today? Over to you, Antonia.

ANTONIA CHU: Thanks, Cheryl. Well, I think before the next ICANN meeting, first, I'd like to talk about DNS abuse. I previously mentioned that the registries and the registrars are negotiating with ICANN and the amendment of the agreement is now on public comment. So when the public comments over and further amendment is not required, per procedure, the next step would be registries and the registrar will have to vote to approve this amendment. And for the voting threshold, we will need, for example, for registrar side, we will need 90 percent registrars to vote yes to approve that amendment. So it is a very important task for us, for the Registrar Stakeholder Group, for example, to reach out to as many registrars as we can to let them know about the progress and know about the change and know about the importance of this change. So I think this will be the most important task for us before ICANN 78.

And of course, from the Asia Pacific side, we know that in our region, we have many registrars and the registries and they're not coming from

countries that which is English speaking. So there's the problem of language. So I think we will do try to use the best of our ability to reach out to the registrars and the registries within our region. And of course, necessarily use the native language to communicate and find as much necessary occasion for, for example, some regional events to let them know about this to make sure that that during the voting, this amendment can pass as we expected.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you, Antonia. Appreciate that. And I'm going to actually ask. Well, first of all, I want to note in the chat that Justine has very kindly pointed out in response to Imran's question, the enormous opportunity for our region to get involved in spreading opinion and finding out what consensus views may indeed be with regard to aspects of the applicant support program. That is definitely one to watch. But I'm actually going to go to Juliana now because you seem to resonate with some of what Amrita was saying. And I suspect from a fellowship point of view, in other words, that part of the ICANN journey, which is still working out where you best fit and how you can best contribute, that you might want to share just a couple of things from your perspective and then I'll be going to Jordan.

JULIANA HARSIANI:

Thank you, Cheryl. Yes, I think what Amrita said about the end user input is a good take because some people thinking as end user, we cannot give some feedback or they don't know how to give the feedback for the communities or for the application or for the registrar

or registries. Giving information and knowledge for the end user and giving the opportunity to end user to give the feedback and hear the voice, I think this will be help for the registrar or the application people working in applications like software application to have some improvement and have some bring more policy development within the digital technology community.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you. Again, I'm hearing opportunity and I'm seeing it in the chat, you know, words like building trust, collaboration, cooperation, working together, working hand in hand, in other words, engaging in outreach and using networks that are uniquely ours within the At-Large community to perhaps further everybody's end game. And to that, Mr. Carter, I know you have a particular passion on getting these, how do I suggest it, working smarter, not necessarily harder systems into place. And because I also know you need to leave at the top of the hour, if you want to cover off the third question, which is what are the opportunities for individual end users to be involved in any of the furthering of these things, I think you can just take six or seven minutes and pitch it, Jordan, pitch it.

JORDAN CARTER:

All right, Cheryl, thank you. And I'll try not to take that long because it's always good to leave as much time as possible for other questions and comments. In terms of the two specifics I mentioned about next steps from the ccNSO point of view, the DNS abuse task, I think I mentioned the repository of ideas and approaches that we mentioned. It's actually

got an editorial board that's volunteers that have been pulled together. So we're not just putting anything that comes across Twitter or whatever into that repository. It'll have a little bit of QA. And, you know, if I take the .AU perspective, we're very keen on minimizing DNS abuse. We've got a pretty clean registry, but we're always looking for new ideas and possibilities.

So I think one of the follow ups will be starting to populate that repository, which has just been established and then starting to actively make use of the content. And it'll be public on the community wiki. So it isn't just a ccNSO resource. Other people who are interested in learning more about how to tackle DNS abuse, however you want to define it, could take a look there.

For the IDN PDP I mentioned, I'm pretty sure that there'll be a public comment on that coming up between now and 78. Though I might be wrong on the timing. Kenny Huang from TWNIC is running that process. So you could chat to him if you're interested, as a way to kind of get involved. Obviously, the core policy development task has already happened. So [inaudible] input on that.

I don't think it's only the ccNSO as a third topic that's celebrating its 20th anniversary at the ICANN meeting in Hamburg. So one of the tasks that we are doing is getting ready for a party about it to celebrate it. Is it the ALAC 20th as well? It is. Yeah. So I think it might be the GNSO too, because of course, the ccNSO and GNSO both came out of the predecessor domain name support organization. So that'll be a fun thing for the whole community, I think, to celebrate together. Just give me a little hint about that.

I'm just going to offer a wry observation. This is intended as an observation, a slight provocation. You know, we did this last round of new gTLDs back in 2012. And while it's obvious, possibly 14 years later, that we need to do more in terms of the linguistic accessibility through IDN TLDs, I'm wondering if anyone has really done an assessment about whether Internet users, generally speaking, were better off from the previous round and whether anything has changed to make sure that Internet users will be better off from another few thousand domains being added into the root.

And only because it's just one of those questions that in my mind, it feels like we've skipped past a little bit rather than a sort of impact assessment on what good or what harms arose from the last round. We certainly seem to have taken the view as a community that it was technically feasible to add more domains to the root. We've proved that and we've done it. There's no logical reason not to. And of course, with an ICANN, with the very strong commercial representation in very many of the forums, that's kind of an obvious no brainer for the domain name industry to want there to be more domain names. But I'm just curious about, you know, this is not me doing my job, this is being provocative, the work that the At-Large structures have done to assess and understand public views and interests in this question. I think the train is on the track. I think it's going to happen. And the question of whether it should or not might be academic. But it is an interesting one just to think about when we make these big changes and invest all the money and time and energy to build the framework. I just kind of wonder about that. So I think I kind of tackled both of those questions, Cheryl,

and threw maybe a bit of petrol on a different kind of fire as well. I'll hand it back to you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: My agent provocateur. I do love working with you, Jordan. Now, who to go to next so that they can react to that as well? But let's see. You seem to be getting a lot of "Yay team" in the chat. Just by the way, people are resonating with that looking to data. Let's be kind. Let's go straight to industry. Antonia, the gauntlet has been tossed down. Registry, registrar, names have been taken in vain. Would you care to respond as well as pick up on the points about the question raised?

ANTONIA CHU: Yes, thanks, Cheryl. I have to admit that I was quite enlightened by the point Jordan just raised, because from the Contracted Party House side, we are still getting used to think what the industry want. And we—probably I would just speak just for me. I never think about, yes, what's the impact for the end users for the previous round of new gTLDs.

I'm not sure whether At-Large is the right community to collect this data or analysis. And if At-Large can, and I'm sure that this data or analysis will be very useful before the next round actually goes out.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Did I hear the word "before?" Wow. Okay, Justine, your hand is raised.

JUSTINE CHEW:

I take my hat off to Antonia. But of course, we know that she's giving feedback in her own personal capacity. But that's great. In any event, that's great. I just wanted to raise a couple of things in response to Jordan's intervention. We have things like the CCT reviews, the consumer competition, consumer trust and consumer choice reviews that were done post the 2012 round. There have been a series of recommendations coming out of that review. Some have been taken up. Some have sort of fallen by the wayside kind of thing.

But there was one particular one that kind of hints at the need to do a proper market analysis or analysis of the industry to see whether, as you say, Jordan, whether the introduction of more TLDs is actually beneficial to whichever part of the community, whether it's end users or industry or whatever.

And I don't think that that actually has happened. And the ALAC is one of the entities that have repeatedly asked for this, along with the GAC. And as you say, ICANN is basically commercial, very commercial driven, very heavy on the commercial side of things. So I don't know what it is that we need to do in order to push that line.

And the ALAC did do an end user survey on IDN, an aspect of IDN. We had a very small experiment, I guess you would call it, that surveyed certain provinces or states in India for a number of reasons. And the results that came back weren't terribly convincing, but it kind of pointed to the fact that there is some demand for IDN. And it's also a question of making people aware that there is possibilities of IDN. I think that's where it falls a little bit.

But certainly IDN is one aspect that would be beneficial to end users, whether they know it or not at this point in time. So that's where we are also pushing for the IDN, for more IDN in the next round. And we are working very hard to make sure that there are variants involved in the next round as well. Similar to what ccPDP4 is doing with the ccTLDs.

And I do want to note that ICANN has made it a point to put IDN as the focus of the next round as well. So let's all hold them to that. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Justine. Antonia, I see your hand and I'm sure you need to respond. Back to you.

ANTONIA CHU: Yes, thanks. First, I want to clarify that by end users, I previously mostly referred to the individual end users, not the companies. And there's another point I like to add, is that as I'm coming from the Chinese community and I'm not sure whether there's such analysis conducted within the Chinese community. And now we all agree with the importance of the end user involvement. I think maybe before the next ICANN meeting, I can talk to the local ISOC or the end user communities to gather some input before ICANN 78.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: That is excellent. And I suspect when I go to Amrita, you will have nothing but support from APRALO on that. Amrita, over to you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Yes, surely, Cheryl. And thank you. We would be happy to support this kind of a survey. And some points would be completely on my personal capacity, not as from on behalf of APRALO. When we talk of these kind of surveys to understand the impact, positive, negative or where there should be some additional, you know, should there be new gTLDs coming into the market? What would be the benefit? It has to be a holistic survey, just not an end user survey. Yes, we can help in driving it and getting it done, but it has to be a survey which has the, I would say the grey matter of all the stakeholders values to come up with a composite survey so that at least when the responses come, even if it is mixed, there is a buy in from everyone.

If you look at it, At-Large has always raised the concern that we want the new gTLDs, if they are coming, they need to also come in from other parts of the world, not just certain parts. And also that we have some equitable balance that, you know, we have communities also coming up with it because they also might have their voices they want to represent.

The cost of the gTLDs has always been a concern. If we want real communities to come up, this is too expensive. At least if you look at developing countries. And if I look at the Indian perspective where I sit, most of the companies who have taken the new gTLDs are for IP protection. Most of them are not using it. So whether there is a market? Yes and no. Jordan, to answer your question, because it depends upon what the people are taking it for. Someone to protect their interests, someone to grow it for business, someone to sell it for others, as we have seen in the last round and become very rich. But also when we are saying that we want to increase the 1500 plus registries, are we also

balancing it with the rest of the globe is something which At-Large is interested in. And if we go by reality, yes, business wants the new round. So we cannot stop it. But our job would be to see how we can balance it properly so that at least we have some balance somewhere. Thanks. I hope that makes sense.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Well, it does to me. Thank you, Amrita. Kristina, I'm going to go to you now. Obviously, the GAC is very much like the ALAC on many of these issues. They're things that we have raised in the past. And in fact, part of the collaboration and cooperation we have done have been on calling for things like this data acquisition and the support of aspects, if not all of the recommendations out of the CCTRT. Second review coming up, obviously. But we still don't have base data as required from the first time round. Over to you, please.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN:

Thank you. So I would like to mention that each topic which have been discussed during GAC sessions have significant importance for all stakeholder groups. So I would like to add something about our activities. I mean, Internet Society activities about end users because we are talking about it a lot.

So the Internet Society NGO has individual members which are actively involved to the regional and local activities. So the whole topics which have been discussed during GAC sessions, during all sessions, during every meeting, we are trying to give the opportunity to our individuals to be involved in that discussion, to be to make their input to the policy

changes or something like this as a ccTLD. It is very important for us to make end users get involved in a big process which take place during ICANN meetings and bring them to the to our community.

What about the GAC topics? To be honest, I'm not so informed, because as you know, I was a fellowship mentor, so I was divided into two parts during the last meeting. So this was my last meeting as a mentor. So starting from ICANN 78, I would be involved to the GAC sessions more than before. That's it.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you. And yes, I did actually neglect to remember that you were split in half, that you were operating in two entirely different and equally demanding arenas in ICANN 77. But let's face it, that is what ICANN demands of its volunteers, isn't it? It is the most vampiric of organizations I've ever worked with. Gets hold of you, gets its claws into you and then proceeds to suck you dry as a volunteer. But look, even old husks like me can survive. So I'm sure you all as well will. Now, not going from the long in the tooth perspective as I was just then, but going to the fresher perspective of a fellowship alumni, Juliana, do you see from what you've just heard in this last round of interventions, opportunities for end users and particularly those of us in the Asia-Pacific region to play a role in furthering any of these particular areas of interest, whether or not it's the DNS abuse into the spectrum, the next round spectrum, even, of course, novel and new innovative technologies? Your reactions, please.

JULIANA HARSIANTI:

Thank you, Cheryl. I will share from my personal experience as an Internet user and also have some research helping some Internet company and registrar here in Indonesia. I think the end user input is very important to the company, registrar, TLDs and communities to get some improvement in some policy. But from the end user's side, there's very little information how to get the feedback to registrar, to the Internet company. So I think this is the first time it is good to have some research of us, the end user, about certain issues. And at the same time, giving the information to the end user, how to get the feedback to the registrar and Internet company or the application company to their own behalf in either in how the application works, how [inaudible] maybe in DNS abuse and etc. and some other issue. I think this is from my point of view.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you very much, and I'm going to take the moderator privilege and say we're going to pause proceedings for two very good reasons. In the next five minutes, Jordan needs to leave us. And I want to make sure that we all have the opportunity, if anybody has a particular question that they'd like to raise specifically with Jordan, please do so now in the chat.

But I also want to take the opportunity before people start trickling off to get back to their lives, to have this photo, because as we all know, in this generation that we are living in at the moment, if it's not photographed, it didn't happen. So anybody who possibly can put on your video, please do so now. And then Shah, who is our resident image data capture expert, is going to make us all look—well, we're going to

look as good as we can in tiny little squares on a screen. And try and hold it for a while, because it's going to be a couple of screens' worth and he's going to have to shift through. Let us know when we can stop smiling, please. Shah.

All right. Back to the previously provided agenda. In fact, what we've managed to do is do our three round robins on the questions that were shared. And we've also managed to address a couple of questions from chat. But one of the things that seemed to resonate with all of the people on the panel today was issues that were contributory in some way, shape or form to the next round of new names and aspects such as DNS abuse and the—not legitimization. That's not a very good word. The rationalization of purpose of new names and what data can be perhaps sourced so that we know, in what will then be a steady state of rounds going forward, what type of effort needs to go in?

For example, Amrita made the observation that IP protection, a very valid and very reasonable reason for doing a new name, that's a very different set of preparations and pitches and outreaches and engagements and all of those sorts of things to be required to make a success. If we're looking at a majority only being—only, in inverted commas—interested in IP protection, that's a vastly different set of plans required to if we're trying to engage with underserved and under recognized and indeed under resourced community applications or expanding specific internationalized domain names spaces.

So having that sort of data is one of the things that I thought was a particularly useful thing for us to have raised today, and I saw, I thought, reasonable agreement that with some form of regional collaboration

and cooperation, we may be more successful in getting that sort of material, that baseline data put together.

I'll remind all of us, however, that such surveys cost. They cost in time, they cost in funds, they cost in general, but they'll cost more the less organized and well planned they are. So each part of this fabric that is our wonderful APRALO, AP region here, with all of our diversity and all of the sectoral interests that are part of the ICANN community, if we work smart together, I'm sure we can derive maximum benefit and top class outcomes, whatever that means, may not be what we expect. It wasn't when we did our Indian survey. But whatever we get out of such exercises will be better for us having worked together. And I'm delighted and I hope the organizers from the leadership team of today's little soiree are as delighted as I am in what I'm hearing from all of you. And that's a clear intent for working together for the benefit of the region and the Internet end users, be they business, be they individual, be they mum and pop, be they big pharma, doesn't matter. But that it is optimal in terms of an experience that is rational, accountable, transparent, predictable, and isn't causing confusion or waste. And by waste, I mean waste of opportunity.

So, yes, that is a summation and it's a summation at the top of the hour because we actually have run our business as far as we technically need to. And I know we've lost a panelist. What I would like to do, however, is continue our call for as long as any of you have either a particular question or issue you'd like to raise with our panelists, please do so now by either raising your hand or putting it in chat, noting Jordan. We'll have to take any questions for him as questions with notice. We will capture those questions and we will pass them on to him. But he is no

longer with us. And also offer each of the remaining panelists an opportunity to put some thoughts together, because I'd like to know a little bit more about your vision for how we might be able to make this regional advantage that I believe we have work for the benefit of all or at least all of us in our region, if not all of us involved in ICANN.

So to that end, if you've got a question for anybody in particular, please put your hand up or notice in chat. But I see Amrita and I'm going to you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Cheryl, and you have summarized it very well. I think what we as a region want to do and from APRALO actually, when Justine thought of having this readout, is have more collaboration between the region, more discussion. We may have different interests, but we have common interests, too. Why not build on the common interests?

And even today, we have seen, though there may be different interests, but we all have one objective. We can work towards that and having more discussions. You know, what could be from Asia Pacific? What could be the things which we need to look at where we can support, where GNSO can support, where the ccNSO can support? We can come up with our own unique ways of dealing with things, too.

So this dialogue is important. Dialogue on issues is important. And I think and I'm taking the liberty and Justine, I think we'll be happy that in our policy calls in future also, we can discuss issues and have people from the other SOACs of the region joining in and deep diving on issues

so that we can kind of come up with some kind of strategies, perhaps, or commonalities where we can work together.

And as you said, doing research is expensive. However, there can be creative ways, for example, if someone from the registry community can support those researchers and, you know, APRALO would be happy to implement them with our thoughts and the government also could put in their view. So we can come up with a collective thing wherein we get information because data always helps. And we can do it in a much more smarter way when everyone joins hands.

So I think collaboration is important. We do have, but we need to make it more workable. We need to have get into action, I would say, because if you want things to improve in the next round or even now, we have to roll up our sleeves and work together and let's get into defined action. Sorry, I always like things on the—not [weigh,] but to kind of quantify them.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Not only quantify, but a good call to action as well. Now, that's certainly music to my ears and I hope to others. Antonia, at the GNSO end of the spectrum, we all recognize the purpose of the GNSO and the GNSO Council's role and exactly where the picket fences are. And all of that sort of thing is recognized.

We also recognize the huge amount of work that also goes into things like getting these changes to the contracts, which hopefully you will get the voting percentages to go through because it has been a monumental effort, one that I know the At-Large community in general

appreciates the progress of. Is it as much as we'd like? Well, no, but we're hard to satisfy. But do we appreciate what's happened? Absolutely. And we certainly want to see it come home to rest successfully.

So assuming there's more of those sorts of working together opportunities and keeping this sort of secret sauce that happens in contract versus what goes on in policy development aspects, are we just dreaming here? Can we even be the pilots regionally, a greater collaborative, less siloed approach to what we do in our game? Your personal opinion, obviously, not one of the GNSO Council. Antonia?

ANTONIA CHU:

Thanks, Cheryl. Yes, of course. You already mentioned you use the word small step. Yes, this is a small step and it's a very fundamental one. For the registry and the registrar agreement, even though I'm not a lawyer myself, but changing the word in the contract, it seems a minor change. But it's like raising the ground floor for registries and the registrar to actually mitigate DNS abuse.

So my suggestion for the APRALO and for the entire At-Large community is to keep observing that what actually is going to change after the amendment, actually in practice. The concerns we have, are they still there or are they improved? And yes, this is a starting point and we will start from here and do more, of course. There will be some minor PDP, I think. I'm sure we are considering about that and we will do that if necessary. So let's just see and observe and start thinking about what we can do for the next step.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much for that. And I know you said this is your first dipping of your toe into the APRALO world. I hope you don't feel like we've nibbled too hard on those toes, because I know everyone here truly appreciates you being part of the team and us having the opportunity to work more closely with industry. Obviously, we have Justine, who's firmly behind the lines in GNSO council world, as our liaison from the ALAC onto council. But working more closely, even just to help share an understanding going forward, would be an extraordinarily valuable role that I know I hope you'll be part of.

If there's anything in terms of final words anybody wants to pop into chat, also feel very free to do so. But right now, I'd like to go to Juliana again, because from this fellowship perspective, I'd like to know how you feel about what we've done today. This exercise, this sharing, this readout, this conversation, does it give you pause? Does it give you praise for us? Do you want to be part of the story going forward? Over to you.

JULIANA HARSIANTI: [I think what we're going to do today,] this kind of event readout is fantastic because it is more like a conversation. I don't have a presentation with the slides, but this kind of presentation, this kind of discussion is more engaging and more interactive and more people can join and express what they think. So I think this is a good conversation and hoping we can go through in the future. And if we need some input, I will be happy to join. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you. And Juliana, I have every intention of keeping my claws firmly attached to your person in some way, shape or form. There is no escape, my dear. You've been tapped. Notice Justine just nodding her head. Oh, yeah. Oh, I'm afraid so. She can sympathize with you some other time, Juliana. Don't worry about that. There are nice people here, not just me. Okay, Justine, over to you.

JUSTINE CHEW: Thank you, Cheryl. That's fantastic. So just one comment to and consideration for Juliana. I think when it comes to especially APRALO, and I'm pretty sure that it happens across the RALOs as well, one of the challenges that we always find is trying to get new blood into the RALOs. So it's the same with APRALO. We are constantly looking at avenues such as the fellows and the NextGen folks.

So you as a fellow alumni, we would love for you to be able to spread the word about what it is that we do in APRALO and what it is that we're trying to do in APRALO. So this is one of the manifestations of what we're trying to do in APRALO. So if you think this is worthwhile, then please help promote the RALO to whoever you come across, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Get them to join our activities, join our calls. You don't necessarily have to sign up with a member straight away, but just join the mailing list and you get some information and then you will find a way to tap into the network. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Excellent. I'm going to go to Kristina now for any last words and summations that she'd like to make. And I hope you all noticed whilst Kristina's here wearing the GAC mantle, she's also a very good example of what's special about so many parts of our Asia-Pacific region and particularly in the Pacific region, including the Small Island States. And that is where individuals and groups are multitasking. You know, you're not just an At-Large structure in the At-Large network. You are a ccTLD operator and you are advising GAC representatives. You know, this is not an unusual circumstance for our amazing talent to be multitasking and to step up and just work so far above the average level. It is a real privilege. But before I get all teary, over to you, Kristina.

KRISTINA HAKOBYAN: Thank you, Cheryl. You said everything what I want to say, but I just want to add some notes about, I think my thoughts. So I was involved to ALAC. I mean, I was participating in ATLAS in Canada. So I'm working in the area which is the ccNSO. I mean, the company is involved to ccNSO and I was involved to the GAC.

What I want to say about my collaboration with GAC, it is very unique because we decided to have some model of representation which involves a government and ccNSO represent—I mean, the member of ccNSO. Why? Because the governments are changing maybe four years, or maybe five years. So this is very important to have a person who is informed about the ICANN activities and maybe advise them how to go deeper to the topics or which topics are relevant to our government or our community.

So what I want to add is that I'm ready to volunteer for, I mean, for long years. And it is very interesting for me to step into a new role as a point of contact between GAC and ALAC. And I promise I will do my best to make it more interesting. And of course, the person with whom I will work, Joanna, is very, very clever and I don't know how to describe her as a person. So I'm very happy to start this new position. Thank you very much.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

And thank you for stepping up, Kristina. And yes, Joanna is a force of nature and a frighteningly intelligent woman who many of us have an enormous amount of time for. She will be an excellent partner for you. Remember, you are now part of this not only ALAC liaison special role, but part of APRALO in a particularly important fashion. It's another thing you're going to have to deal with and you're dealing with so many of them.

But our governments—and we have many governments because we have many countries—are not stepping up as much as they should do. And perhaps by the type of example that you will be able to give some of our other regional governments, they might be inspired to work with their local Internet community. So significantly interested parties, whether they are At-Large structures, a very capable and vibrant individual member, a ccTLD operator, whatever, and to work more with the Internet communities so that we can all make this multi stakeholder model that is ICANN be even more effective, more efficient, because the efficiencies still need a lot of work on. Amrita, as the chair of APRALO, I hope you are as pleased with today's event as I'm sure Justine and I are.

But I want to hand this back to you now with a couple of minutes of closing remarks after I do a quick sales pitch.

And the quick sales pitch is if you enjoyed this type of interaction, then Justine needs to know. The APRALO leadership team need to know. There is a place for PowerPoints. This type of tour de table is not one of those. And we will promise to give you PowerPoints and drill down and deepen meaningful backgrounds on all sorts of minutia, when and if that is relevant. But just like we celebrate diversity as a region, we also want to plan diversity in terms of engagement because different things succeed in different ways, in different circumstances. So let us know. Join in. You are all welcome. Your voices need to be heard. And believe me, if you don't think you can bring your voice forward, there's one of the faces on this bunch of squares that can help you do it or do it for you. Amrita, that's my sales pitch. Back to you. And then you can hand to Yesim to take us home.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Yes, thank you, Cheryl. I think Justine and you said it all. We want everyone's voice to come up. We want discussions, discourses. And we would try to support these discussions or build your understanding also to kind of react to things. We want new people there. We want the younger brigade to step up, which is something which we are passionate about. We want to work and support them because you are the future of who would be bearing the burden, right or wrong of whatever policies are taken today. So if you don't speak up or try to understand, it would be a shame.

I'm being crude about it, but yes, we want you here. You can join our mailing list and be an observer. Then when you understand, you can start becoming engaged, as many do. You can join as an individual member. You can join as an ALS or as a part of ALS. You can raise your discussions here, not necessarily only the primary person of your ALS can contribute. You are welcome to contribute. We are very open and we are also trying to experiment. If you look at the various discussions which we have, because there is no right way to do things. We are trying to—because some people can understand things better in a particular format. Others can understand in a better format. So we are trying to see or improvise our ways of communicating, engaging with our community and your feedback would definitely help us or even suggestions. And if there is any place you think we could support, we would do so.

We plan to have such discussions further. If you have any particular aspects of policy, etc. You want to discuss, please do let Justine know because she would be once again managing the policy forum, which we are very happy about that she would be doing. And we will all try to support her in whichever way it is possible in our monthly calls. If you want certain things to be discussed, we would be happy. We have Pavel and Vivek who have said they will be supporting in the newsletter. So, you know, you can find your way in which you want to support like Shah. If anyone wants to support the social media, you can get in touch with Shah. If there is anything in outreach engagement, [Alice] is there to help. So you can think of things and come back. We will try to pull you up. But even if you raise your hand, it would be easier for us to help you out.

Yes, I think that's what I would end at. And thank you, Justine, for thinking about this and having it. We want to have more such discussions. Please reach out to your ALSes and invite them if possible to come and join this. Or they can look at the recording because for many it is work time also. And do encourage—and perhaps the next time we can also invite people from the APAC Hub to join in, which we kind of missed this time because this is a community discussion, just not for APRALO. But thank you, Over to Yesim.

YESIM SAGLAM:

Thank you very much. And thank you all for joining today's meeting. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]