ICANN70 | Prep Week - Joint Meeting: ICANN Board Members with Fellows and NextGen@ICANN Participants
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 09:00 to 10:00 EST

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: This session will now begin. Please start the recording.

Hello and welcome to the joint meeting between the ICANN Board Chair, Members, ICANN President and CEO, and ICANN70 Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN participants.

My name is Siranush Vardanyan, and I am ICANN Fellowship Program manager, and I will be the remote participation manager for this session.

Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the order form as I've noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during this time set chair or moderator for this session.

Interpretation for this session will include English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic languages. Click on the

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When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation.

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Having said this, let me introduce the agenda for today's call. We will have four speakers: ICANN President and CEO, Göran Marby; ICANN Board Chair, Maarten Botterman; and two board members, Leon Sanchez and Lito Ibarra, who are also ICANN Fellowship Program alumni. All presenters will be provided three,

four minutes for introduction, and then we will open the floor for questions and interaction.

I also would like to welcome all newcomers, including ICANN70 Fellows and NextGen@ICANN program participants, and know that ICANN really values and appreciates your participation and engagement, and we all are here to support you in your journey. With that, I will hand the floor over to ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby. Göran, the floor is yours.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you, and hello, everybody. It's nice to see -- I mean, serious know that this among my favorite things to do during lockdown. I really enjoy coming into this particular setting and talk, because I often get questions that I don't think about normally.

So it's harder for me, and maybe for you as well not to have this meeting in the real world, only on the digital world. So I really would like to thank you for joining us for this session.

And as Siranush said, this is about us helping you to be a part of something. So what is ICANN about? ICANN is a unique institution that is made on purpose. ICANN is a place where we actually produce a service to the world. We are not only something that talks. We are actually something who does. And

that's important. By being a part of ICANN, you are a part of managing, setting the tools -- setting up the tools and making a path for all the Internet users around the world. And don't ever forget that when you come into this fantastic world.

The inference that we have on us being digital makes it harder for everybody. And the important thing is to keep our also participating in a virtual -- being virtual -- during this virtual period.

What the most important thing is when you enter the ICANN arena and coming in, your voice could be heard from day one. We're here to help you to navigate this -- these processes and help you to support you, but always remember stay true to what your beliefs are, participate in the different foras, and really make your voice heard because that's what we need.

That's not only what ICANN needs. In a way, you're coming in, you're representing all the ICANN, all the Internet users around the world.

I'm here to hear from you, and I'm here to take your questions, but I think I'm going to leave over to Maarten.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Göran. And I will give the floor to Maarten Botterman, the chair of ICANN Board.

Maarten?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you, Siranush. And thanks, Göran, for your opening remarks. So true. This is a highlight and has been for many years. And this is not just because we like it, to have NextGen and the Fellowship, but, actually, it's part of our obligation to reach out and grow participation from those who haven't been in yet, to make sure that we continue to grow and evolve with the evolving of the Internet. It's then necessary that always new people come in and join.

And your choice to be here is really highly appreciated because it's in that way that we can continue to evolve even better than if we just do everything as we always did it. Because if we do that, it may be difficult at some point to deliver on the mission.

So this new stream of interest and blood and your questions, however they are, help us in this journey. And I'm very happy to also have my fellow colleagues, Lito Ibarra and Leon Sanchez, here with me who actually are a live demonstration that this

program, which has been managed for so many years also by Siranush and the organization, works.

So in the pandemic, it's weird not to meet face to face, and what you will miss is if this session is over and the line drops, you're back in your room and your own environment again. You don't have somebody to tap on the shoulder directly or while you find some coffee or tea somewhere, the opportunity to run into somebody you didn't even ever expect to meet.

At the same time, getting up to speed in this area is about talking with people, and talking, I would say, is a matter of reaching out, internationally, to see those people that you see here. Feel free to reach out to us. You may find that we respond.
And also, around you in your environments also locally, that what you hear here, it would be so great and important for us if you share that with your environment, wherever you are, because what we do on a global level to facilitate the One Internet to function is something that matters at the local level, too, and the other way around.

So please do seek those subjects that are deeply pulling you in and follow up on those, and you will find there's many ways to contribute. No doubt, Siranush and her team will be excellent partners in showing you the way there.

So here, really, truly welcoming you. I'm looking forward to any question you have. And giving the floor to our former NextGen people, former fellows, Leon and Lito.

Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Maarten. Thank you. And, indeed, it's always a great pleasure and honor for me to introduce our next speakers.
And one of them is Leon Sanchez, whom I will give the floor, who is the vice-chair of ICANN Board of Directors.

Lito [sic], if you can tell us about your journey through the fellowship program to ICANN board.

The floor is yours.

LEON SANCHEZ: Leon Sanchez speaking. Thank you Siranush. It's a pleasure being with you, as Göran said, as Maarten said, I think that this is the session I prefer to be at at ICANN meetings, because I go back to the beginning, where everything started. A door was opened to a world that suddenly gives us the possibility of contributing to an ecosystem that will have an impact on everybody's life.

Today, having stable, secure, and receiving Internet is certainly key for keeping in touch with our families, with our relatives, with our work, with our daily lives.

So what we do at ICANN is important, is significant.

Of course, we are not the only player within this ecosystem. But considering what we have to oversee, considering our remit, we are certainly key for the operation of the Internet.

Being a fellow is something that we should be proud of. It's an honor to be part of ICANN's fellowship program. This is an opportunity to contribute, to grow in personal terms, in professional terms as well. It's an opportunity not only to learn, but also to teach, because I think that we fellows have certainly some assets in terms of knowledge experience that is really diverse and it enriches ICANN's community.

The road you take inside ICANN depends on you, depends on your work, your efforts, how you participate, how you engage with ICANN.

The only barriers within ICANN are the barriers that you will set for yourselves. If you work, you will be successful in terms of receiving what you want.

As fellows, certainly, we are in a privileged position, because everybody we see this warmly, all fellows, we know that we fellows are a people willing to engage, to involve, to work. And in exchange, we would like to contribute and belong to this community.

So take advantage of this opportunity. You are taken by the hand and guided through the ICANN ecosystem. So take advantage of that and take advantage of the good state of the community and all members of the community to embrace us, to receive us, to welcome us, and to feed our knowledge, and, of course, to assign some responsibilities and duties that you will identify and appreciate.

In my case, I started as a fellow, as well as you, and I took advantage of those duties. I sought opportunities. I worked endless hours with the community. I had the possibility of contributing to what we knew of the IANA transition. That was my way to, let's say, escalate in the ICANN ladder.

But I mean escalate, and, as a matter of fact we are a horizontal community. This is a peer community. There are no hierarchies, as a matter of fact. All of us contribute to the ecosystem. And certainly our philosophy is a horizontal one.

I insist, take advantage of this opportunity. I'm always open. I try and be close to the community as much as possible, and I'm just a click away. This is my phrase. So if you need some guidance, if you need some advice, if you want to talk to me, please feel free just to send me an email, to contact me.

Siranush has all my contact data. I'm in all social media regarding fellows as well as some of the working groups. So I may share with you part of what ICANN has given me.

Thank you very much for your time. And now I will give the floor to Siranush once again so that she may continue guiding us in this journey.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon. Thank you very much.
And, actually, email contacts are on the slide, which you can see on the screen. And thank you for your journey, sharing with us, Leon.

And with that, I would like to give the floor to another proud fellow, Lito Ibarra, who is a member of the ICANN board.

Lito, please, the floor is yours.

LITO IBARRA:

Lito speaking. Thank you so much, Siranush, and a special greeting to all those who are hearing and watching online. I regret not seeing you face to face. Nevertheless, I see some familiar faces, and I hope to meet you in person next time.

The journey we had to travel is very interesting, indeed. It is motivating, and it is also flattering. In my personal case, it is an honor having been the first fellow to become a board member, in 2015.

This is a reason of pride. But it is also a responsibility for doing things right, to make the best contribution all of us can make. And that starts, and that happens in any position we hold.

ICANN provides a great possibility to each of us to offer talent, work, enthusiasm with joy and happiness from where we are, from our knowledge, from our experience.

For example, let me refer to three topics on which we are currently working that will be discussed in ICANN70, but which are also topics of analysis throughout the year.

Universal acceptance and internationalized domain names, that is to say, the ability to write domain names in other scripts, different alphabets from the Latin one, or that the email addresses can be also accepted with these characters, has a solid technical foundation, but it is also relevant for the advancement of the Internet.

Another relevant topic is the work being carried out on the protection of personal data that is being conducted all over the world. This is more work that is related to legal and political aspects and very appealing to some.

And a third example is the abuse that sometimes happens in terms of the domain name system use, which also call for our attention and work worldwide.

I would say that ICANN offers this great advantage of this diversity of people working on it and the diversity of topics being discussed, diversity of countries, diversity of cultures that meet for common goals, for common objectives.

Many of the fellow and NextGens here are experts in the use of the social media or other means to attract more volunteers to these works. And this is part of our role, our individual role, for us and

for you, those of you who are starting this path as fellows or NextGen, even more so.

And I'm certain that all of us have something in common here. We want the best for our country, for our community, for our region, the best for the Internet, the best way we can leverage this fantastic tool that was given to us by the past century and that we want to make it even better.

There is still a lot to be done, and we need more people, more talent, more hands at work in these common goals.

ICANN offers to us this platform, this way of working together, together with other people from different parts of the world with diversity talents, with different ideas and viewpoints. And all of them are welcome. All of us build together a better Internet for all of us, for our families, our friends, our communities, and our neighbors, and the rest of the world.

Therefore, this is our invitation we extend to you to get integrated into these areas of work so that you can find the most convenient one based on your experience and your abilities so that we can devote time, we can do outreach and get more people involved in our regions, our countries, so that all of us together can get the best ideas and the best actions.

So let me conclude by thanking for this invitation, as my colleagues have previously said. This is one of our favorite sessions, because we do know that here among you, we have the future leaders, the people who will come, that very soon will be in decision-making positions, if you're not already there, able to make contributions to the community.

Thank you very much.

Siranush, you have the floor.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Lito, and thanks, everyone, for your introduction.

To all participants, this is an interactive session, and now it's open for questions and answers. And I have seen already one hand raised by Keo.

Keo, if you can unmute yourself and please ask your question.

KEOLEBOGILE RANTSETSE: Thank you, Siranush. It's -- You can say Keo. It's fine.

All right. Let me first start by thanking you for this great opportunity. My question is on basically what does it take for one to become a member of the board? Is there, like, a set period of time? Or how long should I have been active in ICANN for me to be part of the board?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Keo.

Maarten, if you can take this question. And Leon or Lito can add.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yeah. Just, basically, the board is composed by -- and you can find online where you come from, you can either come via the NomCom or you can come via the constituencies, or you join as a liaison of one of the special advisory committees or the IETF.

It's not a matter of a very clear career path. But if this is where your heart is, this is where you want to contribute, you will find your way to the system, and you're very welcome to apply at the moment that you think you are ready for that.

The requirements for board directors are published. We have a NomCom that is composed by different parts of the community that will select the NomCom members of the board. And the

constituencies where you may find your way will also select their champion.   Leon, for instance, is selected by the ALAC community.   So the ALAC community proposes him.   Both Lito and I are from the NomCom-appointed members.

So there's no straight answer, but it's basically full up, dive in, and at the right time, when you feel you are ready, apply.   And over time, we have found that the system continues to deliver us an excellent set of directors to fulfill the job together.

Once you're selected, you'll learn even more together. And you're representing the board and no longer the community you come from, but for sure contribute to the overall best interest of ICANN.

So, Leon, how long did it take you? How did you take your way there?

LEON SANCHEZ: Leon speaking.

Of course, Maarten, let me share.

The different parts or ways that can make you reach the board are diverse and several. As Maarten said, there are -- one of the ways to become a board member is through the NomCom. And also

the advisory committees and supporting organizations also appoint several board members. But there is no single way to access a position of service at the board. There are different ways, as I said.

But let me highlight that being a board member, performing as a board member should not be seen as an objective, but a means, a means to serve our community. So my advice here is, do not think of board service as a goal or the summit of your career within ICANN, but as an opportunity to serve our community, as an opportunity to make a contribution to the global efforts of this community, and, again, as I was saying, to give back at least a bit of what ICANN gives to us.

If you have this perspective, that is, understanding that board service is precisely community service, your opportunities to have a chance to become a board member will be much higher.

Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon. And thank you, Maarten.

Though Leon responded to Svitlana's question in the chat, but I will read this question and ask Göran if you can add something to this.

Which areas of ICANN's activities have been most negatively affected by current quarantine and total online, and how do you plan to improve them?

Göran?

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. Thank you. Speaking in English.
A very good question. Not an easy answer.
I mean, of course, we've all been affected by the pandemic. It's a year ago since I decided to end all the physical face-to-face meetings also for ICANN Org staff, which means that we basically have been working from home for a year.

And, first of all, if I look at it from a ministerial perspective, people need to meet. Innovation are created when people meet together in the hall rooms, in the lunch rooms, in the physical meetings. It's harder to be innovative when you sit at home all the time and only say hello during a video conference.

And I would like also to say that I -- the ICANN staff are heroes in so many ways, because during this year, despite the fact they're working from home, I would say they haven't missed a beat. It's been a fantastic -- they've proven over and over again of their ability to support the community processes, to implement what the community decided and maintain sort of running the machine.

And, of course, also the ICANN meetings (indiscernible). It was a year ago we were supposed to be in Cancun then, as well, and we canceled it very early. By cancelling, I think we saved lives doing that.

But part of the ICANN DNA is to meet. When an ICANN meeting happens, we have representatives (indiscernible) from more than 100 countries. So that's the fantastic thing as well, which we are now missing.

But as Leon pointed out in the chat, we also learned a lot. We learned -- I think we learned a lot. Not only we have learned a lot, but also technology during the year has been -- all the efforts that is pushed into new technologies going digital has really helped us. And when we move back again into ordinary meetings, it's going to be -- we have learned from this. Translations -- and, again, a big thank you for all our translators, who are doing an amazing

job -- where we learned something how to do things better in a digital space this year because we were forced.

How do we solve this?

Yeah, I think we are all, as human beings, affected in some shape or form about the pandemic. And we are always looking into, with the help of governments and health experts and others how this is going to end. Because it's going to be end. It's going to end one day. Vaccines are rolling out in part of the world, not all parts. But, hopefully, we will say much more progress hopefully in the next six months or something.

There's not very much we can actually do about the actual vac nations or people being healthy. We can only do our part in what we do. But I'm really, really looking forward to be able to meet you in person.

And do you remember things -- to all of you, do you remember things like hugging? Just being physically close to someone? I can't wait.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Göran.

Same here. I can't wait to hug all fellows in person.

And now we'll go to Eric. Eric --

GÖRAN MARBY: By the way, can I ask -- Siranush really means that. She's a great hugger.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Eric, you can unmute yourself and please ask your question. And don't forget to introduce yourself. State your name for recording purposes.

ERIC MWOBOBIA: Yeah, my name is Eric Mwobobia, from Kenya.

My main question is going to (indiscernible). I'll speak in English.

I wanted to understand, as (indiscernible) leaders, the main focus that you are going to address is the coming issues. So let me ask you, what are the next possible issues that you foresee that may affect the Internet governance the next, let's say, five years, so that as we work on the priorities and things that (indiscernible) to

welcome the themes that really matter in terms of making sure that Internet governance is (indiscernible).

So for review, what have been things that you see that may affect Internet governance in the near future and within the next five years?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Who would like to take this question? Göran?

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you.

As always, very good questions.

It's a very good question. It's actually something we right now speak about and talk about, because, for instance, right now today there are U.N. discussions, and also changes in how we do things.

But a more general scale, I think that -- I can give a lengthy answer, but let's start by this one.

First of all, the landscape of Internet governance is changing and it needs to change and evolve because the Internet itself has

changed and evolved so much over the last 10, 15 years. But we see, for instance, what could affect us. We see more and more legislation, especially, I think, Lito mentioned progress of legislations around the world, which can have an affect on ICANN's abilities to make policies. GDPR from Europe is one example. It's had a direct affect on our abilities to produce policies. Example is that we had something called the WHOIS systems, and when the GDPR came along, we actually had to close down access to parts of that.

Not judging on it. It's more of a this is the way it is.

And I think we're going to continue to see different kinds of legislation will have an impact on ICANN's ability to make policies. And that has an affect on the sort of Internet governance.

We also see something else, and that is what I call technical Internet governance. And I make the difference because what we see, we see technical proposals that are going to have a direct effect on how either Internet as possibility for the interoperability or our ability to make decisions. And if you have any doubt, I think that ICANN is the place to make many of those decisions, because we go through the multistakeholder model, including many parts of society for many parts of the world.

Examples of technical Internet governance issues as we deal with them are, for instance, there's a proposal called something that is New IP, which sounds nice, but it's not. Because it's actually -- will affect how Internet actually works, because I.P. is -- it's a little bit hard from a technology standpoint to say exactly what it is. But it's very much about the governance model.

We see proposals in 5G that can have an ability to sort of have -- that can also affect the ability for you to be able to connect to one network, which we think is important.

So there is a -- and there are things in -- inside our ecosystem or inside the Internet we have to talk about. And we have to be better.

I think that I personally believe, and (indiscernible) thank you very much, you asked me a question, so I will say it as a private person. So I think that the continuous discussions about the balance between transparency and the need for access to information is a continuous discussions we're going to have in the ICANN community. They're very, very important.

Someone mentioned abuse before. The definition of abuse -- from an ICANN perspective, it's -- some people say it's narrow.

But we still have something to say about fighting abuse for end users. Remember that we look -- we look upon it from the end user perspective. And where we talked about abuse, we talked about abuse that's concrete and we fix somewhere else, and it's not related to content or fake news or anything else.

But all those discussions will continue, because -- I mean, when I started using the Internet, Internet was one thing. And then tomorrow and the day after, Internet will be different. So we always need to continue this conversation.

But, believe me, -- and, hopefully, you believe me -- ICANN as an institution, ICANN community has been really good at looking into the future, looking around the corner, and seeing what needs to be done. And ICANN is, despite what you sometimes believe when you come into a process, an extremely effective machine when it comes to coming up with policies for Internet. I mean, I often give the example that the U.N. system took 25 years to come up with an International Sea Law. That is what you and ICANN does for breakfast.

But thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Lito?

Can every question mute everyone, your mics.

Lito. You asked for the floor. Please.

LITO IBARRA: Thank you, Siranush. Lito Ibarra speaking. Thank you, Siranush.

I would like to supplement what Göran said about the relevant topic, the important topics regarding Internet governance and Internet as a whole.

One of the greatest advantages that ICANN provides us by working in different working groups, different topics, and different areas and sectors involved is that since each of us live in a different country, in a different region of the world, the usual thing is that these topics have different speeds, different paces, different regions of the world and different countries within regions. So by working on a global environment like ICANN, the Internet is global. So we may learn what may happen in each of our countries. And we also may learn about certain solutions and certain proposals so as to approach each topic beforehand in some cases and before these topics are part of our country's agenda. So this is an added value that you will find when joining ICANN, because we volunteer our time to ICANN and we learn, we

study what is going on in other parts of the world before it may happen in our region.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Lito.

Maarten, would you like to add?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yeah. No, perfect. Appreciate it. And Göran said it all. And in addition, Lito was perfect, too.

Just for your orientation -- and your question was actually what is the next five years. And, actually, we have an answer that is really qualified in a way. It's the strategic plan. And you will find that on the ICANN site. I really recommend you to look at that and study that.

It is to look ahead for the next five years. And we are updating it every year. So you will find that the areas that we run into today are already back to -- you can find back in that plan in some way, shape, or form.

And we are also trying to back that up with a functional operational plan and planning that looks ahead for the five years, in the full understanding that the next five years what we're going to do and what we look beyond, is we'll look again to next year as well. So it's a clear vision on what we believe can affect us in the next five years to come, where we should pay attention to be able to continue to fulfill our mission of the secure and stability unique identifier system to the world, to do that in a bottom-up way, as promised. And we are continuing to update that.

So that's a clear and deep opportunity to focus on that. If there's anything in there that you have questions about, ask, again. You will find a relationship between that and almost everything we do today.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Maarten. And thanks, everyone, for your intervention.

We have several questions posted in the chat. So I will start reading them.

The question is from Eduardo Tome, ICANN70 fellow.

Last year, while I was doing my master's degree in digital law, I noticed most of my classmates really struggled to understand the

complexities and issues related to the activities of ICANN and DNS functionality in general.

How can we tackle the challenge of increasing engagement within our communities if most people don't really understand how the DNS can impact their lives?

Who would like to take this question?

LEON SANCHEZ: I can, Siranush, if you want.

GÖRAN MARBY: Okay. I'll let Leon go, then.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Please, Leon.

LEON SANCHEZ: Leon Sanchez speaking.

One of the commitments we take when we get on board by being fellows is to go back to our communities and share with them what we learn within the ICANN community. The idea is to share everything with our local colleagues. So we are one of ICANN's engines. We are a channel, a means to generate this feedback with our communities.

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What you are doing is great, because you are sharing what is going on at ICANN with your colleagues. And you may also tell them something that you might have learned about ICANN in your post graduation study. So this is one of the roads to be taken so as to be engaged with our communities.

Of course there are some other channels. And it depends on the sector, the community you're working with. There may be several ways to disseminate this knowledge about ICANN.

I am part of the At Large community. So we have a structure based on what we know as ALSs, At Large Structures. These ALSs gather in our structure, what we call the RALOs. There are five RALOs, regional At Large organizations. There are five because there are five regions. And so there, you can see how the bottom-up model operates, it works in ICANN. So the ALSs channel any issues and topics to the RALO, which is on our level, and then to ICANN. And this happens not only within the At Large community, but other communities as well.

So my advice would be try and get these people closer to any of those channels so that they may get involved and participate more at ICANN. And, of course, we have to be the ambassadors, the spokes persons so that people may know what is going on at ICANN.

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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon.

There is a question from Firuz Azimov, who is ICANN70 fellow. Who wrote bylaws of ICANN and also bottom-up processes?

Göran, would you like to take this? Who wrote ICANN's board bylaws?

GÖRAN MARBY: It's done by the community. It's -- ICANN is -- I sometimes struggle to explain how ICANN came about. But it's really done through community work. And that's what makes it so special. And especially during the decision that was so obvious.

When we call -- what we call a decision was the last oversight that the U.S. government had over ICANN as an institution. And the ICANN community came together and presented a proposal to the U.S. government -- I'm simplifying it, I'm making it -- I'm not telling you all the story. But really made a proposal to the U.S. government, said, we want to be self-governed, and here is our proposal. And the U.S. government accepted that. Not only the U.S. government, but all the members of the Governmental Advisory Committee, 170 countries, I think, at the time, stood up and said yes, by those bylaws and these systems and these

processes, you can now self-govern yourself on something so important as what ICANN does.

And the board's role in this is fairly specified what to do and how to do it and how to engage.

And I give you an example, a for instance about the budget. In the transition, we came -- the community came up with something we called the empowered community. When the budget is approved by the board, the ICANN budget, which is 140 million, around that every year, it goes up for one final act, when the ICANN community come together under the empowered community, and say, "No," or "Change."

So it's in its core, and it's in its DNA, this is something that we do to be able to make sure there is a functioning multistakeholder model and everyone's voices can be heard, and through the different types of consensus, we end up with a decision.

It's unique. It's fantastic. And it's sometimes hard to explain.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks, Göran.

The next question is from Jonathan Perceval, ICANN70 fellow.

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How can ICANN enforce the Internet service providers company to connect the unconnected community underrepresented to better engage more people in ICANN mission from connecting to Internet? As we know by COVID-19 situation, most meeting goes virtual. It is necessary to have more people to have access and better connection to the Internet.

So how can ICANN enforce the ISPs to connect unconnected?

GÖRAN MARBY: The simple answer is, we can't.

ICANN's role is specific in what we're supposed to do. And we should stay that specific.

The interesting thing, if you look at Internet as a thing, a technology, one of the things that has been a great advantage for us is that it's a system that different players come together. So ICANN, through its DNS and IANA, has one role. The telcos and the ISPs have another role. And you have another role as well, because you provide the content on the Internet. We are all connected, but we are also not connected from how we make decisions.

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Inside our own world, for instance, in the ecosystem, yes, we -- ICANN has -- ICANN has IANA. We -- root server operators are independent in their work. And that's important. You have the numbers community who makes independent decisions about the policies for numbers. You have the country code operators who are also making independent decisions about how to handle their top-level domains.

And sometimes people say, but this is ludicrous. How can you do this? Why is no one in charge? And then I say, but the good thing with this is that no one is in charge, because then any decision that is made will not have an effect on everybody.

And from a technology standpoint, if you see, like, this technology has gone from zero users to billions of users without a flaw. I mean, it's because the system is what we call delegated and not connected to each other.

So the answer -- the long answer is, we have very little to do with that. We do our part; they do their part. And it's been working very well on a general perspective. But I can understand the frustration about particular problems in a particular region. But often, those problems are related to something that is outside ICANN's scope or mission or our technical ability.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Göran.

We have another question from Malick Alassane, ICANN70 fellow.

Does ICANN only work on policy development. Are there any research programs for people who want to contribute on technical issues around DNS topics?

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. And I will take that directly. Because ICANN, we talk about the policies here now. But ICANN is a tree with two branches. So one of those branches are the policies for the public DNS. And that's specific. And that's where we have all our acronyms, all the things we -- all the people engaging. But we actually have another part that we have other beautiful acronyms as well. We usually say it originates from the responsibility we have about IANA. And then there's a lot of information about the function of IANA, and it's part of the Internet itself, so I don't want to go into that. But based on that, we also do a lot of other things.

We have a function within ICANN, a department called OCTO, who mostly only deals with technical issues. And you'll see, we have technical studies. You can find them on the Internet.

You can find them on our Web page. We do technical papers about different things, we run different programs where we look into certain things. We have something -- for instance, the DNS health indicators. If you're interested in technology about DNS, that's a really interesting one. Can I also from a personal standpoint add that I love the user interface of the health indicators, because it reminds me of my youth. It's not the most modern user interface.

We have systems like DAAR, who looks into different kinds of abuse, DNSTICR, who looks into different search strings. So we do a lot of different research about different areas, but all in relationship to the identifiers on the Internet.

So the answer is yes.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Göran. Thank you.

I thank also Luna, my colleague who posted ICANN strategic plan for fiscal year 21-25. So if you are interested, please follow the link there. And also my colleague Betsy, who posted the fundamental -- DNS fundamental course on ICANN Learn. Please take time and

take this course. It's very interesting course, and it's for free, as all our courses on ICANN Learn. So take this opportunity.

Any other questions which I missed? I asked Aloysius if your question was covered by Lito.

And thanks, by the way, for your responses in the chat. So I think many of the questions have been covered through the chat.

Any questions I missed? I think I read loudly all the questions raised.

If there is anyone who would like to ask the question verbally, please raise your hand, and we will give this -- the floor to you. We have several minutes to go, so this is your last opportunity to ask your question to our executive and board -- board here and members. So don't be shy.

And I see, Eric, you have your hand raised. Please, go ahead, Eric.

ERIC MWOBOBIA: Thank you, Siranush. My name is Eric, once again, ICANN fellow.

A question for the board. Yeah, so apart from COVID, what keeps you awake at night concerning ICANN activities? That may be

things that you are trying to make effective or things that you see may affect the working of ICANN or how you go about governance. So what keeps you awake and makes you put more priority and resources in solving those specific issues?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Who would like to take this question? Maarten? Please.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: It's a very good question.

But I think most importantly, what we've seen, that in the core, our work has been very fulfilling as an Internet community, also beyond ICANN, in the way that the Internet continues to function.

What keeps awake is that there may be unintended consequences of actions that may affect the ability to use the Internet as it was supposed to be, to really provide this neutral platform end-to-end for all that need access to information and services.

So what we can do from our side is make sure that this addressing, unique addressing system, works and you can rely on it. But we cannot make the world of the Internet happen in isolation.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Maarten.

And with that, I would like to thank all our participants. We have only five minutes to go, and I will go to our speakers to ask for their final remarks.

Please, Göran, if we can start from you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. Thank you very much. And I also would like to welcome you to the ICANN prep week next week during the ICANN meeting. Please participate. Make your voice heard. And I'm looking forward to see you in person whenever that is.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Göran.

Maarten, please.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yeah. Just appreciate your questions and your remarks. And, Eric, also your last question. I mean, it shows your eagerness and

your focus on trying to get this Internet to continue to focus towards the future. And for this, we need new leaders in the future as well. And we're very, very grateful you're willing to engage with us. So very welcome.

The invite is to reach out to us. And don't hesitate to do so when there's questions arising. And know you're very welcome.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Maarten.

Lito, please.

LITO IBARRA: Lito speaking. Thank you. Thank you, Siranush.

I join my colleagues' gratitude. Thanks to all of you. We will be seeing you on our next online sessions. And maybe later we might have a chance to meet face to face. But for the time being, thank you very much for your interest, your participation, your volunteering work. And please help us bring more friends, more colleagues from your communities, because we need more talent, more heads, more hands.

Thank you very much.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Lito. And Leon?

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Siranush.

Leon speaking. Thank you, Siranush.

I also want to thank and thank also for this session. I want to thank you, Siranush, for the great effort you are making in keeping our fellow community united, vibrant, and bringing new talents. Fellows are -- and this is not an exaggeration or a cliche -- fellows are the future of the ICANN. We are dependent upon you for ICANN to continue being the community it is so that we can evolve to the future. There are no limits. So if you work, you will be successful.

Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Leon. And I just would like to say a final comment, that all NextGen@ICANN participants and fellows selected for ICANN70 are heroes. This is their first ICANN meeting which they are taking virtually. So I think this is a unique opportunity for them also to meet you all in this reality, in this virtual reality. And

I thank all our speakers for your time and for your interactive session. And I thank also all our participants for the great questions. And as I have mentioned in the chat space, if you would like to ask a question, reach us at engagement. ICANN -- it's icann.org.

I also would like to thank our interpreters for the amazing new tools available for all of us at ICANN70. And also thank our technical team for running smoothly this session, as always. And my colleague Deborah Escalera, who was helping me with running the presentation, thank you.

With this, this session is adjourned.

Thank you very much for participation.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thanks.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thanks, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]