
ICANN73 | Virtual Community Forum – How it Works: ICANN Policy
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SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: ICANN Policy session. My name is Siranush Vardanyan, and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During this session, questions and comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form, as I have noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Russian. Click on the Interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session.

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Welcome everyone, once again. I would like to welcome our presenters today, Chantelle Doerksen and Ozan Sahin, our ICANN colleagues from Policy Team. And without further ado, I would like to give the floor to Chantelle to start the presentation.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Thank you, Siranush, for the introduction. Hi, everyone. As Siranush mentioned, my name is Chantelle Doerksen, and I'm based out of our LA office. My colleague, Ozan Sahin, who you'll be hearing from shortly, is based in our Istanbul office. And today we will be talking to you about the Policy Development and Advice Development Processes at ICANN.

As you can see on the screen in front of you, our discussion will be divided into six sessions. First, I will talk about what our team does and how policies developed within our three supporting organizations. Then Ozan will talk to you about the specifics of Policy Development and Advice Development Processes. And then I'll highlight a few of the current policy development processes that are ongoing. And finally, we'll open up the session for discussions.

So, what is the policy development support function? The Policy Development Support Function is a team of 36 community management and subject matter experts. In total, our team members

are fluent in nine different languages. We work across six different time zones and are collectively located in nine different countries. This enables ICANN to ensure that the community is well supported in its work.

What do we do to support the community? We help facilitate community and working group projects. And this includes calls and sessions, some of which you have, or will be attending this week. We also provide subject matter expertise on the various policy topics covered within the working groups and we also help with some research and drafting.

We're the team that manages the various processes related to policy development, which includes the working groups, the public comment feature that you'll hear about more towards the end of this presentation, and the secretariat support services that work behind the scenes to ensure that all the community sessions that we support run smoothly. We also work to inform stakeholders, and so this includes communication materials about how policy work at ICANN happens, the pre- and post-meeting reports, which are known as the Outlook and Outcomes Reports respectively, and we'll also share more about that later on in the presentation.

So why do we do it? As you know, the ICANN mission is to coordinate policy development related to the Internet system of unique identifiers. So at ICANN, the approach to policy development is a unique form of governance that we refer to as bottom-up decision-making. And this bottom-up approach to decision-making involves consensus-driven

policy development and advice development work with our community volunteers. In other words, bottom-up consensus-driven work is at the core of the ICANN mission.

Now, we'll look at the structure of the ICANN ecosystem itself to understand how this Policy Development happens. Within ICANN, we talk about it being made up of three components—the ICANN community, the ICANN Board of Directors, and the ICANN organization, which is often shortened to ICANN org.

At a high level, the role of the community is to develop policy. The role of the Board is to review and adopt the policies recommended by the community. And the role of ICANN org is to implement the policies that are adopted by the Board. The ICANN Board also oversees the performance of ICANN as an organization. This distribution and decentralization of power and responsibility works as a strong system of checks and balances, where we each hold one another accountable.

Now, when we say that the ICANN community is where policy is developed, we're talking about the community volunteers and the community structures within which they operate. The volunteers include experts and people from all over the world, who are coming together to make important decisions about how this ecosystem works. As you can imagine, the views are very diverse. And the community structures and processes are in place to make sure that the work is approached in an effective way and to ensure that all these different perspectives can be heard.

What's important to understand is how this community works together through this bottom-up process to make the policy recommendations, to give advice, to conduct reviews related to ICANN's mission, and to propose implementation solutions for problems that fall within ICANN's mission and scope.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Chantelle, if I may request you to slow down a bit. Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Okay. Thank you, Siranush. My apologies. Within the ICANN community, there are two different categories. The first are the supporting organizations, or the SOs, which are the three groups responsible for developing the policy recommendations in different areas related to IP addresses, generic top-level domains, and the country code top-level domains.

The second category in ICANN refers to the advisory committees or the ACs. These include representatives from governments and international treaty organizations, root server operators, Internet security experts, and Internet end users. These are the four groups that give advice and make recommendations to the ICANN board.

Within the first group, the supporting organizations, we'll talk about the three that develop policy. And so, moving from top to bottom, the first one is the address supporting organization, or the ASO. Within the ASO there are the Regional Internet Registries, or RIRs, each with its own

geographic region, and they are responsible for allocating the IP addresses in different parts of the world.

These are RIRs form a Council called the ASO Address Council. And the Council has representatives from each of the RIRs and focuses on Global Internet Protocol Address Policy. So that's the policy development that happens at a regional level on the number side of the community. And as you can imagine, there are also global policies that affect more than one region. and those policies are developed through the ASO itself.

The other two SOs are related to domain name policy. The ccNSO, or the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, works on the global policies related to country code, top-level domains, or ccTLDs. Examples of those that you might be familiar with, for example, are, .br for Brazil or .uk for the United Kingdom.

And then, finally, we have the Generic Name Supporting Organization or the GNSO, that is focused on generic top-level domains or gTLDs. The one you probably know most, of course, is, .com or .org. Since 2012, the pool of gTLDs has grown. There has been a significant expansion of the gTLD space through the new gTLD program. With this growth, the need for new policies has also increased.

Within the GNSO, it's the GNSO Council that serves as the governing body to supervise Policy Development. The Council represents many different parts of the ICANN community, including the contracted parties, which are the registries and the registrars that hold the

contracts with ICANN. It also includes representatives from other groups such as civil society, business, and other commercial interests.

Now, with this, I would like to turn it over to my colleague, Ozan, to go into detail about the different so policy development processes and to talk to you about the advisory committees.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you Chantelle. And hello, everyone. My name is Ozan Sahin. I'm also a member of the post-development support team working out of ICANN Middle East and Africa regional office located in Istanbul. And I will start with the multistakeholder policy development. This infographic in display illustrates the policy development process for each of the three supporting organizations. It is available online in all UN languages, plus Portuguese and Turkish. So, if you're interested in the translated versions, you may go to the link that I'm now putting in the chat pod and see the translated versions as well.

I will now focus on the policy development process of each supporting organizations. Going from left to right, I will start with the GNSO, or Generic Names Supporting Organization. So, if we can go to the next slide—thank you, Chantelle—you will see that most of the Policy Development activity focuses on generic top-level domains. Generic Names Supporting Organization is responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains such as .com, .org, or .net, or .movie. And the GNSO policy development process is managed by the GNSO Council.

Let's go to the next slide, which provides more detailed information on how the GNSO Council is structured. There are two Houses within the GNSO Council. The two stakeholder groups that you see in the middle of the chart, the Registries Stakeholder Group and the Registrar Stakeholder group, together they form the Contracted Parties House, simply because these structures have contracts with ICANN. Whereas the two stakeholder groups on the left and right, the Commercial Stakeholder group and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, they together form the Non-Contracted Parties House.

Commercial Stakeholder Group is composed of three constituencies— Business Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency, and the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency. And we have Non-Commercial Users Constituency and Not-for-Profit Organizational Concerns Constituency under the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group. Each of these stakeholder groups appoint a certain number of counselors to the GNSO Council. To sum up, this slide shows how different interests are represented within the GNSO Council.

Let's go to the next slide and focus on the GNSO policy development process. The first step is issue identification. In this step, the GNSO Council, ICANN Board, or an Advisory Committee identifies an issue, and they come up with the challenge or problem in mind. Then, the GNSO Council considers two things—first, whether this issue is within the scope of their mission, and also whether or not this issue would result in a policy.

At the end of the first step, the GNSO Council makes the determination whether it wants to undertake a particular effort. Under ICANN Bylaws, every supporting organization has a specific mission, and they cannot go outside of this remit. So, in other words, this step is to make sure the issue is within the remit of the GNSO.

After the identification of the issue, the next step is scoping. At the request of the GNSO Council, the Policy Development Support team drafts and publishes a Preliminary Issue Report. This report focuses on some questions that the potential policy development process can answer. This report is published for public comment. This is where there are opportunities for outside input from the entire ICANN community.

I'd like to take a moment and point out the arrows on the left and right-hand side of the policy development process slide. These arrows refer to the steps in the PDP process or policy development process, where input from the community is sought. And you will continue to see these arrows on the next policy development process slides.

So, going back to the final step of the scoping phase, following the public comment period, a Final Issue Report is prepared, reflecting the comments received during the public consultation period. And then the report is submitted to the GNSO Council for the council's consideration.

Third phase in the GNSO PDP process is the initiation phase, where the GNSO Council looks at the final issue report and votes on whether to initiate the policy development process. If the council decides to

initiate a PDP, then they develop and adopt a charter for the PDP working group. In the final step of the initiation phase, the GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form the PDP Working Group.

Next slide please. Once the working group is formed, it starts its deliberations through mailing list exchanges, teleconferences and when possible, face to face meetings, and this process may take a couple of years. The working group consults with the ICANN community and then comes up with an initial report. Then a public comment proceeding is open for this report. And eventually, the working group reviews the comments received and decides whether to incorporate these comments in the final report. And then the working group submits its final report to the GNSO Council.

In the next phase, the GNSO Council reviews the final report and considers adoption. If adopted, then the GNSO Council submits the final report to the ICANN Board. Once the final report is submitted to the ICANN Board, the board consults the ICANN community through a public comment proceeding. The Board receives input from the committee before making its decision, and then the Board votes on the recommendations in the final report. If the Board adopts the recommendations, then they become the policy, and that is the end of the policy development process and the beginning of the implementation phase.

Can we go to the next slide? So, the ccNSO, Country Code Name Supporting Organization, work on global policies relating to country code top level domain name policies, such as .br for Brazil or .uk for

United Kingdom, as my colleague Chantelle mentioned during her portion.

And let's focus on those ccNSO policy development process, if we can go to the next slide. This process is very similar to the GNSO post development process in that you have a phase to identify the issue. Then, there is a phase where it is determined whether or not the issue is within the scope of the ccNSO. And in the next phase, ccNSO Council approves the issue report and initiates a PDP. The ccNSO Council gives public notice and opens a Public Comment Period.

And on the next slide, you will see, and then the working group phase begins. After the initial report of the working group, another Public Comment Period takes place. And then the final report and recommendations of the working group are developed and submitted to the ccNSO Council.

There is a difference here when it comes to voting on the report of the working group. In the ccNSO Post Development Process, there is a two-stage voting within the ccNSO. First the ccNSO council votes and then ccNSO members vote. To put in other words, there's an extra stage here where all ccNSO members vote on the report of the working group even if they are not represented on the ccNSO Council. And after that, the final report is submitted to the ICANN Board.

So, let's now move to the Address Supporting Organization. Address Supporting Organization Address Council is composed of 15 volunteers, three from each of the five Regional Internet Registries. The remit of the

Address Supporting Organization within ICANN is specifically scoped around global number resources. Although there's a lot of regional policy development work that happens at the five regional Internet Registries, ASO's remit at ICANN, it is only limited to global policies.

This slide shows how global policy development process works in the ASO after the Issue Identification phase. And ASO Address Council assembles a team called the Policy Proposal Facilitator Team and starts to track the issue. Address Supporting Organization policy development process usually requires a specific outcome or action by the IANA numbering services. That is why the five Regional Internet Registries, and the communities within the five Regional Internet Registries, have to develop and approve exactly the same policy.

The Policy Proposal Facilitator Team makes sure that policy development process was followed in every region and then it was approved. And finally, the proposal has to go to the Address Council for approval. In the ICANN Board review phase, the Address Supporting Organization Address Council submits the proposal to the ICANN Board. The ICANN Board may accept or reject the proposal, or the Board may request changes to the proposal or take no action.

The five regional registries are listed on the slide. So namely these are AFRINIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, and RIPE NCC. Let's now move on to advice development and how advice is developed in the four advisory committees. So, you see the four advisory committees on the slide.

At-Large at-risk Advisory Committee provides advice from end-users. At-Large Advisory Committee is composed of 15 members, two from each of the five regional At-Large organizations and five members appointed by the ICANN nominating committee. At-Large Advisory Committee or ALAC is supported by more than 200 At-Large structures and volunteers.

Moving down to Governmental Advisory Committee, it provides input from governments on public policy issues, particularly on interactions with policies and national laws or international agreements.

Another Advisory Committee is Root Server System Advisory Committee, which provides input from root server operators on the operation, administration, security and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.

And finally, Security and Stability Advisory Committee advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

So, on the slide you see another infographic. Let me put in the chat the link to the English version of this infographic and start with At-Large Advisory Committee and its Advice Development Process. Any At-Large committee member can raise issues in the At-Large Advice Development Process. And then the At-Large advisory committee, or the ALAC, discusses the issues to determine the impact on individual end users. ALAC designates issues, issues efforts to participate in the Policy Development, and then lead the drafting of ALAC responses.

At-Large Advisory Committee makes sure to check with the regional At-Large Organizations, or the RALOs, and the RALOs check with their At-Large structures. They ultimately go to the AT-Large Advisory Committee, which approves the statement. If ratified, ALAC sends advice to ICANN Board, ICANN org organization, supporting organizations, and other advisory committees, or other ICANN committee members for consideration.

Moving right, to GAC, any GAC member or observer can bring up an issue for discussion. In addition, ICANN Board may seek GAC advice on a particular topic. GAC chair solicits input from GAC members, observers and working groups. And then GAC chair summarizes the input received with the aim of reaching consensus. Then the input providers contribute to draft advice. If consensus is reached, then the GAC chair issues GAC Communiqué, which is the advisory GAC develops during ICANN public meetings, or other formal written statement to the ICANN Board.

Again, moving right to the Root Server System Advisory Committee, or RSSAC, RSSAC is composed of representatives from the organizations responsible for operating global root service. There is also RSSAC Caucus, which is composed of DNS experts who have an interest in the root server system, broadening the base of diverse technical expertise available for RSSAC work.

Any RSSAC or RSSAC Caucus member can propose work items and can submit a statement of work for RSSACs consideration. If approved, RSSAC sets up a work party. The work party works on the topic and

drafts a document. After a review period, the work party leader sends the outcome document to RRSAC and then RRSAC votes on the document. If approved, RRSAC publishes the document and provides its advice.

Finally, SSAC is very similar to RRSAC in how they develop advice to the ICANN Board and the ICANN community. SSAC also sets up work parties to work on issues identified. And then, Security and Stability Advisory Committee, or SSAC, needs to approve the work party's draft document, which is followed by the publication of the document as SSAC advice.

With that, if we can go to the next slide, I will turn it back to my colleague, Chantelle, who will provide some examples of the current policy development processes. Chantelle.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN:

Thank you, Ozan. On the screen in front of you, you'll see five policy development processes that are currently ongoing at ICANN. And we'll talk about them from the top to bottom. The first one is the third PDP of the ccNSO. And part one of this proposed policy focuses on the retirement of ccTLDs, which is currently under consideration by the ICANN Board. The second part of this policy development process is developing a review mechanism on the delegation, transfer and relocation of ccTLDs. Now, there's no session for ICANN 73 but the work is ongoing. And you can find more information about that on the ccNSO website.

Next is ccNSO PDP4, which is developing a process for the deselection of internationalized domain name ccTLDs. The outcome of this PDP will replace the current fast track process that's being used. And there are two subgroups currently reviewing specific efforts related to IDNs and they're coordinating with the GNSO efforts.

And this ties nicely into the third PDP on the screen, which refers to the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names, or EPDP on IDNs. Management of variant labels and how the guidelines can be updated are the two issues that the group is currently working on. And as I mentioned, the ICANN Board has asked the GNSO and the ccNSO to coordinate on this policy topic.

The fourth PDP on the screen is the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for International Governmental Organizations, or IGOs. We refer to this one as the EPDP on IGOs. Its remit is narrowly focused on resolving outstanding recommendations related to Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP. A final report has been published and the working group is on track to deliver its recommendations by April.

The last PDP I'd like to highlight is the Transfer Policy PDP. Now the transfer policy is the oldest consensus policy at ICANN. It's been in place since 1999 but hasn't been reviewed since 2014. Privacy regulations such as GDPR have impacted policy related to registers and so this PDP seeks to update the policy. Now, Transfer Policy had their session yesterday, so if you want to go and listen to a recording on that, you're able to. And the PDPs that do have sessions, those recordings will be on the website as well.

I want to also note that there are two operational design phases, or ODPs, underway. And these tie into the implementation side of policy. And the two ODPs relate to Subsequent Procedures and also the System for Standardized Access or Disclosure, which we also call the SSAD model. There's also one operational design assessment, also known as an ODA, on the SSAD. And this is where ICANN org is considering and evaluating the board decisions.

Now we've talked to you a lot about the different policy processes—the different policy work at ICANN. We want to now shift the focus to how you can participate. The first way is you can join one of the open community groups. This is a great way to get to know other people with similar interests, make contributions, or you can contribute to a position statement that the group is forming. You could also help draft public comments submission and help guide working group members.

The second way is you can sign up as an individual working group member as an observer. This will allow you to follow along and see what the work is about in one of the working groups.

The final way that you can participate is either as an individual or as a part of a group, and that is to submit a public comment. Whoops, there we go. My apologies. On the screen in front of you, you can see an example of a current open public comment proceeding. Now, public comment is the process that gives the ICANN community, the Internet stakeholders, and the general public an opportunity to provide direct input on the ICANN work and policies.

As you can see on the screen in front of you, you're able to submit a comment as an individual, as an informal group, or you can contribute to a public comment proceeding via a particular part of the community. And you can see examples of those on the right-hand side of the screen. Via the public comment feature on the ICANN Org website, you can also see what opportunities are open at any given time.

So, with this, we'd like to now open the floor to the Q&A portion of the session. And then before we leave, we'll share a resource slide with you that can help you track the different agendas and materials that have been prepared for ICANN 73. And as Siranush mentioned, these slides are available to download on the URL for this session itself. With this, Siranush, I will turn the floor over to you to facilitate the Q&A portion.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Chantelle, and thank you, Ozan, for this informative presentation. And thanks for all the links published. I will come compile all the links and send to ICANN 73 Fellows via email so they have it in their mailboxes.

And we have several questions already posted. So, I will start with the first question asked by Samik. "What happens with the issue if it is not implemented as a policy? Will it be brought back to the table again? Will the previous comments process on the issue influence the issue or will it be dealt as a fresh issue?" Who would like to take this? So, if the issue is not implemented as a policy and it comes back to the table, will the

previous comment process influence on this issue or it is considered as a new, fresh issue?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: I see Ozan's hand is raised. I will give him the floor.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Chantelle. Hi, Siranush, and thank you for this question. Frankly, I never thought of a policy proposed by a supporting organization and approved by the ICANN Board to not be implemented by ICANN org because ICANN organization is responsible for implementing the policies that have been approved. So, I never thought of such a situation. I don't know if it happened in the past. But I just don't think so because this is the responsibility of the ICANN organization to implement the policies that have been approved.

But on a side note, recently there are efforts on enhancing the implementation phases of the approved policies. So, you may have heard about operational design phases for some of the board approved policies. So, the ICANN organization is working with, again, community to see how best to implement the approved policies. I don't know, Chantelle, if you have anything to add to that.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thanks, Ozan. The only thing I can think of mentioning here is that if by some chance, a policy recommendation that a specific SO has approved and submitted to the Board for consideration, if the board

rejects it, then it would go back to that specific community for further consideration. But as Ozan mentioned, once policy is approved by the Board, then it goes into the implementation phase.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. The next question is, again from Samik. “How much time does a policy take to be implemented? Can an implemented policy be updated? And if yes, then what’s the process for this?”

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Ozan, if I may. Thank you, Siranush and Samik for the for the question. This ties really nicely into the PDP slide that I shared. It's a very good question. The oldest policy that I mentioned was the Transfer Policy and that's currently in a policy development phase right now, as a PDP. It was last revisited in 2014. So, the fact that the community decided that it's time to revise it can show you that these policies can be revisited. But it's up to the community to decide.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And the question related also to PDPs from [Malut]. “Can you elaborate the difference between PDP and EPDP and who makes the decision?” Who would like to take this question? The difference between EPDP and PDP? Shantelle, Ozan?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Okay. So, I will attempt to answer this. That's a very good question. It's up to the SO. So, for example, the expedited PDPs that are currently open are all within the GNSO. And it's up to Council to make that distinction. Based on the name, as you can probably surmise, an expedited PDP means that it should move faster than a regular PDP. But again, it's up to the working group that actually developed the policies.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Chantelle. And then next question from Keolebogile. “At what stage in the PDP are ACs, advisory committees, are engaged?” Are they engaged since the starting process or there is a specific stage when they are engaged in PDP process?

OZAN SAHIN: Siranush, this is Ozan speaking if I may. I think, Chantelle, you're still in control of the slides. So, if you don't mind going back to, for instance, slide 14. Let's provide an example from the GNSO policy development process. And on these slides, you saw some arrows on the left and right-hand side. During these phases, the arrows refer to the opportunities where the rest of the ICANN community can engage in the post development process. So, for instance, if you look at the first arrow in the identification phase, the GNSO Council, ICANN Board, or an AC identifies an issue. So, outside of the GNSO community, you know, an AC can also chime in, in the identification phase.

So, moving down, looking at the second arrow, rest of ICANN community can still engage in the policy development process when

the Preliminary Issue Report is open for public comment period and provide their comments. So similarly, if you look at the third arrow, you know, in the formation of the working group, again, ICANN community can appoint members to the working group, and be part of the working group that's being formed.

So, these arrows really indicate the opportunities for engagement from the other sides of the ICANN community. I hope that answers. Siranush, I see you're speaking but you're muted so you may want to come off mute.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Oh, sorry. Thank you, Ozan. If there is any additional questions you would like to ask, you can post in the chat, or as a follow-up, you can raise your hand. And we have another question from Ayesha, who is asking about the difference between working of RRSAC and SSAC. So, she would like to join SSAC but she is confused and would like to know more about the difference between those two communities. Ozan, I see your hand.

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you, Siranush. And thank you, Ayesha, for the question. The Advice Development Process for both RRSAC and SSAC is really similar. And during the identification of the issue phase, and during the setting up of working groups, these are really similar. When they set up working groups to work on certain topics, the interested members sign up for this working group, start working on the issue, start drafting a

document, which will then become the output of the working group for consideration of the RRSAC or SSAC.

But the difference that I can highlight is RSSAC has ... Beyond its members from Root Server Operators and partners in managing the root zone, it has a broader group called RSSAC Caucus, which is composed of experts on DNS, Domain Name System, root zone. So, RRSAC may go to the RRSAC Caucus, which is a broader group, and set up the working group as an RRSAC working group and leverage from the expertise of these members.

And the outcome—again, the outcome document—will need to be approved by the RRSAC. In SSACs case, the SSAC working group’s outcome is also approved by the SSAC. But this is the only difference that I can highlight. Otherwise, they have a very similar working method.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Ozan. I would like to read loudly the message posted by Carlos Reyes, who is also the colleague from policy team. So, “As Chantelle and Ozan have shared, the policy development processes of the supporting organizations, provide for discussions between the ICANN Board and the Council of the supporting organization to clarify any policy recommendation. Expedited Policy Development Processes, EPDPs, have fewer steps at the beginning, and the actual phase of work is not abbreviated.” Thanks, Carlos, for additional note.

We have hand raised by Ahmad. Ahmad, if you can unmute yourself and go ahead with your question.

AHMAD AGHAR:

Thank you, Siranush. Good morning, everybody. My question is ... Well actually, during the meetings of ICANN and before that, following up with ICANN a little bit, I've noticed that many of the required policies take a relatively long time to develop, which is understandable considering the way the policy is being developed.

But that's becoming more and more of a problem, because now the Internet is moving fast, and the general community using the Internet is moving faster, and there are so many things that are being introduced on a daily basis. Is there an effort to expedite the policy development process in a much faster way to meet—in order to catch up with the new developments every day? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:

Thank you, Ahmad. Ozan, would you like to take this question? Or your hand is raised—it's for previous question? So, who would like to take?

OZAN SAHIN:

It was for the previous question, Siranush. I'll check with my colleague, Chantelle, and see if she would like to take this up or let me go.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Ozan. Siranush, could you repeat the question, please? I was catching up in the chat.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ahmad, can you just briefly tell what was your specific question?

AHMAD AGHAR: Yes. Sure. So, the question was is there an initiative or a process being worked on right now where make the policy development process much faster than it is currently, in order to catch up with the continuous changes that are happening with the Internet nowadays?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you very much. That's a very good question. So, there's two things that I think are worth pointing out here. One is PDP 3.0, which looks at ways to improve the policy development process. The other is something the GNSO is working on, which comes out of the ATRT3 review and it's a pilot project related to the continuous improvement. I can't remember the full name but the acronym is CCOICI, which is a mouthful. The issues are complex but there are initiatives to look at how we can improve the process.

And there's also what's called a consensus playbook, which outlines how a Consensus Policy is developed at ICANN. And we can also share

that link with you. But I have a sense that the Fellows are doing a training on that as well.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We already did the training on Tuesday.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you, Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah. Thank you, Chantelle. Yeah, thank you, Chantelle. Carlos pointed out in the chat that, actually, the ICANN Board does not approve the initiation of any PDP or EPDP. And the recommendations of any PDP or GNSO EPDPs still go to the ICANN Board for consideration but they do not approve. The board does not approve the initiation of any PDPs.

And I would like to go to the next question posted in the chat by Nojus. “Can SSAC develop reports and advisories for a particular issue at the same time and when each one is developed?” As far as I understand, if there is any report developed by SSAC and when they develop those reports for a particular issue.

OZAN SAHIN: Siranush?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, Ozan, please.

OZAN SAHIN: So SSAC reports usually are published as an outcome of their Advice Development Process. So again, they follow the process that I highlighted during the presentation. So, Chantelle, I don't know if you are able to go back to slide 24. But again, it all starts with the policy development process and identifying there's an issue.

So, it can be the ICANN Board reaching out to SSAC to work on a particular issue, or another supporting organization or advisory committee contacting SSAC, or it can be ICANN organization. So, if SSAC agrees to review the issue, then it starts with setting up a work party working on it. And the work party drafts a document for SSAC's review. And then SSAC publishes it as its advice. So the frequency of these reports would depend on how SSAC views there's an issue to work on and such. I hope that answers the question.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. If any follow-up, Nojus, on this, if you would like, you can take the mic.

NOJUS SAAD: It's pretty clear. Thank you so much, Siranush.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, please. Thank you. So, Alexiaa put in the chat that, “Thank you for allowing so much time for our questions.” That's why we are planning special sessions for Fellows and NextGeners to be able to ask that many questions directly to the people who are in charge of facilitating that process. Thank you, Alexiaa, you for your comment. I don't see any hand raised and I have read all the questions posted in the chat. This is the last call for any questions, if you have any. So, use this opportunity to ask Chantelle or Ozan your questions.

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Siranush, while we're waiting to see if there's any final questions, I'm going to post the link into the chat. But I want to flag to you the Policy Outlook Report for ICANN 73, which gives an overview of all the different SOs and ACs that we covered today. And it can give you an overview of what the current work is. And then, as you see on the screen, and my colleague Ariel shared earlier in the chat, we also have the GNSO policy briefing, which will go into further detail about the policy development processes and other work that the GNSO is working on. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Chantelle. And well, thanks for all the links from you, from Ozan, and from Ariel. And there was a question from Samik in the chat. “Can a policy be scrapped and what's the process for it?” Samik, if you can elaborate on this a bit more.

SAMIK KHAREL: What I mean is like if a policy is already implemented, if it gets outdated or there's criticism about it, or can it be scrapped? And how do you process that?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Is there a specific process for it, Chantelle? Or Ozan?

CHANTELLE DOERKSEN: Thank you. Ozan, I'll try to answer and then please jump in, if you think of anything to elaborate. That's a great question. Scrapping would have to be a community decision. We can revisit policies and that has to be a community decision.

Again, the Transfer Policy is a great example of that because when the registrar agreements were first initiated in 1999, there was no consensus policy. But, the consensus policy, when it was established, is one of the oldest at ICANN. So now it's currently being revisited and reopened because of GDPR and the new privacy legislations that are coming out from various governments. So, I hope that helps answer, and then Ozan, if you have anything else to add, please feel free.

OZAN SAHIN: No, nothing to add, Chantelle. Thank you. That was perfect.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. I don't see any additional questions. Much appreciation from the participants to all of you, for your time and for answering that

many questions. I would like also to thank our interpreters and the tech support for this session, for supporting this session. And definitely, all fellows will receive the follow up email from me. And as I have noted, this PowerPoint is available with all the links showed there in the meeting schedule under this particular session.

And as I don't see any questions and don't see any notes in the chat, just we will close this session. And with that this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much for participation.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]