# Virtual
# Fellowship Program
# Post-Meeting Report
# ICANN71

ICANN

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM –

The Fellowship Program strengthens the diversity of the multistakeholder model by fostering opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to become active participants in the ICANN community. This visual represents an overview of the latest cohort of fellows.
To learn more and to read the fellows' complete report, go to **http://www.icann.org/en/fellowships**.

**NUMBER OF FELLOWS**

**NUMBER OF COACHES**

**GENDER DIVERSITY**

**NUMBER OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY FELLOWS**

**NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED**

**NUMBER OF WORKING SECTORS AND/OR AREAS OF INTEREST**

**HOURS OF SESSIONS ATTENDED**

**NUMBER OF ICANN LEARN COURSES COMPLETED**

**NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP SESSIONS ATTENDED**

**PERCENTAGE SATISFIED WITH MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

Find out how you can participate by visiting: **www.icann.org**

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One World, One Internet

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This report was written by fellows Katarina Gevorgyan from Armenia and Oreoluwa Abiodun Lesi from Nigeria, on behalf of the ICANN71 class of fellows.

# What is the Fellowship Program?

The goal of the ICANN Fellowship Program is to strengthen the diversity of the multistakeholder model by fostering opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to become active participants in the ICANN community.

Fellows are exposed to the workings of the ICANN community, are assigned a mentor, and receive training across different areas of knowledge and skill building before, during, and after an ICANN meeting. Travel assistance to attend an in-person meeting is also provided.

To apply or learn more about the Fellowship Program, go to
http://www.icann.org/en/fellowships.

# ICANN71 Virtual Fellowship Participants

The ICANN71 Virtual Fellowship Program had 10 fellows and five mentors. Mentors are appointed by ICANN's Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs).

*For this report, fellow profile metrics are derived from data provided during the Fellowship Program application process.*

## Fellows

| Name | Country or region of residence | Working sector and/or area of interest |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Abdalmonem Galila** | Arab Republic of Egypt | Academia, ccTLD Operations, Security, Technical – Recipient of Tarek Kamel Fellowship Recognition |
| **Bonface Witaba** | Kenya | Civil Society, Internet End User, Technical |
| **Bukola Oronti** | Nigeria | Academia, Internet End User |
| **Hanan Khatib** | Jordan | Internet End User |
| **Jacob Odame-Baiden** | Ghana | Civil Society, Intellectual Property, Internet End User |
| **Judith Samantha Tchimmoe Fezeu** | Cameroon | Intellectual Property |
| **Katarine Gevorgyan** | Armenia | ccTLD Operations |
| **Oreoluwa Abiodun Lesi** | Nigeria | Civil Society |
| **Rocio Agustina de la Fuente** | Argentina | ccTLD Operations |
| **Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah** | Pakistan | Academia, Government or Intergovernmental Organization, Internet End User |

Note: All information above is self-reported by applicants.

## Mentors

- ⊙ Alejandra Reynoso Barral – appointed by the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
- ⊙ Amr Elsadr – appointed by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
- ⊙ Mistura Aruna – appointed by the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
- ⊙ Rao Naveed Bin Rais – appointed by the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)
- ⊙ Alfredo Calderon – appointed by the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

# Main Takeaway from the Virtual Fellowship

Across all the fellows, the ICANN71 Policy Forum offered a valuable opportunity to participate in the ICANN ecosystem.

The fellows found the Prep Week sessions and the special role-play session on the Consensus Policy Playbook particularly useful in gaining real-life experience of the policy development process at ICANN. For some, it gave a deeper insight into the issues that they might come across in their respective nine-to-five, while for others it offered insights into many of the operational processes within the various ICANN stakeholder groups, constituencies and advisory committees.

Some fellows were able to join working group meetings, which helped them contribute directly or observe the policy processes within the ICANN ecosystem. Others had the opportunity to participate in constituency leadership meetings.

The meeting between the ICANN Board and the fellows and NextGen@ICANN program participants was extremely interesting as the fellows and NextGen participants got the opportunity to interact with members of the Board and had the opportunity to ask questions. The overwhelming message for all was the importance and the opportunities for joining the policy development process (PDP) even as newcomers. The conversations with the ICANN Board and ICANN President and CEO were interactive, informative, and left the fellows feeling motivated to do more.
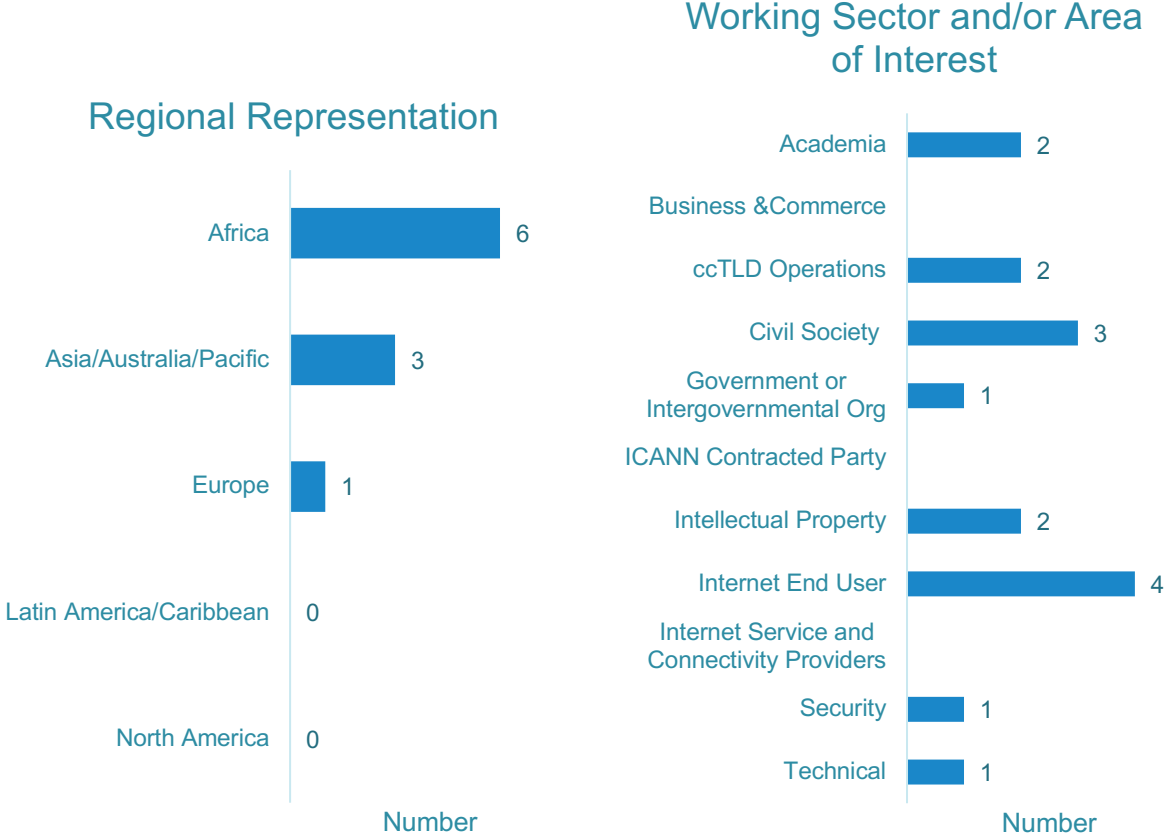
# Program Statistics

In this section, the metrics are derived from data provided by fellows during the application process and fellowship post-meeting survey.

## Fellowship Cohort Profile

Ten individuals participated in the ICANN71 virtual Fellowship.

ICANN71 fellows came from a variety of regions, with Africa being the most common, followed by the Asia/Australia Pacific.

*The regions reflect the ICANN regions. Note that applicants and fellows could select multiple stakeholder groups.*

### Regional Representation

| Region | Number |
|---|---|
| Africa | 6 |
| Asia/Australia/Pacific | 3 |
| Europe | 1 |
| Latin America/Caribbean | 0 |
| North America | 0 |

### Working Sector and/or Area of Interest

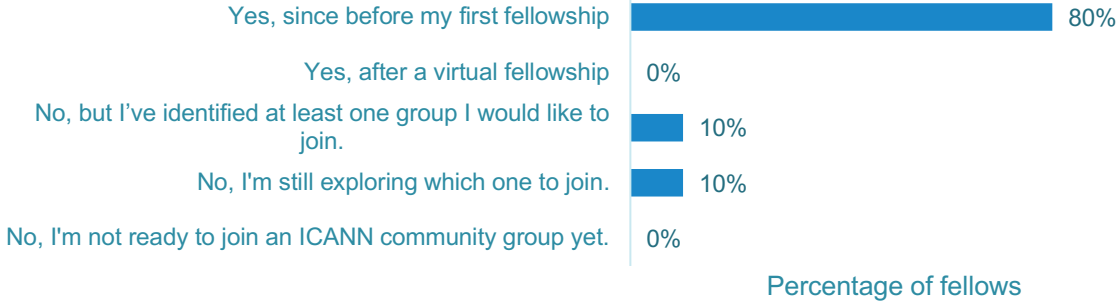| Sector | Number |
|---|---|
| Academia | 2 |
| Business &Commerce | |
| ccTLD Operations | 2 |
| Civil Society | 3 |
| Government or Intergovernmental Org | 1 |
| ICANN Contracted Party | |
| Intellectual Property | 2 |
| Internet End User | 4 |
| Internet Service and Connectivity Providers | |
| Security | 1 |
| Technical | 1 |

# Community Engagement

## SO/AC Affiliations

In total, eight out of ten fellows are affiliated with at least one ICANN community group (Supporting Organization, Advisory Committee, Stakeholder Group or Constituency), one has identified at least one group they would like to join, and one fellow is still exploring which group to join.

### Are you affiliated with at least one ICANN community group?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes, since before my first fellowship | 80% |
| Yes, after a virtual fellowship | 0% |
| No, but I've identified at least one group I would like to join. | 10% |
| No, I'm still exploring which one to join. | 10% |
| No, I'm not ready to join an ICANN community group yet. | 0% |

Percentage of fellows

## Regional Engagement

Nine fellows have attended regional events sponsored by ICANN.

### After your first fellowship, have you attended any regional events sponsored by ICANN?

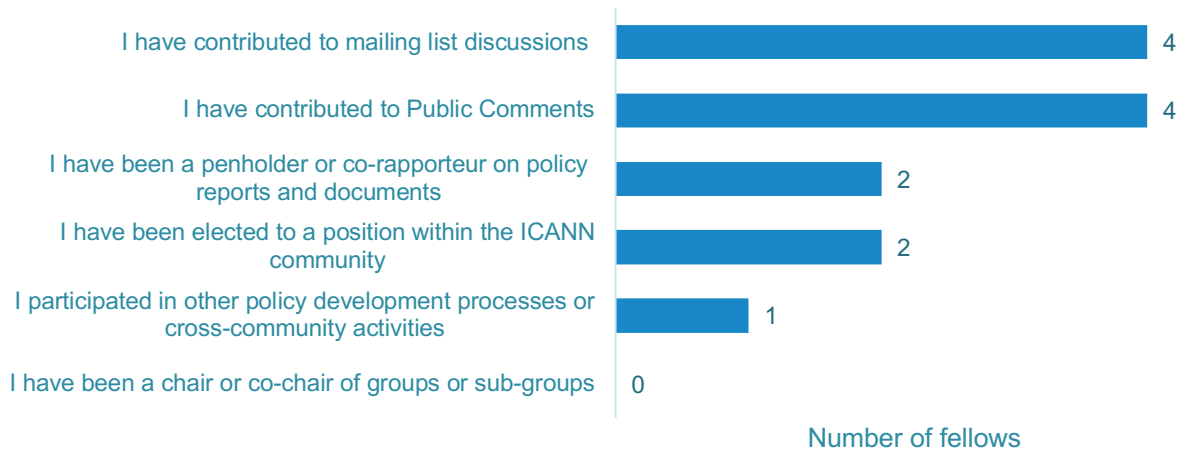| | |
|---|---|
| Yes | 9 |
| No | 1 |

Number of fellows

Fellows participated in ICANN regional team readoust after each ICANN meeting, Africa Engagement Forum, and other outreach events in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin American and the Caribbean.

## Policy Development Processes or Cross-Community Activities

Seven out of ten individuals participated in ICANN's policy development process or cross-community activities after their first fellowship. Specifically, fellows participated in the following ways:

## How have you participated in PDPs or cross-community activities?

| Category | Number of fellows |
|---|---|
| I have contributed to mailing list discussions | 4 |
| I have contributed to Public Comments | 4 |
| I have been a penholder or co-rapporteur on policy reports and documents | 2 |
| I have been elected to a position within the ICANN community | 2 |
| I participated in other policy development processes or cross-community activities | 1 |
| I have been a chair or co-chair of groups or sub-groups | 0 |

ICANN71 fellows have contributed to a public comment including as penholders for their community groups. They participated in Universal Acceptance mailing list discussions and contributed to ccNSO sessions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Fellows have also served as Secretariat and Communications Chair for NPOC, vice-chair for the At-Large Social Media Working Group (AFRALO), and GAC Representative for the Government of Pakistan.

# ICANN71 Virtual Fellowship Program Activities

## Pre-Meeting Activities

The preparation for ICANN71 differed from previous meetings in that, rather than being broken-up into small groups and doing all the preparation for the Policy Forum within these small groups, all the fellows had a joint meeting once a week with the ICANN fellowship team and the mentors. These meetings were instrumental in laying the foundation of knowledge needed to make the most of the Policy Forum as well as setting the expectations of the fellows. Outside of these meetings, the mentors were available to assist the fellows.

In addition to this, the fellows all had to complete some mandatory courses on the ICANN Learn platform. These courses also provided information that complemented the weekly meetings.

ICANN organizes Prep Week a few weeks before each public meeting to improve community preparation and increase awareness of the plenary topics.

The fellows participated in the following Prep Week sessions:

Tuesday, 1 June 2021:
- ⊙ What to Expect During ICANN71: A Guide for Newcomers
- ⊙ ICANN Board Members and CEO with Fellows and NextGen@ICANN Participants
- ⊙ Generic Names Supporting Organization Council Policy Update

Wednesday, 2 June 2021:
- ⊙ ICANN Community Focus: The Netherlands, Youth, and Internet Governance
- ⊙ ICANN Community Groups: An Introduction for Newcomers
- ⊙ ICANN Reviews and Implementation Update

Thursday, 3 June 2021:
- ⊙ Universal Acceptance: Community Update
- ⊙ Policy Update
- ⊙ Information Transparency Initiative Update

Thursday, 10 June 2021:
- ⊙ Consensus Playbook Training, An Interactive Session for Fellows

# Virtual Meeting Activities

## Day 1 – Monday, 14 June 2021

The ICANN71 Policy Forum started off with some opening plenaries by At-Large and GAC members. There were also sessions aimed at creating awareness about technical issues and concepts. There were a number of mandatory sessions for fellows to attend including the DNSSEC and Security Workshop and Tech Day sessions.

The sessions attended by the fellows were:

At-Large Session:
- ⊙ At-Large Leadership Session: Welcome to ICANN71 & Policy Talking Points
- ⊙ At-Large Policy Session 1: End User Participation in ICANN PDPs and their Role within the ICANN ecosystem

General Plenary:
- ⊙ Plenary Session: Impact of Regulatory Developments on ICANN Policy Topics

Tech Day / Technical Workshops:
- ⊙ Tech Day (1 of 2)
- ⊙ Tech Day (2 of 2)
- ⊙ DNSSEC and Security Workshop

GNSO Session:
- ⊙ GNSO - Registration Data Policy IRT Meeting
- ⊙ GNSO IDN EPDP Community Outreach Session

GAC:
- ⊙ GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse Mitigation and GAC Communique Reviewed

## Day 2 – Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Day 2 continued with the plenaries and technical sessions. However, there were more working groups and constituency and stakeholder group working meetings, which the fellows had the option of joining. Fellows were requested to join sessions according to their areas of interest.

The major sessions that the fellows went to were:

ccNSO Sessions:
- ⊙ ccNSO: Members Meeting Governance Session
- ⊙ ccNSO: ccTLD-related Board Members Questions and Answer Session

At-Large Sessions:
- ⊙ At-Large Policy Session 2: ccTLD Governance Models - Testimonies From At-Large End Users
- ⊙ At-Large Policy Session 3 -GDPR as a Technology - Policy Implications

General Plenary:
- ⊙ Plenary Session: ICANN's Multistakeholder Model within the Internet Governance Ecosystem

Board Session:
Joint Session: ICANN Board and GAC

RSSAC Session:
- ⊙ RSSAC Work Session

GNSO Sessions:
- ⊙ GNSO - NPOC Membership Meeting
- ⊙ GNSO - (RySG) - Brand Registry Group

GAC Sessions:
- ⊙ GAC Discussions: Subsequent Rounds of New gTLDs (1 of 2) and Future GAC Meetings
- ⊙ GAC Discussion on RDS/WHOIS, Data Protection and GAC Communique Review

## Day 3 – Wednesday, 16 June 2021

Day 3 saw many sessions that were jointly organized by multiple ICANN stakeholder groups or constituencies. Fellows were requested to join sessions according to their areas of interest.

The major sessions that the fellows went to were:

GNSO Session:
- GNSO - CPH DNS Abuse Work Group Community Update
- GNSO Transfer Policy Review PDP WG
- GNSO-NCSG Membership Meeting

ccNSO Session:
- ccNSO: Policy Session

At-Large Session:
- At-Large EURALO Social Event
- At-Large EURALO Policy Session: New gTLDs: Protection of Geographical Names in Europe
- Joint AFRALO-AfrICANN Meeting

Joint Session:
- Meeting: GAC and GNSO
- Customer Standing Committee (CSC) - IANA Naming Function Session

# Day 4 – Thursday, 17 June 2021

Four days of invigorating plenaries, discussions, working groups and membership meetings came to an end on Day 4. The activities on the day included sessions aimed at pulling together concerns and thoughts about future public meetings, given the ongoing pandemic.

Day 4's notable sessions for fellows were:

ccNSO Session:
- ccNSO: Strategic & Operational Planning Standing Committee

General Plenary:
- Plenary Session: Understanding Reputation Block Lists
- The Post-Pandemic Future of ICANN Public Meetings
- Plenary Session: Understanding Reputation Block Lists

At-Large Session:
- At-Large Policy Session 1: End User Participation in ICANN PDPs and their Role within the ICANN ecosystem
- At-Large Leadership Wrap Up

GNSO Session:
- GNSO - NCSG Membership Meeting
- GNSO Council Wrap-Up
- GNSO - (RrSG) - Preview: Registrant whois experience study

Joint Session:
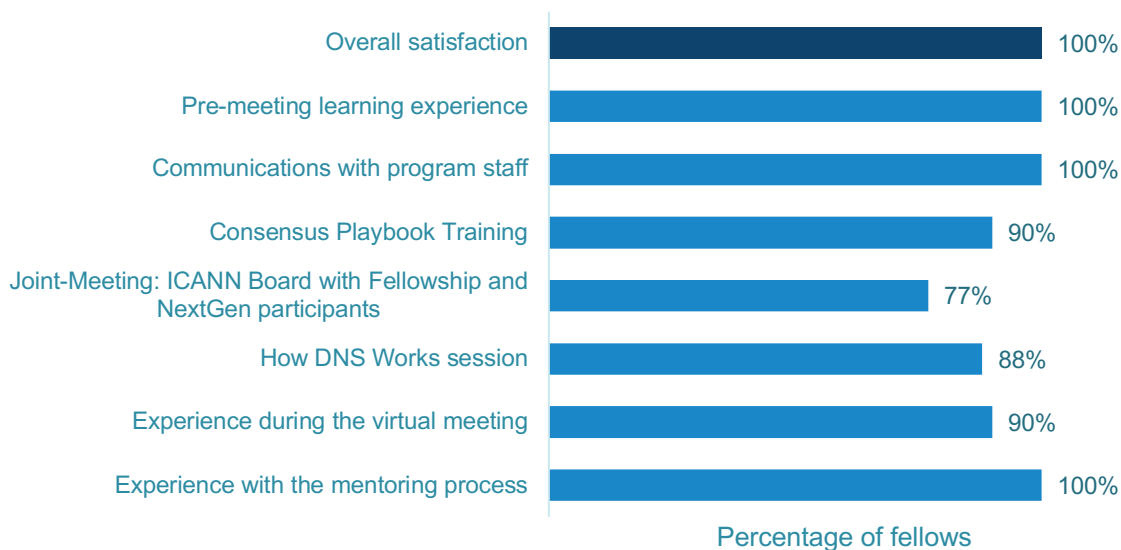- ⦿ Joint Meeting: ALAC and GAC

## Post-Meeting Activities

The ICANN71 Policy Forum was at least the second meeting for almost all selected fellows, so they are already somehow engaged in ICANN activities and are members of different Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs). The role-play session during the prep week was very useful to help them to get involved in policy working groups.

The fellows plan to go forward with the skills, information and knowledge they gained during the ICANN71 and use those in their regions to keep standing for the stronger and better Internet.

# Fellows' Feedback

Overall, all fellows reported high levels of satisfaction with the program.

### Fellows Satisfied with the Virtual Program

| Category | Percentage |
| --- | --- |
| Overall satisfaction | 100% |
| Pre-meeting learning experience | 100% |
| Communications with program staff | 100% |
| Consensus Playbook Training | 90% |
| Joint-Meeting: ICANN Board with Fellowship and NextGen participants | 77% |
| How DNS Works session | 88% |
| Experience during the virtual meeting | 90% |
| Experience with the mentoring process | 100% |

Percentage of fellows

# What is Next?

All ICANN71 fellows are alumni and the majority of them are already engaged in ICANN activities in general and at a regional level particularly. Some participate in policy development through mailing lists. A few are AFRALO members and involved in ccNSO's activities.

ICANN71 fellows describe their further plans for engagement:

Abdalmonem Galila plans to increase engagement with Universal Access activities in the different working groups and engage more with IDN activities through the IDN groups within the GNSO. More involvement in the PDP mitigation of DNS abuse will be considered.

Bonface Witaba will co-convene at the Women School of Internet Governance annual summit in Tanzania, and is planning for a special session for the school's fellows about how to get involved in ICANN (Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Programs, community engagement, etc).

Bukola Oronti is a member of AFRALO and currently the social media working group vice-chair representing AFRALO. She plans to engage more AFRALO members in the activities of the working group for better publicity of ICANN At-Large. As a member of NCUC/NCSG and NPOC/NCSG, she looks forward to greater participation in these constituencies following the ICANN71 meeting. Bukola also looks forward to having more ICANN engagements with her ALS (ISOC Nigeria) members.

Hanan Khatib will get more involved in DNS abuse control and reduce the damages that it causes.

Jacob Odame-Baiden's goal is to play a very active role in the constituencies that he belongs to. The role-play session during the fellowship program has equipped him with consensus building skills. He believes the skills acquired and other learnings he has received from the ICANN Learn platform places him in a better position to engage meaningfully going forward.

Judith Samantha Tchimmoe Fezeu, attended ICANN meetings and plans to participate as panelist.

Katarina Gevorgyan feels thankful for the opportunity to be a fellow and will take the information and knowledge she gained during ICANN71 to get more involved in ICANN activities and to volunteer on different events and during discussions. She believes these efforts will be useful for her country and the local community to help them better understand the ICANN mission and vision.

Oreoluwa Lesi plans to contribute more during Public Comment processes. She is interested in the work of the new Transfer Policy group and plans to follow their efforts.

Rocio Agustina de la Fuente, because of her role in LACTLD and involvement with the Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs, worked closely with the ccNSO and its activities after ICANN71. She will definitely continue to be involved with the vibrant and diverse ccTLD community by supporting their work and facilitate engagement activities. She seeks to bring LAC perspectives to the policy development processes and other related activities that take place during ICANN meetings and amongst stakeholders.

Syed Iftikhar Hussain Shah is happy that he attended this ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum. He actively participated in various sessions at this forum and had the opportunity to ask questions of the experts to gain more clarity and better understand important topics. He plans to participate in future ICANN meetings.

# Acknowledgements

On behalf of all ICANN71 fellows, we thank everyone who helped make our virtual fellowship successful.

This was one more virtual meeting that helped fellows to stay connected during these tough times and was highly organized.

Being alumni allows us to be more responsible as we increase our involvement and engagement through active participation with working groups so that we can share the importance of ICANN with our communities.

We thank the ICANN technical staff, ICANN community leaders, executives, interpreters, and volunteers for their great work, support, and time they shared with ICANN71 fellows. Our appreciation is also extended to all of the assigned mentors: Alfredo Calderon (ALAC), Alejandra Reynoso Barral (ccNSO), Mistura Aruna (GAC), Amr Elsadr (GNSO), and Rao Naveed Bin Rais (RSSAC). It is always great to feel their unconditional support and shared experience, knowledge and wisdom, before the sessions begin, during meeting's Prep-Week and Policy Forum sessions, and especially because they were always ready to answer questions or help address issues that fellows face outside of the meeting timeframe.

We appreciate this unique opportunity given us to be trained as ICANN fellows one more time. Once a fellow, always a fellow!

We will do our best to remain a member of the ICANN community and bring more stakeholders together in the future so that more ICANN fellows can stand for and support "One World and One Internet."

Special appreciation to Siranush Vardanyan, ICANN Fellowship Program Manager, who has been a great support to all of us during our journey with ICANN and made it even easier for us to participate in the fellowship experience.