ICANN77 Fellowship Program Post-Meeting Report

Policy Forum | 12–15 June 2023 | Washington D.C.

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Shadrach Ankrah

On behalf of the ICANN77 class of fellows from the ICANN77 Hybrid Policy Forum Fellowship Program.

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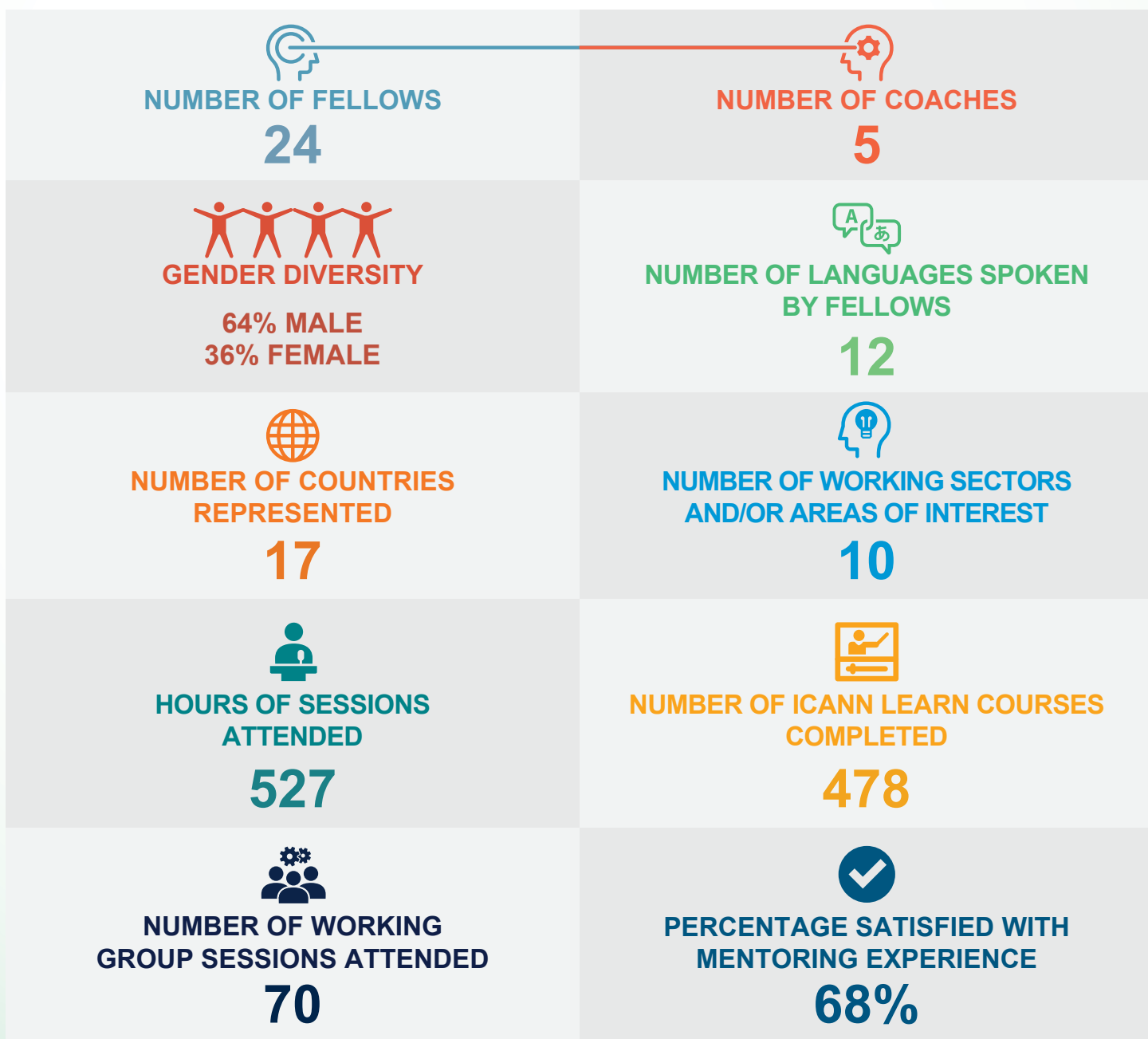
Fellowship Program ICANN77 Overview

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 24	**NUMBER OF COACHES** 5
GENDER DIVERSITY 64% MALE 36% FEMALE	**NUMBER OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY FELLOWS** 12
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED 17	**NUMBER OF WORKING SECTORS AND/OR AREAS OF INTEREST** 10
HOURS OF SESSIONS ATTENDED 527	**NUMBER OF ICANN LEARN COURSES COMPLETED** 478
NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP SESSIONS ATTENDED 70	**PERCENTAGE SATISFIED WITH MENTORING EXPERIENCE** 68%

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, assigned a mentor, receive training across different areas of knowledge, and participate in skill-building activities before, during, and after an ICANN meeting. Travel assistance to attend an in-person meeting is also provided, where appropriate. Since its inception in 2007, the Fellowship Program has built a strong group of fellows who are actively participating in ICANN communities as well as other entities in the Internet ecosystem.

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

ICANN77 Fellowship Participants

The ICANN77 Policy Forum Fellowship Program included twenty-four fellows and five mentors. Mentors are appointed by ICANN's Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs).

Fellows:

NAME	COUNTRY OR REGION OF RESIDENCE	WORKING SECTOR AND/OR AREA OF INTEREST
Abdullah Cemil Akçam	Republic of Türkiye	ccTLD Operations, Technical
Aleksandar Ichokjaev	North Macedonia	Civil Society, Intellectual Property
Ayaovi Olevie Agbenyo Kouami	Senegal	Civil Society, Technical, Security
Ayesha Iftikhar	Pakistan	Academia, Civil Society, Technical, Security
Chancelle Mbara Nkoussou	Republic of Congo	ccTLD Operations, Technical
Clement Genty	France	Academia, Civil Society
Edowaye Makanjuola	Nigeria	Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers, Technical
Hafiz Farooq	Saudi Arabia	Academia, Internet Service Providers Connectivity Providers, Technical, Technical, Security
Jacob Kwaku Odame-Baiden	Ghana	Civil Society
Juliana Harsianti	Indonesia	Academia, Civil Society
Kossi Amessinou	Benin	Academia
Liubomir Nikiforov	Spain	Academia, Civil Society
MD Jahangir Hossain	Bangladesh	Civil Society, Internet Service Providers Connectivity Providers, Technical, Technical, Security
Mouloud Khelif	Switzerland	Academia, Business and Commerce, Internet End User
Muhammad Altaf	Pakistan	Academia, Technical
Namra Naseer	Pakistan	Academia, Civil Society
Nojus Saad	Iraq	Civil Society, Security
Priyatosh Jana	India	Academia, Technical
Radhika Cherie Narayan	Fiji	Civil Society, Technical, Security
Samik Kharel	Nepal	Academia, Civil Society
Shadrach Ankrah	Ghana	Technical
Shah Zahidur Rahman	Bangladesh	Business and Commerce, Technical, Internet End User

NAME	COUNTRY OR REGION OF RESIDENCE	WORKING SECTOR AND/OR AREA OF INTEREST
Shreedeep Rayamajhi	Nepal	Academia, Civil Society Recipient of Tarek Kamel Fellowship Recognition
Udeep Baral	Nepal	Civil Society

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

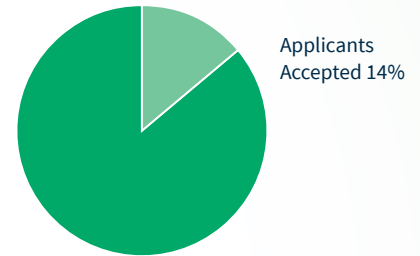| MENTORS	APPOINTED BY
Afifa Abbas	Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)
Christopher Disspain	Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
Jenifer Lopez	County Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
Kristina Hakobyan	Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
Lilian Ivette De Luque Bruges	At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Program Statistics

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

Application Process

The ICANN organization (org) received 173 eligible applications for the ICANN77 Fellowship Program. Initially, 40 applicants from 26 countries were selected, but due to visa issues, twenty-four individuals from 17 countries participated as fellows (all in-person participants). All twenty-four fellows successfully completed the ICANN77 Fellowship Program.
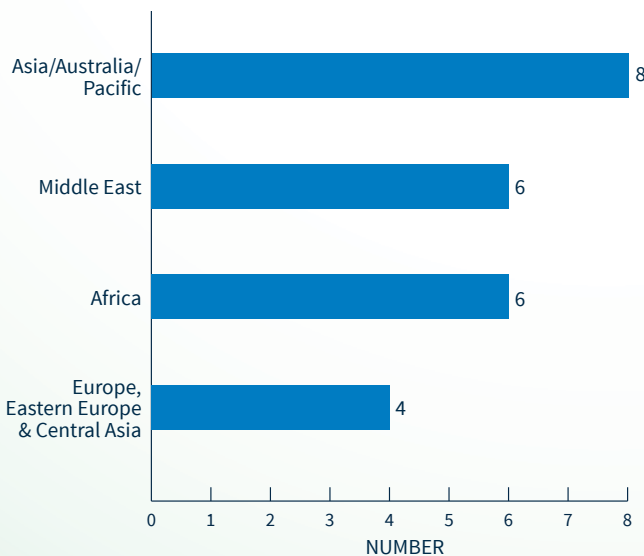
Fellowship Program Acceptance Rate
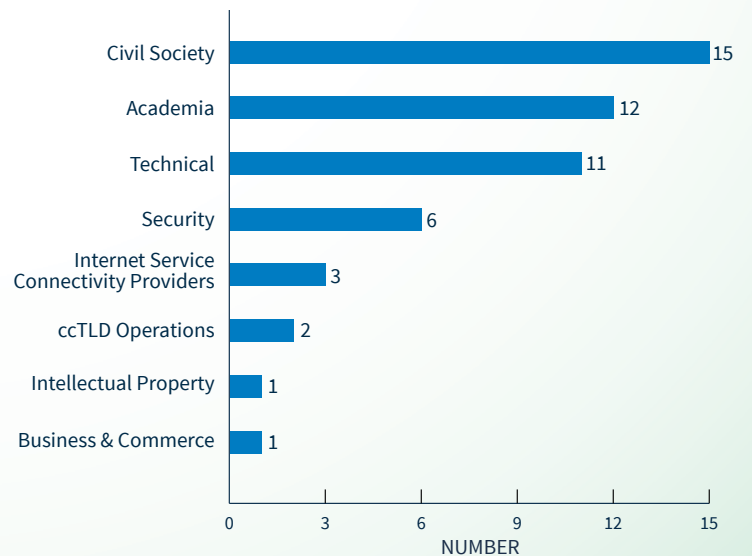
Applicants Accepted 14%

Fellowship Cohort Profile

The twenty-four ICANN77 fellows came from different regions, with Asia, Australia, and the Pacific region being the most common, followed by the Middle East and Africa.

Regional Representation

Region	Number
Asia/Australia/Pacific	8
Middle East	6
Africa	6
Europe, Eastern Europe & Central Asia	4

NUMBER

The regions reflect the ICANN regions.

Working Sector and/or Area of Interest

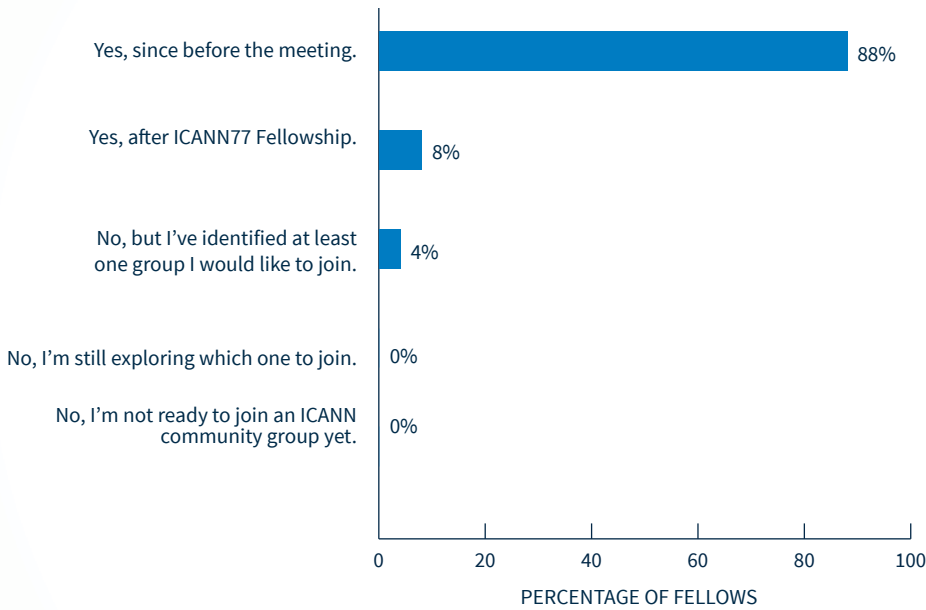| Sector	Number
Civil Society	15
Academia	12
Technical	11
Security	6
Internet Service Connectivity Providers	3
ccTLD Operations	2
Intellectual Property	1
Business & Commerce	1

NUMBER

Note that applicants and fellows could select multiple stakeholder groups.

Community Engagement

SO/AC Affiliations

In total, twenty-one fellows (88 percent) indicated that they were affiliated with at least one ICANN community group (SO, AC, Stakeholder Group, or Constituency) before the ICANN77 meeting. Two fellows (8 percent) indicated that they became affiliated after participating in the ICANN77 hybrid meeting. Additionally, one fellow (4 percent) has already identified at least one group he would like to join.

Are you affiliated with at least one ICANN community group?

Response	Percentage
Yes, since before the meeting.	88%
Yes, after ICANN77 Fellowship.	8%
No, but I've identified at least one group I would like to join.	4%
No, I'm still exploring which one to join.	0%
No, I'm not ready to join an ICANN community group yet.	0%

PERCENTAGE OF FELLOWS

Of the twenty-four fellows, seventeen are affiliated with the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), eight with the GNSO, two indicated affiliation with the Non-Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC), two with the ccNSO, one with the GAC, and one with the RSSAC.

Main Takeaways from the Fellowship

Below are the main takeaways from the ICANN77 Fellowship Program, as highlighted by the participants:

- The fellows mentioned how the Fellowship gave them better clarity and comprehension of the policy development processes through the opportunity to participate in key policy sessions. These addressed diverse topical issues, including Domain Name System (DNS) security, domain name policy development, and Universal Acceptance (UA). This deeper understanding has equipped the fellows to participate in and contribute to the policy work taking place in many constituencies within ICANN.

- The fellows also highlighted the practical learning opportunity through the Consensus Playbook session as a major takeaway. This fellows-only activity led by Melissa Allgood helped fellows deepen their understanding of how different stakeholders work together to reach consensus in the interest of ICANN's mission and objectives, while factoring in all the competing interests and considering the collective benefits.

- The participants also greatly appreciated the benefits brought by the networking opportunities, thanks to attending a face-to-face ICANN meeting. Considering that most of the fellows are quite experienced professionals themselves, the program allowed them to get to know each other, exchange ideas, and share their career interests, current and future projects. Most fellows believe that the networking among peers, with alumni and many attendees of the ICANN77 meeting will create lasting friendships, opportunities, and bonds. For some fellows who experienced their first "physical" meeting, attending the event created a unique experience.

- Many participants benefited directly by engaging with key leaders of major constituencies within ICANN, including At-Large, NCUC, GNSO, ccNSO, etc. This interaction has provided them clarity on their next steps of involvement in these constituencies. These sessions, including those with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) and IANA, also exposed the fellows to the support role of the ICANN org's technology team, ensuring the stability of the global DNS.

- Another highlight for some participants was the presentation on the Policy Transition Program (PTP) by Melissa Allgood and her team. This PTP will create a new opportunity for the fellows to move seamlessly into the work of policy development through a structured program. Most fellows saw this as very important and are poised to register and join the program for the next cohort as soon as it is announced.

- The fellows also observed the transparent and inclusive hiring process within ICANN for the next CEO (update session). Overall, this gave a positive impression of how ICANN perceives leadership positions and how a multi-stakeholder approach can improve the process of finding and hiring the right leader to steer the affairs of a complex organization.

ICANN77 Fellowship Program Activities

ICANN Learn Course

The first phase of the fellowship program consisted of the mandatory ICANN Learn courses that were offered through the **ICANN Learn** online platform, which is built for the global ICANN community. The courses had clear learning objectives and outcomes. They provided the fellows with a basic understanding of what ICANN does and explained how they could get involved with ICANN. The fellows were also offered courses to improve their web skills

Mentoring Process

To be fully engaged in the fellowship program, each fellow was assigned a mentor as part of a small mentoring team. The fellows' active collaboration and timely responsiveness to the mentors were of utmost importance. During the preparation for the ICANN77 Policy Forum, fellows held joint meetings with their mentors. These online meetings were instrumental in laying the foundation of knowledge needed to make the most of the hybrid policy forum. They also helped in setting realistic expectations and getting to know each other better.

Thursday 25 May 2023: ICANN77 Fellowship program participants and mentors Meet@Greet Session:
Get to know each other, Agenda and Logistics

Pre-Meeting Activities

Most fellows reported their appreciation for the sessions they attended during the ICANN77 Prep Week, which ICANN organized to prepare the community for the Policy Forum. The fellows were required to attend the below sessions.

Mandatory ICANN77 Prep-Week sessions for fellows:

DATE	TIME	TOPIC(S)
30 May 2023	18:00–19:00 UTC	DNS Abuse Contract Amendments Update
	22:00–23:00 UTC	Generic Names Supporting Organization Policy Update
31 May 2023	16:30–17:30 UTC	New gTLD Program Next Round Update
	20:30–21:30 UTC	What to Expect During ICANN77
1 June 2023	18:00–19:30 UTC	Policy Update
	22:00–23:15 UTC	ICANN Board Members Welcome Fellows and NextGen Participants

ICANN77 Meeting Activities

Below are the main daily sessions attended by most fellows:

Day 1: Monday, 12 June 2023

- Upstander Training (Mandatory)
- ICANN77 Welcome Cocktail
- ICANN Fellowship Program: Consensus Playbook Training [C]
- NextGen Presentations
- Tech Day
- DNSSEC and Security Workshop

Day 2: Tuesday, 13 June 2023

- Joint Session: GAC and GNSO
- Getting to Know ICANN: OCTO and IANA
- DNS Abuse Negotiation: CPH Outreach session
- CEO Search Committee Update
- Networking Cocktail

Day 3: Wednesday, 14 June 2023

- APAC Space
- GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse and Discussion on Emerging Technologies
- GNSO Council Meeting
- At-Large Policy Session 3: Unfinished Business - The Challenges of Auctions
- Honoring Our Community and the Community Excellence Award Networking Cocktail Reception

Day 4: Thursday, 15 June 2023

- ICANN77 Fellowship Program Wrap-Up
- At-Large RALO Coordination Meeting
- Closing Cocktail

Working group sessions attended by the fellows:

- At-Large Policy Session 3: Unfinished Business - The Challenges of Auctions
- IDN EPDP Working Session
- GNSO/NCUC Policy Session
- GNSO Guidance Process for Applicant Support Working Group
- GNSO: Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group
- RSSAC Governance Workgroup
- RSACC Meeting - Admin Tasks
- RSSAC Meeting - Incident Reporting

Post-Meeting Activities

All fellows were alumni of the program and were quite familiar with the ICANN stakeholders. Most participants demonstrated that they were already involved and engaged with ICANN's community even before the policy forum. Almost all the fellows expressed an interest in getting more actively involved in working groups, Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs), SOs, and ACs. It is worth noting that some of the fellows have already moved into key leadership roles within the communities they are engaged in. The story of Shah Zahidur Rahman, for example, who has been elected as a member of ALAC, from the Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), was an inspiration to all fellows and an encouragement to contribute more.

Some fellows will take advantage of the upcoming PTP to enable them to transition smoothly into policy development work within the ICANN community. The experiences shared by some of the participants in the PTP pilot shed more light on the importance of how this program can support fellows/alumni engagement in ICANN's policy development initiatives.
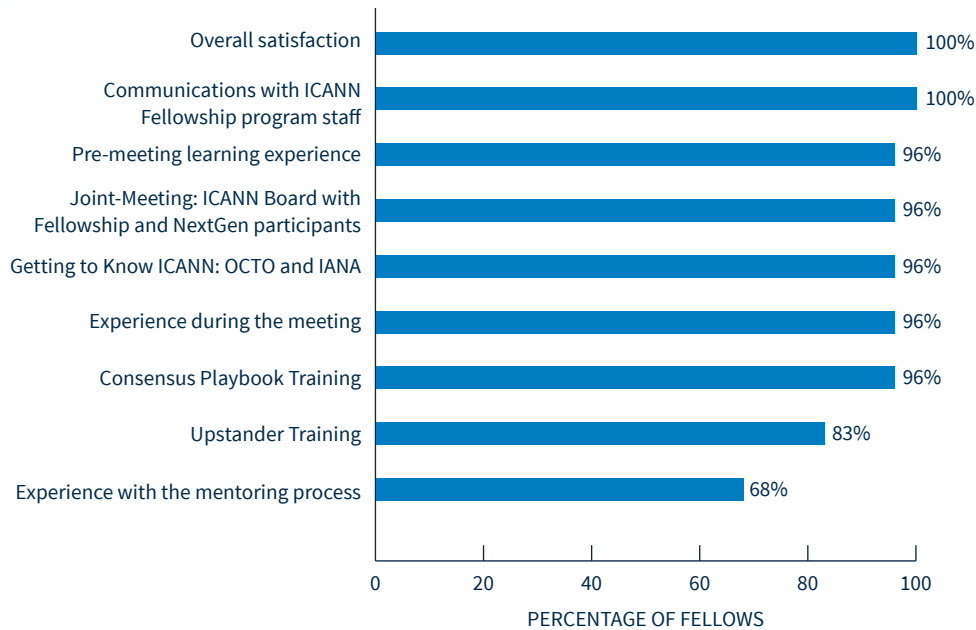
Additionally, two fellows, Shadrach Ankrah (most tweets) and Shredeep Rayamajhi (most influential), performed very well in the At-Large social media contest aimed at promoting the ICANN At-Large community during the meeting.

Feedback from the Fellows

As seen on the following chart, the fellows highly appreciated the hybrid ICANN77 policy forum and, even more so, the opportunity to attend in-person sessions.

Fellows Satisfied with the Fellowship Program

Category	Percentage
Overall satisfaction	100%
Communications with ICANN Fellowship program staff	100%
Pre-meeting learning experience	96%
Joint-Meeting: ICANN Board with Fellowship and NextGen participants	96%
Getting to Know ICANN: OCTO and IANA	96%
Experience during the meeting	96%
Consensus Playbook Training	96%
Upstander Training	83%
Experience with the mentoring process	68%

PERCENTAGE OF FELLOWS

Feedback on Prep Week Meeting Activities:

Pre-meeting activities are very important for a successful meeting, as they help participants prepare, engage, prepare for specific policy sessions, and get to know each other. Most fellows found the pre-meeting sessions very helpful as they gained insight into what to expect during the ICANN77 policy forum. The meeting was well planned and organized. It also included interactive sessions. The ICANN Learn courses were helpful as they covered the basic knowledge needed to help participants fully benefit from the meeting.

Below are some fellows' suggestions for improvement:

Areas of Opportunity to Improve the Newcomer Experience

The ICANN fellowship program, process, and tools of engagement prepare participants to dig deeper into ICANN and expose them to the workings of the ICANN community. Although ICANN keeps improving the entire program, process tools, and engagement methods in each of its meetings, the fellows suggest the following:

- Each fellow could be assigned an experienced fellow (or alumni) so that s/he can ask any formal or informal questions about any topic.

- A translation (a translator) should be available for newcomers throughout the meeting. That person could also be a volunteer help staff (wearing a specific badge).

- ICANN Learn courses are very useful. More courses should be added to the platform. Courses should be updated regularly.

- Include in the newcomer's kit an ICANN comprehensive organogram, similar to the one we (fellows) produced during ICANN75.

- Due to the complexity of the ICANN ecosystem, an executive summary of ICANN's structure, functions, and opportunities for inclusion of newcomers should be available.

- An improved onboarding process for newcomers (and first timers in face-to-face meetings) could include a specific session the day before the event starts, with select community leaders, ICANN org executives and Board members.

- Mentors should hold a daily debrief meeting with mentees to discuss progress and topics of on-going sessions.

What is Next?

All ICANN77 fellows are alumni with diverse backgrounds and interests. Many are interested in continuing with engagement opportunities related to policy development. They are already engaged in activities through ICANN community groups at regional levels and are in touch with ICANN's regional engagement team. Most fellows have identified at least one group they would like to join, while others expressed interest in joining local chapters of the Internet Society.

Some fellows participate in policy development through mailing lists and are already members of Regional At-Large Structures.

Below is a summary of plans for future engagement of ICANN77 fellows within ICANN and the broader Internet governance ecosystem:

ABDULLAH CEMIL AKÇAM *I want to be a part of GNSO by engaging with their activities. I also want to explore commercial activities related to domain names and complementary services. I want to be an active member of GNSO and apply for leadership positions in the future.*

ALEKSANDAR ICHOKJAEV *ICANN is one of the two major pillars (together with the Global IGF) striving to keep the Internet safe, secure, resilient, and undivided – not fragmented, through the multistakeholder model. The greatest achievement and direct result of my involvement in ICANN is the foundation of the National Internet Governance Forum (IGF) for the Republic of North Macedonia.*

At ICANN56 in 2016 in Helsinki, the late Marilyn Cade and Markus Kummer gave a presentation about the IGF. As a result, I am one of the founding members and first coordinators of IGF MKD - Internet Governance Forum Forum for North Macedonia. I come from the ccTLD world, Eastern Europe, Republic of North Macedonia. As a lawyer, I have been inclined to join the Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) (member of IPC working group for geographical origins).

I see further engagement opportunities in post-meeting collaboration with other attendees, new contacts, and familiar faces. Hopefully, at ICANN78 in Hamburg, I will join At Large/European Regional At-Large Organization, and IPC or ccNSO where legislation is discussed.

AMESSINOU KOSSI *This physical participation in an ICANN meeting allowed me to see humanity in the ICANN process. I see opportunities to share more knowledge again in my university and also with other local organizations about the Internet and digital issues.*

AYAOVI OLEVIE AGBENYO KOUAMI *ICANN77 is the best event for me as it allowed me to learn, interact, and reinforce my global capacities. I would like to share my experiences with future fellows by participating in the mentorship program.*

AYESHA IFTIKHAR *I am an alumna of the ICANN Fellowship and a member of APRALO. In addition to working with APRALO, as a researcher working at the intersection of technical security and policy, I will work with the ICANN community to address the issue of DNS abuse both regionally and globally.*

CHANCELLE MBARA NKOUSSOU *After this 77th ICANN meeting, I will actively participate in the work of the NCUC working groups and the one on UA that I have just joined. I will adapt my awareness sheet to the national university by taking into account current issues at the ICANN level. I will also continue my collaboration and support for ICANN Africa during activities in my country and in Africa. In my professional setting, I will share my experience with department colleagues. Finally, I will continue to take part in and share ICANN activities on my social networks.*

CHERIE LAGAKALI *I will be signing up to become a mentor and will also participate more in monthly APRALO meetings, renewing my commitment to the At-Large Social Media Working Group, the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG), and the Subsequent Procedures Independent Review Team Meeting.*

EDOWAYE MAKANJUOLA *As an ICANN Fellow "Always a Fellow" (ICANN57 and 77) and a member of the GAC and the African Regional At-Large Organization (ARFALO), I will continue to actively participate in more working group activities. I will also become more engaged in ICANN regional activities to further collaborations with the ICANN Africa engagement office to provide virtual trainings and workshops for the Nigerian telecoms operators and Internet service providers, to enlighten them on ICANN's activities and their participation in the development of the Internet.*

GENTY CLEMENT *Thanks to the ICANN77 fellowship, I feel more involved in the ICANN community.*

HAFIZ FAROOQ *As a returning fellow, I am a member of RSSAC Caucus and an active participant in regular RSSAC meetings. I developed a research management platform (Zetoro) for RSSAC and presented it at the Internet Engineering Task Force116 (Japan) in March 2023. I am currently contributing to the ongoing Incident Reporting Working Party in RSSAC. Apart from my contribution to RSSAC, I am representing my company (Saudi Aramco) in the GNSO/Business Constituency. I managed to convince Aramco to join as a Category-1 Member.*

JACOB ODAME-BIDEN *My participation in ICANN, especially through the Fellowship program, has exposed me to the unique opportunity to engage meaningfully in global Internet policy development. Coming from Africa, I have realized how the work of the community contributes to shaping the future of the Internet, and I love that I get to contribute to how the Internet gets shaped. I look forward to continuing my work within the community by contributing to several constituencies and coming back again and again to ICANN meetings.*

JULIANA HARSIANTI *As I am mostly interested in DNS Abuse and UA, I'll be more engaged and follow the process and discussion, regionally and globally, as well as within the ICANN working group.*

LIUBOMIR NIKIFOROV *I follow EURALO's work and contribute whenever I can as a EURALO Individual user association' Board member and NCUC individual member. I plan to continue engaging in ICANN's work through participation in other constituencies and spreading the word about ICANN.*

MD JAHANGIR HOSSAIN *I have learned a lot and exchanged views on various things during this meeting. I would like to contribute to ICANN's mission and work by actively participating, contributing, and engaging with the ICANN ecosystem socially with working groups, SOs, and ACs. I have been working with various organizations as a professional and volunteer, especially on awareness and capacity building, and on policy development processes to securely operate and maintain the global IP address, protocol, and DNS service to ensure Internet stability and interoperability. I would like to prioritize my engagement in these ICANN-focused topics; Generic Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and the New generic top-level domain (gTLD) Program, Policy on DNS Abuse Mitigation and Security, Policy on IDN, public interest and capacity building in ICANN ecosystems, promotion and awareness of Universal Acceptance. Finally, I would like to actively engage with the local, regional, and global Internet leaders and communities in shaping the future of the Internet ecosystem. I will disseminate my experience through various initiatives and engagements in our local, and regional ICANN communities: Internet Society chapter events, Bangladesh Network Operators Group, Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum, Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum, South Asian Network Operators Group, Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre, and academia.*

MOULOUD KHELIF *I intend to deepen my involvement with EURALO (Board member, individual user association) and look for an opportunity to join a working group. I would like to contribute to the work of the NCUC with help from an experienced leader. I also believe I can contribute to designing an improved newcomer experience for ICANN meetings, whether at the fellowship level or elsewhere.*

MUHAMMAD ALTAF *After attending my first (in-person) meeting (ICANN77), I am planning to join the RSSAC Caucus, Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC), and OCTO activity and research, as I am a member of the local ISOC Islamabad chapter and an active participant in the DNS dialogue locally. I am also interested in joining ALAC. The RSSAC Caucus would be a great opportunity for me to enhance my knowledge and practical understanding. The same is true for the DNSSEC which I would pass on to the local community, as I worked with the ICANN team as a co-trainer in various DNSSEC trainings in Pakistan and the region.*

NAMRA NASEER *My ICANN journey started with the ICANN Training Track for Pakistan, which led me to three consecutive ICANN fellowships. I am a member of the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG), the Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC), and the APRALO's Policy Forum and aim for a leadership position to make an impact at the policy level within ICANN.*
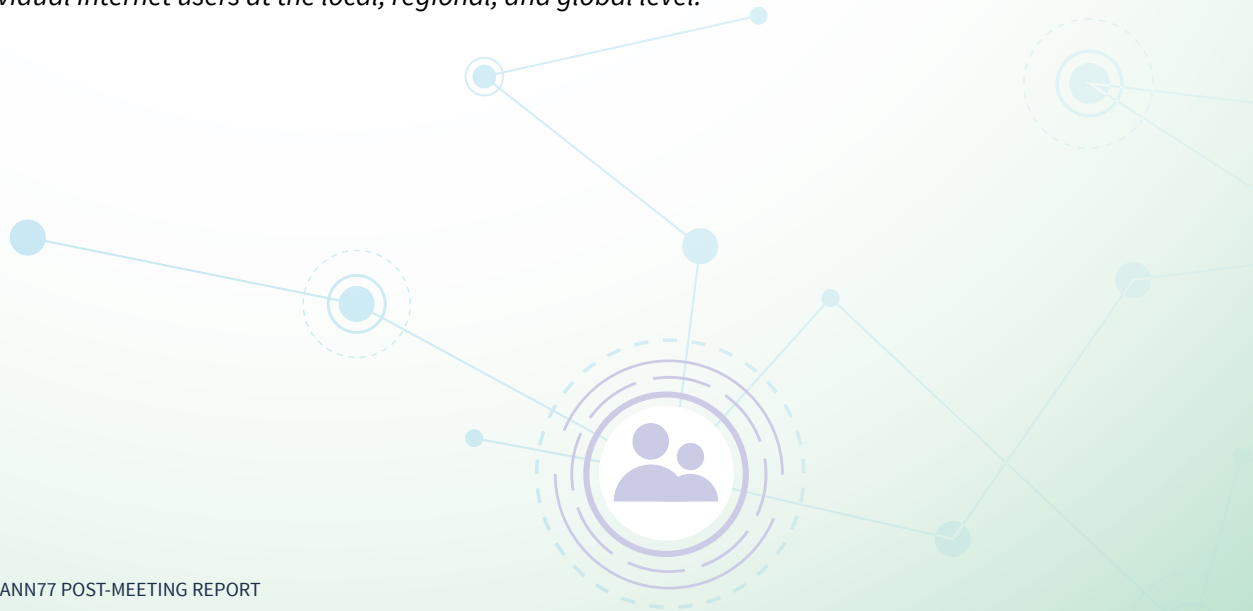
NOJUS SAAD *As a returning fellow, I passionately shared my expertise and policy recommendations in multiple plenary discussions and working groups at the ICANN77 Policy Forum. I am the president of an international civil society organization, and a member of the NCUC, NCSG, and GNSO, in which I actively engage in committee meetings, Public Comment, and mailing list discussions. I plan to partner with ICANN's regional engagement team, to organize awareness and community engagement campaigns around ICANN's mission and policy work, empowering Iraq's technical, academic, and civil society within ICANN's multi-stakeholder governance model. I also plan to leverage my healthcare and digital expertise and networks to accelerate my social enterprise towards innovating the Internet and digital technologies for physical and mental healthcare access in rural communities in Iraq, India, and France.*

PRIYATOSH JANA *I can be instrumental in bridging the gap between technical, academic, and civil society through my various engagements in the future. I will foster and improve these interactions in ICANN policy development processes to incorporate best practices from across the Asia Pacific region. I will be participating in all ICANN related initiatives through APRALO to bring potential outreach and capacity building to the APAC region. I would like to be influential in conducting webinars and workshops through At-Large on emerging areas like UA, IDN, DNS security, blockchain, Internet of Things etc., locally as well as nationally.*

SAMIK KHAREL *ICANN 77 was my first opportunity as an in-person participant. The experience was amazing considering the relationships I built during the event. From here on, I plan to engage more actively with APRALO and also join and actively contribute to the NCUC.*

SHADRACH ANKRAH *ICANN77 was my second fellowship but my first in-person meeting. It was a great experience to learn and connect with new people, which is sometimes not possible online. As a member of the African Regional At-Large Organization, I have already been actively engaged in ICANN meetings virtually. I plan to increase my involvement, contribute to mailing lists, and attend future meetings. I will collaborate on policy development, share my knowledge with my local community, and join relevant ICANN groups. My aim is to actively shape the Internet's future and foster an inclusive and multilingual digital environment.*

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN *As a returning fellow, I am an active member of the ICANN At-Large, APRALO, and ALAC. I have been involved with some working groups, such as the CPWG, Outreach and Engagement. I am eager to contribute to policy development and provide policy advice on proposed ICANN policies and decisions that accurately reflect the views and needs of individual Internet users at the local, regional, and global level.*

SHREEDEEP RAYAMAJHI *Being a fellow, there is always a responsibility for what you can do when you go back. The whole concept of sharing and creating a ripple effect is what makes our community better and helps others learn and collaborate. I have always gained personally and professionally from learning better skills and etiquette. I have tried my best to give back what is possible in every way possible through communication, social media, and knowledge sharing. Only together can we make a difference: Once a fellow always a fellow!*

UDEEP BARAL *I am a returning fellow and also an active member of the APRALO Policy Forum, working to promote UA. I am eager to collaborate on activities related to ICANN within our local community to create meaningful and impactful initiatives that drive awareness and engagement in Internet governance and policy development at the local level.*

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the ICANN77 fellows, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation toward everyone who has been instrumental in the success of our Fellowship Program. We remain grateful for the opportunity to have been immersed, educated, and mentored through the ICANN ecosystem. We appreciate the work of each individual in charge of organizing each session successfully.

We particularly enjoyed the events organized especially for the fellows, in which we had a chance to meet and interact with the ICANN Board members and the interim CEO, all of whom really inspired us. Undoubtedly, the fellowship opportunity will enable us to step up and deepen our involvement and engagement through active participation in working groups while sharing the importance of ICANN in Internet governance with our communities.

We would love to appreciate the work of our mentors: Lilian Ivette De Luque Bruges assigned by At-Large, Afifi Abbas assigned by RSSAC, Christopher Disspain assigned by GNSO, Kristina Hakobyan assigned by GAC, and Jenifer Lopez assigned by ccNSO. They all sacrificed their time to mentor us. Congratulations to all fellows, for actively participating in the program and making it a learning environment with, and for all of us.

Finally, our special and warm thanks go to Siranush Vardayan, ICANN Fellowship Program Manager, for her unwavering support, inspiration, and tireless effort in ensuring that we all successfully complete the program.

"ONCE A FELLOW, ALWAYS A FELLOW!"