NextGen@ICANN Program Mentoring Guidelines

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1   Introduction

As part of ICANN.org ongoing work to support the next generation of Internet users, the NextGen@ICANN program is a staple PRS initiative to engage regionally-based undergraduate and graduate students at ICANN meetings, and introduce them to ICANN through guided programming.

The NextGen@ICANN program was initially organized at ICANN49 in Singapore and has grown and expanded since ICANN50.The NextGen@ICANN Mentoring process was created to help NextGen to prepare themselves for the NextGen@ICANN experience and educate them prior to participating at an ICANN meeting.

NextGen mentors are community members with a good understanding of the ICANN multistakeholder process. They are well positioned to relate with NextGen participants, share their own experiences, and demonstrate opportunities for participation in ICANN. The mentoring process has evolved over the years, and the mechanisms used for mentors were developed from prior mentors' experiences and stakeholders' feedback.

2   Initial Steps

2.1   Mentor Eligibility

Each Supporting Organization (SO), Advisory Committee (AC), Stakeholder Group (SG), Constituency (C), and Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) is invited to nominate one individual to serve in the capacity of mentor for the ICANN NextGen Program; for each meeting, there will be a total of three (3) mentors total. Mentors will serve for one ICANN Public Meetings. If a mentor needs to step down, the relevant SO/AC/SG/C/RALO will be invited to nominate a new mentor. The NextGen program manager can consider follow-up actions with regards to future nominating from that community group.

2.2   Team Forming

Each mentor will coach a team of up to three NextGen. Mentor should be prepared to assist NextGen at the newcomer level and individuals who are somewhat familiar with ICANN and its ecosystem.

Teams are set up at least two weeks before the mentoring process begins. While creating teams, the NextGen program manager considers a number of factors, including:
- sectors of interest
- common languages
- time zones and regional proximity
- level of experience of NextGen and mentor

Each mentor will have one week to review a list of the NextGen on their team and confirm whether those assigned are a suitable fit. NextGen who are not comfortable with an assigned mentor may request to be placed on another team.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

Below are the roles and responsibilities in the NextGen Program mentoring process:

Mentor Assists the NextGen with developing the resources and skills to contribute to ICANN's mission and work	**NextGen** Focuses on learning, networking and identifying ways to contribute to ICANN's mission and work	**NextGen Manager** Provides support to mentor and NextGen
⊙ Provide advice and guidance ⊙ Share experience as appropriate ⊙ Offer encouragement and support ⊙ Identify resources that will help NextGen ⊙ Encourage NextGen to join ICANN community groups based on sector of interest ⊙ Introduce NextGen to community members ⊙ Participate in mentor post-meeting evaluation	⊙ Complete required ICANN Learn courses ⊙ Identify goals for their NextGen experience ⊙ Be open to and seek guidance ⊙ Take an active role in their own learning and help drive the process ⊙ Attend mentor meetings ⊙ Follow through on commitments ⊙ Participate in post-meeting evaluation/report	⊙ Assigns teams (team will consist of 1 mentor and 3 NextGen) ⊙ Organizes training for mentor ⊙ Organizes on-site meetings and logistics ⊙ Manages escalation of issues ⊙ Facilitates travel logistics

4 Mentoring Process

A mentor's role is to help NextGen to prepare themselves effectively for the meeting and to provide opportunities for NextGen to find meaningful ways to contribute to the ICANN community.

Mentors are expected to tailor the mentorship experience by keeping in mind their mentees' interests and backgrounds and to create a team support system that gives NextGen the resources they need to engage with the ICANN community.

Mentors are not expected to have extensive knowledge/experience of all ICANN communities/groups. A mentor should ask other mentors, community members, and active NextGen alumni for help in responding to NextGen queries. It is important to seek input from others to ensure that information about other communities or sectors is accurate.

4.1 Individual Goals and Deliverables

Mentors should assist NextGen with establishing individual goals for their NextGen experience.

The main role of a NextGen mentor is to support their NextGen mentees and help them learn about the NextGen@ICANN Program and ICANN in general, keeping in mind their interests,

backgrounds, prior knowledge, and experiences. The goal is to prepare each NextGen to engage in an ICANN meeting, even if at most basic level, and to create a team bond and support system.

The most important aspect of the program for NextGen is the opportunity to improve their knowledge and careers. Many people in the community had their lives changed for the better through the NextGen and Fellowship programs, and everybody that is involved should see the program as a privilege and an opportunity to particpate.

Mentors should encourage NextGen to find ways to contribute to an SO/AC/SG/C/RALO or working group(s) that interests them and should assist NextGen to integrate into the community and engaging them with ICANN processes. Newcomers should have the necessary support to find their place within ICANN's multistakeholder processes.

Based on individual goals and program requirements, the mentor should set deliverables for NextGen during different stages of the program (pre-meeting, on-site, and post-meeting). See sections 4.3 - 4.9 for examples of deliverables.

4.2   Communication within Teams

A team consists of one mentor and three NextGen participants. Proper communication and coordination between the team members is a vital part of the mentoring process. After the mentoring teams are announced, the mentor should email the team members and introduce himself/herself, explain his/her role and experience within ICANN, and provide a list of interests. The mentor should also ask team members to introduce themselves and share their interests and backgrounds within a few days. A sample introductory email can be found in the Appendix.

Mentors and NextGen can choose the most suitable communication channel (such as email, Skype, WhatsApp, etc) for their team, however, mentors are encouraged to be aware of and consider any limitations that NextGen in their group may face with regards to particular platforms and choose a communication method that is inclusive of everyone. The NextGen@ICANN Program does not endorse or enforce use of any specific social media or communication platform

Throughout the mentoring process, the mentor should remain in active communication with their NextGen, sharing useful links and relevant information about ICANN. Before the meeting, mentors can expect to host at least two online meetings to share information with the team and address any concerns.

Mentors are expected to respond to NextGen at reasonable time frames before, during, and after the meeting. If the mentor notices that a NextGen is not responding to communications and participating in the mentoring process consistently, the mentor should alert the NextGen@ICANN program manager, who will remind the NextGen that the mentoring process is a mandatory part of the NextGen program. Mentors may also copy the ICANN NextGen program manager in email communications for other urgent matters as needed.

Additionally, if a mentor is not responding to a NextGen's queries and concerns or offering needed support, the NextGen should alert the NextGen program manager, who can help to resolve the matter amicably.

4.3   Pre-Meeting Capacity Development

Mentors should remember to provide information to the NextGen in a simple manner that is easy to understand and retain. It is useful for the mentor to provide information to NextGen in a progressive way rather than overwhelming them with too many details at once. Setting weekly progress deliverables is key; for example, a mentor could give weekly questions (4-6 weeks prior) to the NextGen based on the information provided and ask for their responses and related queries.

It is important to note that team members may not have the same level of experience with or understanding of ICANN. Therefore, deliverables and expectations may differ from mentee to mentee. Mentors should take a clear, consistent approach to the learning process so that each NextGen receives approximately the same preparation before the meeting.

Mentors are expected to cover the following topics as part of pre-meeting preparation:
- ICANN Learn courses
  - All NextGen need to register on ICANN Learn and complete the required courses; the NextGen program manager will send an email with an enrolment key to enroll in the mandatory courses.
  - ICANN's mission: what ICANN does and doesn't do
  - Policy Development Processes
  - Operation of Domain Name System
  - Security, Stability and Resiliency
- ICANN's multistakeholder model
  - Overview of ICANN Communities
  - Other mentors might be involved as support
- Current topics of interest in ICANN
  - A mentor is not expected to be an expert who knows everything. Rather, the mentor should share resources of where to find this information and share webinars and policy reports that have either been archived or will occur pre-meeting
  - Expectations of the NextGen@ICANN Program at the meeting
- How to network successfully at the meeting
- Assist your NextGen with preparing the Statement of Intent (SOI) if needed
- Presentation preparation
  - only 3-4 NextGen will be selected to present, but all must submit a subject and idea for their presentation

Mentors should encourage all their NextGen to take further steps to increase their knowledge of ICANN and their awareness of its SOs and ACs. Below are some additional suggestions for pre-meeting preparation that a mentor could assign to NextGen:
- Join mailing lists for community groups of interest
- Participate in existing community capacity-development programs (such as buddy groups)
- Follow a path of self-study before the meeting; research topics or groups of interest beforehand
- Consider attending related events or engaging with National and Regional Internet Governance Forum (IGF) initiatives (NRI), regional Internet registry events (RIR), or Internet Society (ISOC) events

- ⊙ Identify relevant contacts in the ICANN community prior to attending the meeting, think of questions for that person, and plan to introduce yourself (or ask to introduce yourself) at the meeting

Mentors should help guide the NextGen when preparing their presentations for the meeting. The presentation can cover topics including: research they are working on or completed, an activity related to ICANN's work, an ICANN-related website with which they may be affiliated, or a thesis project, etc. *Note*: 3-4 NextGen participants will be selected to present based on their top scores and the subject matter of the presentation idea submitted.

4.4　　Personal Meeting Agendas

The mentor must work with their team members individually to help them build a personal agenda/schedule for the meeting and should assist NextGen in matching their goals for the meeting to appropriate sessions.

A mentor is required to assign a minimum of three (3) sessions to each NextGen, as well as a list of additional suggested sessions. The three mentor-assigned sessions should be in addition to the mandatory NextGen daily sessions assigned by NextGen@ICANN program manager. Mentors are expected to collaborate with other mentors or community members for advice on sectors outside their area of expertise.

It is important for NextGen to have a broad and balanced understanding of ICANN and its ecosystem. Mentors should help the NextGen to create an agenda that covers a range of subjects, including technical topics, policy development, and issues affecting the domain name industry and contracted parties. It is also helpful to suggest that NextGen attend each constituency day. Schedules should also have time allotted for networking.

Mentors are responsible for checking in with their NextGen and keeping track of the sessions they attended. Mentors should remind NextGen that they should be seen actively participating at the meeting.

4.5　　Building Confidence

Mentors are expected to be open, accessible, and approachable to NextGen and to create a welcoming atmosphere in order to foster confidence in the NextGen. Mentors should strive to be good listeners and communicators and to show a genuine desire to be helpful.

A number of Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN Program alumni have succeeded in taking leadership positions within ICANN and in the Internet governance world. Sharing success stories of the Fellows and the NextGen Alumni with the newcomers can help to boost their confidence about striving to achieve leadership roles. It is a good idea for mentors to share their learning experiences and difficulties at ICANN to increase the confidence level of the mentees.

The mentor should aim to ensure that newcomers have the confidence and resources to become active participants in ICANN's policymaking processes, rather than feel that expectations are above their capabilities. One way to do so is to organize the learning process in a progressive way so that information is provided in steps, rather than at the same time.

It is important that the NextGen does not rely on the mentor but has autonomy and independence. Mentors should remain unbiased and ensure that NextGen develop their own ICANN interests, which may be different to the mentor's.

Each mentor should encourage NextGen to ask questions, both before and during the meeting. It is important to keep in mind that NextGen will have different abilities and needs and that mentorship requires a tailored approach to communicate and guide NextGen effectively.

4.6   Facilitating Networking at ICANN Meeting

Mentors should prepare NextGen for successful networking experiences through regular engagement and interaction with their team and by facilitating introductions for them with community leaders and members. NextGen should be encouraged to make a list of community members they would like to meet ahead of time and to feel empowered to introduce themselves to experts of interest. Mentors should help their NextGen to meet relevant contacts whenever possible. A mentor should encourage SO/AC/SG/C/RALO
 members to become more involved in the NextGen program by, for example, inviting community members to relevant NextGen presentations and providing meet-and-greet opportunities to target particular community groups of interest to the NextGen.

4.7   Additional On-Site Activities

Here are some suggestions to keep in mind during the meeting:
- Task each of your NextGen with providing a brief recap of a session each day or have your cohort gather to share key takeaways each day
- Ensure that the NextGen is tracking their engagement (keeping a log)
- Attend joint sessions and social activities with fellows
- Have NextGen introduce themselves to session leaders to ensure that proper support is provided
- Encourage NextGen to contribute to policy development work and ensure that they are prepared to do so
- Ask that NextGen work together to prepare one public comment rather than multiple individual comments; ensure that this comment focuses on a topic within ICANN's mission and remit
- Allocate roles for your NextGen, such as serving as a rapporteur or preparing a written summary of a meeting to share with your NextGen team

4.8   Post-Meeting Reporting

NextGen are expected to work together to prepare a class post-meeting report; they are expected to do so autonomously but may seek input from their mentor. This report will be published on icann.org.

4.9   Post-Meeting Support

Each mentor is expected to identify those NextGen with the skills to contribute and to liaise with the relevant SOs/ACs to encourage them to involve the NextGen in policy development

processes; they should also encourage the NextGen to become actively involved and direct NextGen towards useful contacts.

Mentors should assign NextGen post-meeting tasks relevant to their skills and interests. Below are post-meeting suggestions for you to provide to your NextGen:

- Identify a working group of interest and take steps to become involved
- Explore a topic within ICANN's mission from your local perspective and share it online, via a blog or social media
- Ask the NextGen to track their engagement and provide updates to the NextGen program manager as they become more involved.
- Join a relevant Regional At-Large Organization (RALO)
- Connect with the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) regional leads

Mentors should support the NextGen and help them to share information about ICANN once they have returned home:

- Write a blog about their meeting experience and share it with their universities
- Host a webinar (with the potential for ICANN to support) or a meet-and-greet at their university and invite the ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) regional representative to speak
- Join a community group mailing list
- Sign up for the Alumni mailing list to keep informed on local engagement opportunities

5 NextGen@ICANN Mentoring Checklist

Note: A large bullet indicates a mandatory activity; a small dot indicates a suggested activity.

Week 1:
- Review list of NextGen from NextGen program manager and confirm suitability (the program will then inform the mentor and NextGen of their teams)
- Review NextGen@ICANN Program Mentoring Guidelines document thoroughly

Week 2:
- Send introductory message to NextGen and request introductions from them
  - Alert NextGen program manager if any NextGen are not responsive
- Determine most suitable form of communication for the group and times for group calls
- Learn NextGen individual interests and goals
  - Notify NextGen program manager about questions NextGen have about travel arrangements, if applicable

Weeks 3-6:
- Set up at least two online meetings with the NextGen team
- Communicate individually with NextGen to assess goals and needs
- Support NextGen in creating a meaningful and impactful SOI. SOIs are removed once the meeting is over but they are a required component of participation in the program. NextGen are expected to be able to create this on their own but may need some guidance.
- Check in with NextGen to ensure they are completing the mandatory ICANN Learn courses
  - Answer questions on the ICANN Learn message boards where relevant

- Assign NextGen tasks relevant to their interests/level of expertise; some suggestions include:
  - Participate in existing community capacity-development programs (such as buddy groups)
  - Follow a path of self-study before the meeting; research topics or groups of interest beforehand
  - Encourage NextGen to attend related events or engage with NRI, RIR, or ISOC events
  - Identify relevant contacts in the ICANN community prior to attending the meeting, think of questions for that person, and introduce yourself (or ask your mentor to introduce you) at the meeting
- Support those NextGen (selected by Selection Committee) who are presenting with preparing their presentations. The NextGen are new and may need your guidance/experience and knowledge about ICANN.

Weeks 6-7:
- Continue to host online meetings and check in with NextGen about assigned tasks
- Assist NextGen with creating a meeting agenda
  - Include 3 mandatory sessions
  - Suggest additional sessions (liaising with other mentors for sector-specific advice as needed)
  - Encourage NextGen to create a list of individuals to meet and offer advice (with input from other mentors were relevant)
  - Set expectations about the on-site NextGen requirements

Week 8: At the Meeting
- Introduce NextGen to relevant community members and assist with networking
- Offer continued advice and support, seeking input from others as needed; respond to queries and help resolve issues as needed
- Track sessions that your NextGen attend
- Inform NextGen of any relevant changes in the schedule
- Host regular check-in sessions with your NextGen team (for at least 15 minutes)
- Assign NextGen tasks relevant to their interests and levels of expertise
  - Task each of your NextGen with providing a brief recap of a session each day or have your cohort gather to share key takeaways each day
  - Have NextGen introduce themselves to session leaders to ensure that proper support is provided
  - Encourage NextGen to contribute to policy development work and ensure that they are prepared to do so
  - Ask that NextGen work together to prepare one public comment rather than multiple individual comments; ensure that this comment focuses on a topic within ICANN's mission and remit
  - Introduce NextGen to community members with similar interests for additional sector-specific coaching
  - Allocate roles for your NextGen such as serving as a rapporteur or preparing a written summary of a meeting to share with your NextGen group

Weeks 9-12: Post-Meeting
- Complete post meeting report

- • Identify 3-4 NextGen to gather information from the NextGen cohort to complete the post meeting report.
  - ◯ Support NextGen in completing post-meeting goals, including:
    - ◯ Host a webinar or meet-and-greet at their university and invite their Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) regional representative to speak
    - ◯ Join Community Group Mailing list
    - ◯ Sign up for the Alumni mailing list to keep informed on local engagement opportunities
    - ◯ Identify NextGen with the skills to contribute and work with SOs/ACs to involve them in policy development processes (if willing and able to begin contributing)
  - ◯ Encourage NextGen to become involved and direct NextGen towards useful contacts
    - • Identify a working group of interest and take steps to become involved
    - • Explore a topic within ICANN's mission from your local perspective and share it online, via a blog or social media
    - • Join a relevant RALO
    - • Connect with the GSE regional leads

6   Useful Links and References

ICANN Organization

- ◉ ICANN website | http://www.icann.org

- ◉ ICANN Learn | http://learn.icann.org

- ◉ ICANN Newcomers | https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/newcomers-2012-06-18-en

- ◉ Event Calendar | https://features.icann.org/calendar

- ◉ ICANN Global Stakeholder Engagement | https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/gse-2012-02-25-en

- ◉ ICANN History Project | https://www.icann.org/history

- ◉ ICANN Policy | https://www.icann.org/policy

- ◉ Security, Stability and Resiliency Overview | https://www.icann.org/octo-ssr

- ◉ ICANN 2016-2020 5 Year Strategic Plan | https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/strategic-plan-2016-2020-10oct14-en.pdf

ICANN Supporting Organizations

- ◉ Address Supporting Organization (ASO) | https://aso.icann.org

- ◉ Country Code Naming Support Organization (ccNSO) | https://ccnso.icann.org

- ◉ Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) | http://gnso.icann.org/en/

  - ◉ gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) | https://www.rysg.info/ and https://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/rysg

  - ◉ Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) | http://www.icannregistrars.org/ and http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/rrsg

  - ◉ Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/ncsg

    - ◉ Not For Profit Constituency (NPOC) | http://www.npoc.org/ and http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/ncsg/npoc

    - ◉ Non Commercial Stakeholder Constituency (NCUC) | http://www.ncuc.org/ and http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/ncsg/ncuc

  - ◉ Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) | http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/csg

    - ◉ Commercial Business Users Constituency (BC) | http://www.bizconst.org/ and http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/csg/cbuc

    - ◉ Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) | http://www.ipconstituency.org/ and http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/csg/ipc

    - ◉ Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP) | http://www.ispcp.info/ and http://gnso.icann.org/en/about/stakeholders-constituencies/csg/isp

ICANN Advisory Committees

- ◉ At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) | http://atlarge.icann.org/

  - ◉ Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) | https://atlarge.icann.org/ralos/

- ◉ Government Advisory Committee (GAC) | https://gac.icann.org/

- ◉ Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) | https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/ssac-2012-02-25-en

- ◉ Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) | https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rssac-4c-2012-02-25-en

Other Resources

- ◉ History of Internet Governance | http://www.intgov.net/papers/35

- ◉ Internet Society (ISOC) | https://www.internetsociety.org/

- National and Regional Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Initiatives (NRI) | https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives

- Regional Internet Registries (RIR) | https://www.nro.net/about-the-nro/regional-internet-registries/

Appendix 1: Sample Introductory Email

Dear all,

My name is _____ and I will be your mentor for the ICANNXX Meeting.

What we find works best is regularly scheduled communications from now until the ICANN meeting starts. Other than email communication, we can use a number of different communication platforms. The first thing to decide is which communication platform and/or social media we are all comfortable with for our communication. Please let me know about your preferences by replying to this email.

I shall be setting up a Skype Group for us so that we can get together every other week for about 30 minutes to have a quick chat and opportunity to ask questions. Our first session may be a little longer as we go through introductions and get an outline for how we will work together moving forward. I have set up a Doodle poll with some suggested times to find the most reasonable time period for us to meet. *[Note to mentors: Skype and Doodle are just examples here; use whatever platform works best for you and your group.]*

Once we get started, I will be facilitating your introduction to ICANN using the ICANN Learn website. This ICANN Learn experience is a requirement for participating in the program. We all will move through various courses designed to help you better understand ICANN and how the work of ICANN is completed.

I do encourage everyone to visit the ICANN website to keep updated on hot topics that will be discussed at the meeting, as well as referring to the ICANN meeting website *(insert website link here)* which will provide you the complete information about the meeting. The schedule of sessions for the full week will also be posted at this site closer to the meeting. In the schedule, you will see that there will be different track sessions; you have to follow the NextGen@ICANN track in particular and others at your own choice.

I would like to kick things off by asking for an introductory email from each of you so that we as a team get to know each other better.

In relation to myself, I work for XXX, doing xxx and have attended XX ICANN Meeting(s). I look forward to working with and meeting you all!

Appendix 2 : Valuable Resources from Past NextGen Mentors (written by NextGen Program Alumni)

Even the most veteran members of the community don't know everything there is to know about this environment, which in turn means that you are also not obliged to do so. On the other hand, there are a lot of basics that you will need to have covered, because your NextGen will rely on you for guidance. In other words, you definitely need to know where to find answers, and combine that with your prior experience to arrive at the best way to explain Internet governance to your NextGen.

To get a better feel for the Internet governance environment as a whole and understand where the different actors stand, there is a book that is considered to be standard basic literature and happens to be available for free, which is Jovan Kurbalija's "An Introduction to Internet Governance". It is revised every so often, and is available in many different languages, which can be of great help if somebody is having a hard time understanding some concepts explained in the English language.
https://www.diplomacy.edu/resources/books/introduction-internet-governance

There are also a few more general repositories to help you find the information you need. Internet Society (ISOC) maintains a resources library that contains many assets relevant to different regions of the world and on a variety of themes that includes DNS policy; the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) annually publishes several helpful documents covering both macro and micro Internet technology issues; the GigaNet is a recognized Internet Governance symposium, and its archive over at SSRN can be valuable to catch insights into what is being discussed by the community at large.
https://www.internetsociety.org/resources/
https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/publications.aspx/
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/JELJOUR_Results.cfm?form_name=journalbrowse&journal_id=2625772

ICANN also has a basic multilingual document that can help get everybody on the same playing field, entitled the "Beginner's Guide to Participating in ICANN," which is available in 7 languages. While it is not updated often, its concepts are quite solid, and accurately reflect many of the structural matters of the institution.
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/beginners-guides-2012-03-06-en

Not only is it important to grasp these ideas and feel comfortable around them, but you need to remember that this is a very active community, in which discussions are constantly being carried out and matters might be taken in directions that were not initially expected. In this sense, ICANN itself offers two resources which are great for keeping up with recent developments, which are its Blog and Twitter.
https://www.icann.org/news/blog
https://twitter.com/ICANN

It's also important to highlight that there are some trusted sources of news that the community frequently writes for and relies on. Two of them have long served this purpose and are broadly

recognized for representing diverse and well-informed points of view, which are CircleID and Domain Incite. CircleID often touches upon broader Internet Governance questions, while Domain Incite is quite focused on the domain name industry itself.
http://circleid.com
http://domainincite.com

Where does ICANN fit in the bigger picture and what are the functions entrusted to it? Below we summarize this in a straightforward way, so that you know what to investigate further in case the need arises. Find out which of these bodies your NextGen knows the most about, and steer them towards understanding ICANN's relation to it. This will help them make more sense of what they are supposed to be doing at the meeting and how not to make the mistake of bringing in themes from a different forum.

This is the core of the Internet Governance environment:

Standards bodies
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN): Coordinates several of the systems of unique identifiers on the Internet: IP addresses, Protocol-Parameter registries, as well as the DNS root zone. It also performs Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions for the global community.
- Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF): Creates underlying Internet standards, with a focus on the Internet Protocol suite. Their technical documents influence the way people design and advance the Internet.
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C): Develops and promotes standards for the World Wide Web, particularly in relation to the markup language HTML. This establishes the basis upon which different websites and platforms are built.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU): An UN agency that coordinates the use of the radio spectrum, satellite orbits, and works in an intersectional manner to further the development of standards in other institutions.
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): Promotes industrial and commercial standards, including those aimed at the diverse systems that power the Internet. Acts as a hub for national standards bodies from around the world.

Deliberation bodies
- Internet Society (ISOC): Dedicated to maintaining a human focus on the development of the Internet, so that it benefits people from all around the world. ISOC is organized in a chapter structure, some regional and some geared towards specific interests.
- Internet Architecture Board (IAB): Oversees the technical and engineering development of the IETF and IRTF. May at times act as a watchdog of actions undertaken in different Internet Governance institutions.
- Internet Research Task Force (IRTF): Promotes research of the evolution of the Internet by housing long-term research groups working on Internet protocols, applications, architecture, and technology.
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF): A multistakeholder forum for policy dialogue that is not dedicated towards arriving at resolutions, but rather towards the exchange of ideas and values between the community.

Network operators

- Number Resource Organization (NRO): An unincorporated organization uniting the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) and acting as a body for their coordination, tied to ICANN's Address Supporting Organization (ASO).
- Regional Internet Registries (RIRs): Organisms that manage the allocation and registration of Internet number resources, such as IP addresses, within geographic regions of the world.
  - Africa: www.afrinic.net
  - Asia Pacific: www.apnic.net
  - Canada and United States: www.arin.net
  - Latin America & Caribbean: www.lacnic.net
  - Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia: www.ripe.net
- Internet Network Operators groups (NOGs): Play more of an informal role, being groups established to provide forums for network operators to discuss matters of mutual interest.