Overview of the Proposal for NextGen@ICANN Program Improvements

Purpose & Goal
- The purpose of the NextGen@ICANN Program is to introduce university students to ICANN's work. The program's short-term goal is to:
  - Provide participants with an introduction to the ICANN ecosystem
  - Increase the engagement of NextGen@ICANN Program participants ("NextGenners"), specifically by increasing their increasing their awareness of ICANN activities and their participation in regional engagement activities.
  - Raise awareness of ICANN at universities (e.g., NextGenners present learnings at their universities, facilitate visits of ICANN's regional engagement team, share their related research findings, etc.)
- The mid and long term goal is to increase the engagement of NextGenners in ICANN activities after completion of their studies.

Outreach and Recruitment
- Targeted outreach will include post-graduate students in a broad range of relevant fields, including technology, international business, law, etc.

Application
- Applicants will have the option to upload a letter of endorsement or recommendation of a community group.

Selection
- The criteria for selection of applicants will be reviewed with the new Selection Committee and will include consideration of the applicants' potential for engagement in ICANN.
- Selection Committee members will be appointed by ICANN community Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs).

Pre-Meeting Preparation & Support
- Mentors will be identified by SOs and ACs and paired with NextGenners based on the selectees' interests.
- Mentors will be required to complete prerequisite ICANN Learn courses, including an upcoming course on Mentoring Best Practices.
  - A NextGen mentoring toolkit will leverage the Fellowship mentoring handbook.
- NextGenners will complete required and suggested ICANN Learn courses.
- NextGenners' Statements of Interest (SOIs) will be published prior to each ICANN meeting.
- Links to each community group will be included in onboarding and welcome materials.

On-Site
- NextGenners will continue to be introduced to a variety of stakeholder groups through networking and outreach, and recommended sessions and networking.
- ICANN org will host a Fellowship/NextGen social event at the meetings.

- ICANN org will invite community groups to participate in the NextGen sessions and continue to invite them to NextGenners' presentations.

Post-Meeting
- NextGenners will submit a report detailing their activities and indicate:
    - Which community group they plan to observe or engage with
    - Their areas of interest related to ICANN
    - Plan for disseminating knowledge within their university
- ICANN org will create a page on icann.org to link relevant NextGen alumni research, blogs and other publications. NextGen alumni publications will be highlighted in ICANN's newsletters.

Metrics
- ICANN org will track the following data points, ensuring compliance with relevant privacy regulation, and report on data to the community:
    - Short-term metrics:
        - Number of program participants
        - Number of ICANN Learn courses completed
        - Number of awareness-raising activities at universities
        - Number of subscribers to ICANN SO/AC/SG/C mailing lists
        - Number of working group observers or participants
        - Number of participants in regional events
    - Mid and long-term metrics (i.e. post-graduation)
        - Number affiliated with ICANN community group
        - Number of participants in regional events
        - Number of contributors to public comments
        - Number of contributors to mailing list discussions
        - Number of participants in PDPs or cross-community activities
        - Number of pen holders or co-rapporteurs on policy reports and documents
        - Number elected to a position within the ICANN community
        - Number of chairs or co-chairs of groups or subgroups

Overview of Responsibilities and Expectations

ICANN org
- Revise program materials to clarify program purpose and goals
- Adjust outreach plan to recruit from a more diverse pool of candidates
- Update application to allow for applicants to attach a letter of recommendation from community groups
- Track and report on metrics agreed upon with community; metrics noted above
- Ensure all metrics fit within relevant privacy regulations
- Revise metrics to assess community participation and regional engagement efforts on a regular basis
- Develop a check-in process to gauge NextGenners' alignment with metrics; publish results and follow up with those alumni who are not engaging
- Create structured post-NextGen regional integration opportunities
- Develop mentoring toolkit for the NextGen Program and train mentors

	NextGenners	Mentors
Application	- Identify SO/AC/SG/C of interest - Option to upload a letter of recommendation from community groups	- Mentors must be active community members, as determined by their respective community group
Pre-Meeting Preparation and Support	- Complete required ICANN Learn courses; program manager to verify completion - Work with mentor to develop goals for meeting - Propose meeting schedule and receive feedback from mentor - Identify skills to build and knowledge to gain at meeting - Prepare for the presentation at the meeting - Submit Statement of Interest (SOI)	- Complete required ICANN Learn courses (e.g., Mentoring Best Practices) - Advise on schedule - Assist NextGenners in planning meeting goals - Provide feedback on presentation
Meeting Structure	- Attend Newcomers Day - Attend mandatory sessions identified by mentor - Engage and network with relevant policy/advice experts - Present research at the ICANN meeting	- Introduce NextGenners to relevant community members - Select sessions for "shadowing" - Offer advice and support
Post-Meeting Expectations	Short-term: - Produce report detailing activities and indicating the community group with their area(s) of interest, and plans to disseminate their learnings about ICANN at their universities - Share relevant research papers with ICANN to be featured on the NextGen page at icann.org Long-term: - Participate in policy development and regional engagement and provide regular updates on involvement	- Encourage NextGenners to participate on calls and mailing lists and offer ongoing mentorship - Provide feedback on mentees - Identify NextGenners with skills to contribute and work to involve them in policy work

Implementation Timeline

Community Survey → Draft Program Improvement Plan → Public Comments → Program Improvement Plan → Implementation

Review Timeline

July-September 2019	Community Consultation process
February 2020	Draft Program Improvement Plan released for public comment
March 2020	Public comment period ends; program changes revised and agreed upon
April 2020	Begin implementation of changes
October 2020	Changes to the program will go into effect at ICANN69

The changes agreed upon by the community will go into effect about six months or two ICANN meetings after the next steps are agreed upon. Due to the current design of the program, applications are solicited six months in advance of the meeting date; this allows enough time to review applications and process the necessary travel steps. For example, if changes are agreed upon in March 2020, an additional two months shall be built into the plan to execute the changes. Based on this timeframe, changes to the NextGen@ICANN Program would apply to the ICANN69 cohort.