
CLAUDIA RUIZ: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. Welcome to the LACRALO Governance Working Group call on Thursday the 4th of April 2019 at 23:00 UTC.

On the call today on the Spanish channel, we have Sergio Salinas Porto, Harold Arcos, Adrian Carballo, Jose Francisco Arce, Ricardo Holquist, Laura Margolis, Alberto Soto, and View Lilian Ivette De Luque.

On the English channel, we have Dev Anand Teelucksingh and [inaudible]. We have received apologies from Vanda Scartezini and Martiza Aguero.

From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco, and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management. Our interpreters for today are Claudia and Marina.

CARLTON SAMUELS: This is Carlton Samuels on the English channel.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone to please state their name before speaking for the transcription purposes and also so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels. Thank you, and with this, I pass it over to you, Sergio.

CARLTON SAMUELS: For the record, this is Carlton Samuels, I'm on the English channel.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much. And I am very happy that we can have our first –

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: I heard you, Carlton.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: It's been a long time. This is the first of the year. This is a meeting to fine tune the six working groups in the region. There is a noise in the line. I don't know who, where it's coming from. As I was saying, this is the first formal meeting of this working group. So let me start by welcoming you all.

We have three or four items in our agenda. The call of attendance by the staff has been already completed. We have apologies from Vanda who is in a meeting in Los Angeles, and Maritza Aguero. So what we should be discussing now is the operating principles and the elections and the next steps. And this is related to two things.

We had anticipated the topic, and Dev Anand provided the details and asked for this item to be included in today's agenda, and I find it very appropriate.

Let me give you first some context. Last year, we had a significant work started out in the governance group with outstanding outcomes. The first was the metrics, and the second action or the second work was the operating principles.

These operating principles were adopted, but now we face an additional challenge, which is to produce, so prepare the rules of procedure, which rules will provide a meaning to our operating principles.

So we are now facing a pressing need, which is to have – and this is a requirement for all regions – we must have simultaneous elections for the elected positions. And our operating principles, which have been adopted, are not yet regulated. So it's just a body of definitions.

And on the other hand, we have the old rules of procedures and the operating principles which are still current and govern our operation, but we have adopted new operating principles. So there was a proposal, which is to develop temporary article or provision to be used until this working group submits a completed set of rules of procedures. So before that, we should have a temporary article defining to some extent how we are going to work.

Actually, we should be saying that until the new rules of procedures are approved by LACRALO, the old ones remain current. So we have no other way to work but this.

So I'm going to open up to you all, if you want to say anything so that all of us can work together and see how to develop this temporary article or provision so that afterwards, we will move on to the third item of our agenda. I will give the floor to Humberto Carrasco who has just raised his hand. So please, go ahead, Humberto.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: First, let me thank for discussing this issue which is something I raised in Kobe. I said that the old rules of procedure created a tactical issue, a temporary provision should be developed saying that until we adopt the new rules of procedure that will regulate the adopted operating principles. If you agree, we could set a deadline for the new rules of procedure. We could give to you four months during which period we will be working in parallel. I hope you can follow me.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Humberto. I see Dev has raised his hand, so please, Dev, you have the floor.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you. I don't see any issue regarding the rules of procedure hampering the implementation of the operating principles as applied. I'll be happy to hear exactly what is in this rules of procedure that is perhaps preventing the operating principles adopted by the assembly from being applied.

So as I see it, we'll have approved the operating principles, so as I see it, [yes, we'll have] approved the operating principles, we should implement it. And that implies the rotation principle for the chair, chair elect, secretary and secretary elect, and the ALAC member that is now [due.] Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Dev, for your contribution. I don't know if anyone has to respond. I'm going to read Jose Arce's comment who says that [inaudible]

CARLTON SAMUELS: This is Carlton.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: – draft of the new rules as soon as possible, because principles without rules mean nothing.

CARLTON SAMUELS: I'd like to come in here.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I am going to answer to Dev. Otherwise ... But before, I see Carlton is here, so Carlton, please, you can take the floor.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Sergio. There's a couple of things. One, we have operating principles that have been adopted. That means that – what we don't have are the rules of procedure. The time it would take to have temporary rules of procedure would be better used to have the rules of procedure actually adopted.

So I am not for a temporary rules of procedure. I understand the exigency of having the elections, but we have a choice before. We can

either have the elections, put together the rules of procedure that instantiate, give voice to the principles that we have adopted, or we can run the elections on the old rules. Those are the choices before us.

I am inclined not to run the elections under old rules. I am inclined to spend the time to get the rules of procedure adopted by the membership. Then we go into the elections.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Carlton, for your contribution. If I may, I will reply. And Humberto Carrasco also wants to take the floor, so I will give the floor first to Humberto.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: Let's see. If you ask me, I would have always preferred to work with the new rules of procedure and the new operating principles, but the problem that we have today is of a practical nature: I think any position – what I would suggest is to adopt a temporary, a transient provision, and we could even say that in our next elections, which I think will be in May, perhaps staff can confirm that will be ruled by the old operating principles and rules of procedure, because I don't see how in 30 days we'll be able to develop new rules of procedure.

[Dev says] that the rules of procedure are not invalid. That's true. But there is inconsistency between the new rules, operating principles, and the old rules of procedure. That is what I see, that's my understanding.

I believe that you're right to say that today technically, what we have is new operating principles with old rules of procedure, but I have the

impression that the old rules of procedure do not solve the situation of the positions for this election in May in a fully satisfactory manner. That's all I have to say.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Okay. Thank you, Humberto. Alberto Soto, you have the floor now. Alberto, are you there? Unfortunately, we cannot hear you, Alberto. We receive no sound from Alberto.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: I think that we have problems with Alberto's line, so we're going to call him again.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yeah. Okay, please call him again, and now I see two hands up. Harold on the one hand, and Carlton on the other. I don't know who was the first in line. Can you help me, please? Carlton, you have the floor.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Sergio. I'm following up on Humberto's contribution. The problem that I see is we have two instruments that make our actions constitutional. The first one is the rule, the operating principles, and then the rules of procedure. We have new operating principles, but we still have the old rules of procedure.

If we are going to have a constitutional election, there is only two ways to do it. One, we must have the election with this very awkward

situation of having new operating principles and old rules of procedure, or we can have an election in which we adopt new rules of procedure to match the new operating principles. That's the only way we can have a constitutional election.

As Humberto pointed out, 30 days might be too short to have new rules of procedure. I agree with that. So the only thing that is left for us to do is to have an election that has the new operating principles with the old rules of procedure. I do not see any other way.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you very much, Carlton. I have raised my hand because now I'm going to speak. I'm going to write in the chat – and I hope all of you have access to the chat pod. Unfortunately, I cannot write it in English. I may just Google translate to paste it in English.

[But now it's just aligned] in a temporary article, a temporary provision, so that it will say that these new operating principles that are not regulated may move forward so as to make progress with the rules of procedures and we may set a deadline of six months, taking into account our experience with operating principles, so that in the next election, we would have the operating principles and the rules of procedures matching one another.

So I'm going to write a text that is something that I drafted so as to move forward, and I will read it so that it may be interpreted into English for our English-speaking colleagues.

I have written that a temporary provision would say up until the new rules of procedures are approved by LACRALO, the former operating principles and rules of procedure will remain effective.

This means we would be working with the old rules of procedure and the old operating principles for this election, so there will be no secretary elect or chair elect in this election, some other things that we have included in the new operating principles.

So the rules of procedures, of course, this group will have to draft the new ones in six months. Let's say when this is fully operating, everything would be operating at the same time. So our institutional life will be ruled by these two instruments.

I have seen many hands up, so I'm going to start with Humberto, Alberto – someone [is speaking.] Alberto, you have the floor.

ALBERTO SOTO: May I speak?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yes, you may.

ALBERTO SOTO: With respect to the work done by the governance group, the first things we pointed out is that the operating principles should be drafted, and once we had the operating principles approved, we would start working on the rules of procedures. Why? Because it is absolutely impossible to

work in parallel and approve both things at the same time, because both things are really complicated.

So take into account the time we needed to draft the operating principles. So it [inaudible] first operating principles should be then approved, then the rules of procedures so as to work, I would say, fully aware of everything so as not to have any inconsistency in the rules of procedures.

So this should be [inaudible] needs some regulation, because there are many things that we said this would be left for the rules of procedure, and everyone agreed. There was no objection to that. So we cannot implement this right now because there would be lots of objections or observations to that, because they are not in the rules of procedures, they are not regulation to that, and the rules of procedures [may today] affect [a law] that is called operating principle. So I do not agree that we [may ask,] because I think that we are not compliant with the law if implemented new operating principles with the old rules of procedure. So this cannot be the case, so I think that we should not modify that.

And I think that Humberto and Sergio said that perhaps there may be some temporary provisions. I think it would be okay, because we will be then clearing any type of obstacle that we may find. Otherwise, there will be problems, not only with elections, with many other things. So unfortunately, I have to [drop,] so thank you very much.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Alberto. So now we have Harold, Humberto, and Dev. I think Carlton is gone. Okay. So Harold, you have the floor.

HAROLD ARCOS: Can you hear me?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yes, we can.

HAROLD ARCOS: Alberto said what I wanted to say, because [I'm saying] that the temporary provision, if we include this in the operating principles approved in December was not included because it was an omission on our side as governance groups. This provision -and I know that all of us participated in that, but this was an omission that was necessarily, because as Alberto says, this is a law. But we need to include this so that in a temporary fashion, we are going to use the old rules of procedure until the new rules of procedure are approved.

So we are not making any innovation here, we're just adding a section that was omitted in the last version of the operating principles. It has been said – and Humberto, you wrote that there, and it's included in the chat box – so that was a section that was omitted as a temporary provision so as to move forward in the most important things that are related to this topic.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Harold. Please mute your phone and put your hand down. And now, Humberto, you have the floor.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: I have written down in the chat pod that I have an idea, and perhaps this is to reconcile this decision, Dev, Carlton, and what we have thought.

I think that perhaps we may decide – and LACRALO would have to say this – that first we may use the new operating principles and only apply the rules of section 12 and section 20 regarding the virtual meeting.

So we would have to study the specific rules that should apply to this election, which we keep on working on the new rules of procedure. Or the second alternative that may be submitted for both is this temporary provision, so we apply the new operating principles and the old rules of procedure while we work on the new rules of procedure.

[inaudible] saying that is not in agreement with my first proposal, and with the second, [inaudible] saying that the region should vote on that. So this is what I wanted to say.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Humberto. I think that you wrote it on the chat, so we may take a second look. Dev, then me, and then Harold. So Dev, you have the floor.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you. I'm listening to what everybody's saying, but [I know you're saying] there's a perceived gap [inaudible] rules of procedure with the new principles. My point is that to me, there is no gap. The rules of

procedure can be applied to the new operating principles without any issues. And to me, the concept of setting aside our work of new operating principles because we don't find them convenient is quite alarming in my view.

If you were not ready to implement the new operating principles, you should not have approved them, because to me, setting aside operating principles is like – LACRALO has gotten itself into trouble when persons, throughout the history of LACRALO, have decided to rethink or reapply what they think is the right thing. We spent a long time, almost two years, trying to go through these operating principles, and we have approved them in December. So let's implement it. The new operating principles call for various new positions opening up, chair, chair elect, secretary, secretary elect and [rotation] principle to be applied.

So let's actually do that and open up the election for the chair, chair elect, secretary, secretary elect, use the rotation principle, as well as the rotation principle for the ALAC position [inaudible]. That's it.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Dev. I will take the floor. I was reading here, and I see – I think there are maybe some problems in interpretation, because I don't think there is any [inaudible] or obscure things. There is only one reality. We have the operating principles, but we have decided beforehand that these should be the rules of procedures, the operating principles were approved, so was the draft rules of procedures.

I would have liked you, Dev, to have participated in this working group so as to have both things at the same time, but perhaps it would have

demanded more work. And certainly, we had not done so. So that is why we prepare only one document.

So we approved the operating principles and we thought that this year, we would have the rules of procedures ready. I did not know that by May, we should hold elections.

So suddenly, if the goodwill is being challenged, it's nonsense to me. And I will speak based on my experience. So when you present operating principles, there is an instrument, you have to regulate it. And the same happens with a law. A law starts its implementation, its enforcement, after it has been ruled or regulated by the congress, by the parliament. So we have the law, but we have no regulation, because I think it will be more transparent.

And if we're trying to do something, if we're trying to make it [inaudible] two things, so at least for me, I want to point out two things. One, the management, the administration has to be transparent. There has never been any obscure leadership. So we have to continue on that, because this is LACRALO's history. But at the same time, the new leadership should be focused on a goodwill.

So [can we] prepare a temporary provision? Can we think that in six months, we may draft the new rules of procedures? Which would be the problem? What would be the problem if this is like that? Because we have to regulate all this. The operating principles say many times, this will be done, will be described in the rules of procedures.

So we are making reference to that regulation, the rules of procedure. So the process in itself is the process where the rules of procedures

should be applied. Once we applied the rules of procedures, of course, this provision will be eliminated.

So this is what I'm trying to say. So this is a temporary solution. I'm not saying that we are going to break up anything. We are saying – or I am saying – we have one half approved, we have to approve the other half. So please, let's finish the work, because we are using the old rules of procedures right now. But there is an election, and in that election, all RALOs should hold elections at the same time.

Well, okay. I would like to be honest, but I did not know about that. I don't know if it was done before. But I was working with the working group, and I hope this would be okay with the rules of procedures by the time of the elections. I thought the elections will be in October, November. And now Dev, you ask for the floor, but Harold is first. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Sergio. I hope you can hear me okay. Just to say again that here we're not introducing any innovation. This is an article that is typical of any document that is an evolution from a previous document. Here, we are only using a temporary provision that is in the memorandum of understanding that we have signed and which after being signed, both parties seek a way to effect work.

We've always agreed in the governance working group and in our open discussions in the region that this was the path to follow to the following rules of procedure. And finally, I wanted to make a comment as follows. We should not be scared or afraid about the time we used to

develop the operating principles. We should recall that we have made positive movement towards overcoming the past.

There was a time when the region needed to start a new, very significant stage of joint work. That is why the operating principles took so much time, and that is why they are so productive, because we worked them together as proof that we can actually work together. And that was supported by a significant mediation process. and it is important to maintain the spirit that we have been nourishing for the past two years. And it was my time, and I had to insist as the secretary I am that here we're not introducing an innovation. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Harold. Now I will give the floor to Dev, but before, I will ask Carlton. He has written something in the chat, and he has asked for something. I will ask Carlton to be more specific. He's asking for the rules of procedure to be read out, but I would like him to be more specific. Would you please explain? I haven't understood. Thank you. Dev, you have the floor.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Carlton, you want to respond first? Because there's some questions for clarification as to what should be read out in the rules of procedure. Alright. Well, before Carlton comes on, my points are that we can certainly work on the rules of procedure and work to create a new set of rules of procedure and adopt them, but there's nothing in our current rules of procedure that prevent the selection, election of persons according to our operating principles. And currently, our operating

principles are approved [as for] chair, chair elect, secretary, secretary elect, ALAC member, and a rotation principle applied to each of those positions.

So [inaudible] to implement our operating principles. And if you were not ready or willing to adhere to our operating principles, we should not have approved them. So that's it for now.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Can I speak?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yes, Carlton. Please go ahead.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Sergio. What I was trying to point out is that having had a new operating principles, and if you look at the current rules of procedure, the articles of interest to us are rule 13 about the candidates and rule 12 about voting. There is nothing in this current rule of procedure pertaining to voting that would disallow the use of the current operating principles. Nothing.

All you have to do is to look at the specific clauses and you will see that there is not any great division that will disallow the rules of procedure that is currently in place to be used against the new operating principles.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Carlton, have you finished your remarks?

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes, Sergio. Sorry, I'm finished. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Okay. Thank you very much, Carlton, Look, there is an issue which I have seen many times. Why have we adopted the operating principles if we didn't have the rules of procedure? Well, we adopted them in order to have the rules of procedure. We could not rule something that we have not adopted first. And now it comes back, the operating principles had to be regulated, and it is within the [inaudible].

If you read the transcripts or listen to the recordings of the calls that we devoted to this issue, not only in the RALO but also in the governance group, you will see that this process always we said, "Okay, we have the operating principles, we must adopt them for further later regulation."

Now, what I think that we should not do – and this has to be checked with lawyers – but I do not think that a law can be taken in part, partially, a part of a law can be taken on, another part cannot.

And this is something I will say because I learned something from Carlton in the previous LACRALO process, is that always, he says that we should – that our operating principles should have a definition of things. And that was very clear to me. Actually, in our operating principles, there is no regulation of anything.

So now what we need is to regulate, but we have a problem. We have an election in-between, and this is not something that we created. This was not an invention by Dev, by Carlton, by Harold, by anyone. So we now have to dance. And in this dance, we have to dance with what the reality is about. What I'm saying is we should not take part of the law and another part not take it. The law is the whole thing, it's the whole law. So what we can do is to have a temporary article to overcome to go after the election, and then put all our concerns, all our efforts in this six-month period, and in six months, have the work done.

The working group is already fine-tuned. Those here, we do understand what it means, what is in writing. And that will be very helpful. And it is actually in item three of the agenda. There was a proposal to develop a so-called rules of procedure for later dissemination if necessary, but already start working on something that is in writing, to start thinking about it. And this is something that a few of us will have to start with, and afterwards, work on it. But this is going to be the basis of work. And with this, I want to close.

We have this problem, which is the election that is coming on April the 29th, that is the deadline, when these actions start. And it's a few days away. And the only thing we can do is to submit something to the region so that it can operate so that the operating principles and the prior rules of procedure can operate until the new rules are adopted. Our institutional life will be ruled until the new rules are adopted will be ruled by the current one.

So the process is we take now a temporary article. This working group has to work. We have a meeting once a week, we have to continue with

this base of work to develop the rules of procedure and have them ready in six months, and have the elections in April or May, I don't know exact month, with the old rules. We have no choice.

I don't know if anyone has to say anything, or perhaps we should follow what the chat says, because I'm lost. I don't know where I am. Humberto, go ahead.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO:

If I may, I'd like to summarize the two positions as I understood. Dev's and Carlton's position on the one hand is they see that there is nothing that prevents the application of the old rules of procedure to the new operating principles, because I think that the applicable article create now obstacle. That is one position.

The other position is the position that you, Sergio, submitted, which is for the introduction of the temporary articles, because the current rules of procedure only work with the old operating principles. So in my view, I think we should take a week, or maybe less, a few days, to have informal conversations, informal discussions, all of us here in the call, for the next two or three days so that within the week, we can perhaps be able to develop a consensus proposal. Otherwise, we should vote for any of these two alternatives and see what the outcome is. I think that is the most convenient approach. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you. I was trying to read the comments in the chat. I think it's a healthy proposal to have a bilateral or multilateral meeting [inaudible]

to see, but I am somehow afraid or [fear] – and I hope it will not happen – that this will be eaten up by time. So while we discuss, the time goes by.

I'd rather be for a more transparent, clear and precise decision. Look, we have this week. Today is the 4th. Next week, if we have a meeting on Monday, it's the 11th. So we would have this week to have this discussion, all of us together.

Now, if we maintain such closed positions that make no room for something in between, actually, we'll be losing one week. So I kindly ask you all to have the vision to understand – I'm going to say what David, the mediator, said. This is something that actually, you could not live without. If this [inaudible] like this, you cannot live. This is so important for your life that it's like your oxygen tank. Let's view it this way. Let's see how much we can move forward and where we should stop. But we must have very clear what our steps will be. If our steps are [ordered,] are thoughtful, and based on our recent past history, and our recent current history, the history that started after the mediation that could move and take us to a different place, or can take us to do the same thing we've done for years. So what I propose is perhaps we can rethink it. Perhaps we can find out how to twist it to see how we can discuss it.

I have a position myself, but I am also open to listen to other views that might convince me. And what happens to me is the following: I will be very candid here, very sincere: as I have submitted bills and laws, many of us here have been legislators, lawmakers and advisors taking laws and bills to our state parliament. When we submit these things, we know that a regulation comes, and something else. We developed the

operating principles being aware that there were going to be rules of procedure to be adopted after the operating principles without with the operating principles would not be current, and that was said infinite times.

So what I'm currently asking you is that this should be taken into account for the future. If you agree, let's open up a period of informal dialog among all of us together. Let us give us a chance for dialog. I have heard many of you proposing a view different from Dev's and I don't want to use names, and there were others who proposed different things.

So until Wednesday, let's take that time, Alberto should talk to Carlton, Dev should talk to Harold. Let's talk to each other and see what the other thinks. And let's meet again on Thursday. And let's adopt, make a definition to be submitted to the RALO.

But we must be fully honest. We should not base our work on presumptions on what the other might think. We have to think in the region for one, and thinking about the region certainly requires having a different view on the other.

So please, I ask you please be open minded. That's all. we only have four minutes before the end of the meeting. If you want to say anything, please use this time. If not, I only have two additional items in the agenda.

The third is working plan, so I'm asking, do you think we can set up or [inaudible] to start discussing something [inaudible]?

LANCE HINDS: Can I speak? Hello?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Who is this speaking? You can go ahead, but please say your name.

LANCE HINDS: Sergio, this is Lance from Guyana. How are you? It is just to remind everyone where we were and what we decided. There was a lot of work put into the mediation process to come to agreement. So I think as we think about the days between now and next Thursday once we agree to that, let us realize that we have come to a position that we all agree, and I think we need to honor those agreements as much as possible.

So as we think about and we ruminate on what it is we'd like to see as a solution, let us remember where we were and let us remember the work that was done in Los Angeles to get to this point.

So I think as we decide what we're doing, let us think about that. Thank you, chair.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Your words are very useful. Thank you, Lance, because it actually goes in the direction I want to follow. Someone is asking me what I wanted to say. I apologize, I used the Google translate. I'm asking for a temporary article asking for – it's a temporary provision stating that until the new rules of procedure are approved, the previous operating principles and

rules of procedure will determine the election and the institutional life of LACRALO.

And I'm going to say this again, because the elections are just an anecdotal and circumstance in our lives. But important thing is how the region operates. So that's all. please understand. So here's for you, all of you, both Dev, Carlton. I apologize again how I'm stating it in English. I don't know if it's right. I don't think it is, but it's just a translation.

So we're about to close. We only have one minute. I see Carlton and Lance are writing. If you want to say anything, you want to take the floor ... If not, we will be closing.

BARTLETT MORGAN: Hello.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Silvia is saying that we can take longer. Is there anyone who wants to make an additional comment?

BARTLETT MORGAN: Yes. May I go ahead?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Can someone read to me what Carlton said so I can read it faster? Bartlett, do you want to take the floor? [inaudible].

BARTLETT MORGAN:

Yes. Thank you. So I just want to make a brief intervention. Listening to the different opinions that have been expressed already, I think where I want to go is more or less in alignment with what I heard from Lance, because listening to all the opinions throughout the call, one of the things that is apparent to me is that we made very clear agreement in Los Angeles, and thereafter again in Puerto Rico about exactly how this process should work. And underpinning that process was an element of good faith. And applying good faith, what we had agreed upon expressly was that even if we don't have the express language, our mechanisms to achieve certain ends, in good faith, we will attempt to apply them anyway.

For example, that is why since Los Angeles, we've made a greater effort within LACRALO to apply consensus decision making as opposed to simply voting on every single thing. It's because [inaudible] mediation process. It's one of the things we agreed. This was one of the other things that we agreed on in principle to more or less pilot it until it became the hard law.

So at this stage, I am somewhat concerned about what is being put on the table basically says, well, I forgot about this process, I didn't know that the elections were coming, so [I forgot] whatever you guys may have agreed over the course of two years. That undermines the essence of what we've been trying to build on. It undermines the trust that we've been developing in each other over the past two years. And I suspect that if we go down that road of basically throwing out the bathwater and the baby, that we will be less for it as a region. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Bartlett. We are almost at the end of the call, but I want to remind you all of something, and I'm going to insist on that. I agree with what has been said regarding the region. The working group was really clear when drafting these operating principles. It was really very clear, and this was crystal clear from the beginning. It was transparent. And you can read all the records, and all of the participants should check the records because we described the process so that all our laws would have a certain order.

Operating principles was the beginning of a process that will end with the rules of procedure. So we approved the law so as to make the rules of procedure. We are not saying that we don't want to implement it, we're not saying that we were putting the cart in front of the donkey. We are trying to have a certain order in our work to generate something that will be valid for the whole region.

To say that if I knew or not about the elections, this is just an anecdote. So in the dialog, we're trying to find a way out, and not to be stuck in that. So let's think about something rational, how to solve this problem.

Let's not be irrational. Let's be reasonable. I ask us all to respect one another. Let's get together. Let's talk about it. We have one week to talk. Let's open our minds and our hearts so as to find a solution. Let's find a solution. We will find it. I think that if we discuss it among us, we will find a solution. But please, give us time to that. And let's have that time to discuss.

I think that we're past five minutes over the top of the hour. I want to thank all of you – Harold, do you want to say something? I see your hand up.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Please be brief so as to conclude the call.

HAROLD ARCOS: First of all, I would like to say that this task that has been built in the mediation process was based on the fact that we will work in the operating principles, and then in the rules of procedure. So today, there should be no alteration to that so as not to generate any noise in the transparency of the region.

On the other hand, to conclude, I would like to highlight what has been mentioned in the chat. This is regarding what Carlton and Alberto said, that the thought of applying some articles and not applying some others may open the door for some other person in the region saying, "We might apply these articles but not these ones" in something that may be unusual action.

So the rules of procedure will be applied when ready, and this does not mean that we are revoking the principles we have. So this is the natural process, because it works like this all around the world. Thank you very much.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much. This is the time to conclude. I want to thank you all for participation in this call. We're going to have another meeting next Thursday at the same time, 23:00 UTC, so that all of you may participate. So let's find ways to solve this. I hope that we may have some dialog so as to give some order to this activity and to get a good outcome.

So thank you all [inaudible] and I hope to see you soon. Bye, everyone.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you all for joining the call. This meeting is now adjourned. Please remember to disconnect your lines. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]