
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. Welcome to the At-Large regional leadership call on Thursday the 2nd of May 2019 at 16:00 UTC.

On the call today, we have Mohamed El Bashir, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Maureen Hilyard, Haround Cherif, Eduardo Diaz, Lianna Galstyan, and Satish Babu. On the Spanish channel, we have Sergio Salinas Porto. From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, Gisella Gruber, and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management. Our Spanish interpreters for today are Veronica and David.

And before we begin, I would like to remind everyone to please state their name before speaking for the transcription purposes and also so that the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels. Thank you very much, and with this, I turn it over to you, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Claudia and staff, and thanks to everyone for attending the call. I'm really honored to be chairing the regional calls from now on until our meeting in Marrakech, and hopefully, we can have a productive meeting there.

Without further ado, I guess you have the agenda items in front of you, and we can go by reviewing the action items from Kobe meeting, and if you're able to navigate the Wiki page where the action items are listed, there are many action items that have been completed, and there are few that are currently still pending.

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I'm not sure, is it useful to go through it? But I'll just try to quickly go through the important ones, I guess. A couple of action items on staff, [Evin] to create a couple of Wiki pages, for example one related to [a continuing policy, SubPro] and applicant support conversation and follow up with Jonathan Zuck on that.

And there's also [Evin] to work with Jonathan in gathering related materials, and –

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, go ahead, Heidi.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Sorry, I'm trying to figure out how to raise my hand quickly. Just to let you know, you'll see that most of those have been from Evin. They're pretty much all completed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay. So those action items are not accurate in terms of – Evin's items are completed.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Sorry, I'm looking at the other ones. For the RALO leadership, you'll see that there are many relating to the hot topics document, and we raised

that with Maureen the other day, and we're going to get back to Jonathan and Joanna to make sure that they do work on that, and hopefully even have a draft by Marrakech that you could possibly then discuss during the Marrakech meeting. They've just been extremely busy in Kobe.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Sure. No worries. I think we're reviewing the action items, see the status, and then we have an agenda item for specifically the hot topics as well. But it's clear here that, yes, those items, the hot topics one for example, it's still pending. There is also outreach and engagement meeting. There's some action items on Daniel. Seems also not completed.

So as you said, yes, hot topics is a big component of the action items and the outreach and engagement action items related to [inaudible] changes need to be implemented on some text on Daniel's side regarding ICANN stakeholder [inaudible].

So this is [inaudible] quickly going through the action items. There's a couple of action items that need to be completed. We can review the hot topics issue, which is already part of our meeting agenda. I'm not sure if Jonathan and Jonna [are here in] the meeting. I think I'll give them a speaking slot and they can update us about their plans, and also, Sergio has sent an e-mail to the mailing list with LACRALO list of hot topics items, which is also [inaudible].

So Jonathan and Joanna, are you able to speak about hot topics and your plan to Marrakech?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Mohamed, they are not on the call.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed, just to let you know that the action items for the regional leadership session are posted on the agenda. There are only four. The other action items are for all of the meetings at ICANN 64, and you'll see that they're in various stages of being completed.

So the ones for the regional leadership meeting are only relating to the hot policy topics.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah. For example, there is an action item that the ALAC hot topics to be presented to the regional leaders or the RALOs for review. That's why I guess we're looking at that. But it seems we don't have them here on the call to update us about the status, so my assumption is that we should receive from their side the draft of ALAC hot topics that could be reviewed, and we can see how we can align that with the RALOs' hot topics.

For AFRALO, we have our hot topics completed and we just look at the ALAC hot topics and see where the common areas that we can work on. Sergio, maybe you want to talk about LACRALO's hot topics?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Mohamed, Olivier, Satish and Maureen have their hands up. Olivier is first.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Please go ahead, Olivier.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much. [inaudible] full briefing of how the hot topics are doing in EURALO. The only thing [inaudible] is that we are very much nearing completion, so we should be able to finalize them in I would say about a week. I just have to basically reformat them, and then [inaudible] cooked, they're ready to be served.

The only thing I thought [inaudible] how we're going to be [inaudible] with Jonathan and Joanna? Are they going to get in touch with each one of the RALOs and collect the hot topics, or do we have to put them in a specific location and then they'll do the magic for the ALAC hot topics created?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Olivier, for the update about EURALO's hot topics. I think, [reading] the action items on Jonathan and Joanna, they need to prepare a draft, which needs also to be approved by ALAC, so that's my understanding to their action items.

My apologies, I can't see any raised hands on Zoom. Not sure who's next. Olivier, you want to respond back?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Satish is next, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, Satish, please go ahead.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Mohamed. So I had two quick points. The first is regarding Jonathan Zuck and Joanna. I think the five RALOs have to forward our hot topics to them so that they can then weave it into the CPWG as well as the capacity building initiative. And I think even for ATLAS III. So I think the action item is actually on us to provide this list, and number two, there was this decision the last meeting that we will put together the five RALOs' hot topics in some kind of [inaudible]. Sergio has forwarded a framework for that. I'd just like to state that Glenn already has started compiling this while at Kobe, but unfortunately, he's not on the call so I don't know what is the current status of his compilation, which I think he had put together from three of the RALOs which were available at Kobe. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you very much, Satish. Maybe we can have an action item from this meeting to follow up with Glenn about his work in terms of combining the three regions' hot topics that [inaudible] already.

Your point definitely is valid, Satish, in terms of we have an existing document and work that has been done by the RALOs, and Jonathan

and Joanna could look at that as a first work that could help them to draft the ALAC hot topics. But it's reading the action items and [inaudible] they're not going to do it in this order, but I think we can advise them that it's better to look at the work that the RALOs did and they can develop ALAC hot topics [inaudible]. It's good to have a bottom-up process instead of starting from scratch from a top-down and going back to the RALOs.

Sergio, if you're able to speak about the e-mail you sent to the mailing list and the list of hot topics that you indicated from LACRALO –

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you, Mohamed. Good morning, good afternoon everyone. Let me tell you very briefly about this. I sent an e-mail with 11 hot topics that came out from a survey that we carried out in our region last year. We had some action items that were related to hot topics, and we believed they were really important to be taking into account, because we wanted to start working on them. The first one had to do with the WHOIS system on the [service directories,] then we have the IANA service function and the numbering resources, the agreement with the contracted parties, the internationalized domain names, the new domain name groups, Internet governance, the policy development process, the transparency and responsibility of financial operations at ICANN, and the outreach and engagement at ICANN.

So these are our topics. What we did was this: based on this new management, we created working groups to work on these topics, and they have two objectives. First of all, the first objective is to put into

practice or start a discussion on the proposals with a regional perspective and taking into account these hot topics, and secondly, to interact very actively within ALAC. So within this framework, we have the working groups. There are six, and they will be working in our region. Every two months, they will have a meeting, and they will be working with the ALAC working groups that are already organized.

So this means a double effort by the members of the region, but at the same time, it is very important because they will be highly involved in the ALAC policies. These are the policies that are deemed developed and discussed at ICANN, so these working groups, the WHOIS working group, internationalized domain names working group, generic domain names working group, policy development working group, and then we also created three other working groups that are closed working groups. One is a communication working group. This working group is closely related to the group led by Jon Laprise, Social Media Working Group. Then we have a training or capacity building working group, and in this case, we are going to work very closely with these other working groups.

As you know, these are cross working groups, and they share interest of all the ALSes. And the third important working group – and this is also a cross working group – is the LACRALO government working group. So these are my comments. Thank you, Mohamed.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you very much, Sergio. Okay, that's really great work. Okay, thank you, Harold. You seconded the idea of creating a Wiki page for the ALAC

hot topics, which is going to include the current hot topics document or items from the RALOs. So if there is no further comments on – yes, Heidi, please.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Just really quickly, I'm very impressed that you all seem to have made progress in the region. That's fantastic. I'm wondering if it would be worthwhile to have either a Google doc for the ALAC policy hot topics document created, and that could be started by Joanna and Jonathan, but then the CPWG might wish to add to that, and also the RALOs.

And then the next step after that, in a decent [forum,] we could perhaps hold single issue call early in June of this group just to go over that document just to get feedback from them. Just some thoughts. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Sure. That will be great. If it's a Google doc within that Wiki page, yes, that would be great. It's good to have a draft initiated and documentation initiated. So if we can have that as an action item, that will be great.

Next, I have Maureen. Yes, Heidi? Maureen, you're next, please.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Mohamed. I must admit this conversation that we're having about the RALO hot topics is really good, it's clarified a lot of things for me. I just wanted to mention that when we're talking about the ALAC

hot topics, that the ALAC hot topics are actually also going to be related to the SO/ACs' list of hot topics that we're currently talking about which are going to be incorporated into the Marrakech program of course at the high interest topic sessions that will be running in Marrakech.

But at the same time, I think that consolidation of the RALO hot topics as a session anyway is really important, because there are truly things on top for the RALOs which I think really need to be discussed. And we could certainly allocate time to talk about these, and I really appreciate that in LACRALO, they're actually looking at their hot topics and consolidating some kind of regional perspective on those particular areas. But I think that what will happen when we're moving into Marrakech, and if we do go down that track, is that I don't know if we'd be able to cover 11 topics in a session, but truly, the ones that are common ground within the RALOs definitely need to be covered. And getting the regional perspectives on those particular issues, especially if they relate in some way to the high interest topics that we'll be discussing as SO/ACs. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Maureen. I don't see another hand raised on Zoom, so if there's no further comment, we can move to the next agenda item. The RALO discretionary funds, and I think I'll let Maureen and Heidi lead the discussion here, and it will be great if we can have the Wiki page which shows the different RALOs and their spending, what they did spend and their current balance of discretionary funds available to them. Heidi, Maureen, please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Maureen, do you wish to start?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Mohamed. I'd like to pass this over to Heidi.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you very much, Maureen. Could you scroll down a little bit? [inaudible] not aware of where all this information is. This includes the request form that you need to fill out. It also has the criteria. Note that these criteria are still TBC, they're still draft, and they probably need to be expanded a little bit, and that's what, I think, Maureen wants to raise in just a moment.

For the funding – scroll down a little bit more, Claudia – you'll see that most of the RALOs have used most of their funding. Again, each RALO had \$4000, and so let's just go through quickly, AFRALO is at \$0. That's great at this time of the year, I think. APRALO has \$700 left. EURALO has \$189 left. LACRALO has \$1300 left. Please note that, Sergio, [inaudible]. And NARALO has \$96.

I do congratulate you, most of you have sent in your reports. This is something that will be needed as we go forward. There is going to be a request that we document all of this information and show it to internal ICANN Org, so I'm very confident that this is going to be exactly what they're looking for.

[In addition to] every request, it shows the report, shows the amount, so that's fantastic. Also, this past year allowed for more travel, for not only local travel but regional travel, and the balance in my view was probably a little bit too much towards the travel versus catering or ALS readouts, printing, etc. So that's something you might wish to take into account next year.

So as we head [inaudible] to go, so there's a little bit left, particularly in LACRALO. But Maureen, did you want to raise the issue regarding stipends? [inaudible].

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Yeah, I think that as we're actually going to have to review some of the criteria as Heidi mentioned, and in light of some of the submissions that have actually been made to date, and also with regards to the ABR which we made to see whether there was going to be a chance of increasing the funds which we have requested and still don't know as yet whether it's been accepted, but even so, I think that we do need to go through the process.

One of the things that has been raised in relation to applications is the stipend. From what I understand – and this [does impact on an] application that I was involved in as well – is that stipends aren't actually part of the application process, but what is required are – but it still has to be included into the actual criteria because I think that's what created a little bit of confusion, is that we do have to be more specific about what you can and what you can't apply for.

And stipends aren't normally – apparently – offered, but reimbursements on any expenses are. So yes, we will just make sure that that is made more specific. But I think too that one of the requests that we made for the updated ABR request was that we were – currently, discretionary funds are used just as CROP was within the region, and our additional budget requests sort of asked that at least one event could be outside of the region, and of course, this could impact on extra expenses, but it would only be a partial cover. So yeah, it's something that we're still working on, so work in progress, but we will make sure that everyone is consulted before we make those criteria, the new updated criteria set in stone, at least for another year. Thank you.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Satish –

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, [Heidi. Satish, yeah.]

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, I don't know the order. Looks like we have Satish, Olivier, and I have my hand raised as well. Just seeing if anybody else has – no, nobody else has their hand raised.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Olivier is first in the queue.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much. I agree with Heidi that one of the problems with the discretionary funding is the overwhelming use of that discretionary funding for travel rather than other – readouts [inaudible]. That being said, it's a direct consequence of the reduction of CROP from five slots to two slots. It's two, because one of them has to be wasted on an ICANN meeting.

So we're having things cut on one side. We can't see how we cannot continue to use the great majority of the discretionary funds towards this. In my view, CROP was something that was very positive and really helpful. We're continuing to use discretionary funds in a way which I think is [inaudible]. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Satish, please.

SATISH BABU: Actually, Heidi was there before me.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Go ahead, Satish, please.

SATISH BABU: Thanks. Hello. I completely support Olivier, and I wanted to say exactly the same thing, but I'll also add on another point. Assuming that there is going to be an increase in the discretionary funds, APRALO would like to keep a part, a portion of it for RALO activities, including readouts and other events. What I'd like to know is, are there any guidelines at present that would apply to such funding if we were to open up a sum of money, maybe \$1000 to begin as a pilot to the RALOs? Thanks.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed, may I?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah, Heidi, go ahead. You can answer the question.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you. Some updates here. So the form that is currently being used is actually an older form, so that form does state that stipends would be included. However, we've just not had anyone ask for that up until recently, and that's raised this issue.

What we've seen in the past for some of the travel – not all – is that in their request, they've asked for reasonable expenses such as food, taxi, and that, upon receipt – seeing some receipt – we've paid that. So that might be the way to go when we're updating these criteria.

Also, on the guidelines, I don't think that there are any in terms that you have to spend a certain amount on travel or readouts, etc., but you might take that into account when you're starting to plan your fiscal

year, the regional strategy, which I believe [is on the] agenda and it's something that you need to hopefully have approved and in place by the 1st of July. You need to have that done in order to get CROP funding, so that's really important, and as we're now moving into closer partnership with GSE, this is something that I would hope that you plan with your regional VP. Adam is on the call. And also, it might be useful when you're planning your ALS readout that you work with your GSE person, regional VP as well as Silvia, on planning that in advance, so you could do an ALS readout maybe on the sidelines on another event. So there'd be some saving and funding for that. So just some thoughts moving ahead. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Heidi. I have also a couple of comments regarding the request form. Although the form is titled RALO request form, it doesn't have any fields where it indicates that RALO approved the request in a formal way. That would be really useful, and even if you look at the table, you get a status of approved, I guess that's the end, that's the last status, that's the conclusion. That's the final, let's say, request status.

It would be great to have [inaudible] include in the form a field that indicates the RALO approval to be captured. That would be very useful. We have the CROP form and process which is already very structured in terms of level [inaudible] in this form, slight update might make it very useful just to capture that the request is [channeled. We have -] yes, the RALOs update, and in the case of AFRALO, yes, [we've updated] [inaudible] communicate to staff about either requesting specific support for an event or stuff [inaudible] this is available funds and how

we can utilize it if there's a remaining fund which would be utilized before it's been withdraw. But I think it might be useful to include the RALO's approval in the process, either in the form in a way that could ensure that the RALOs have reviewed and approved the request. Thank you.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Mohamed?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Please, Heidi. Yeah.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah. Just might close the discussion here, but looks like we're having some action items to update the form, Silvia, and also to update some of the criteria which you could then vote on, and that would be to have a criteria that all applications, all requests must first have RALO leadership approval – I know that [inaudible] APRALO, I know that they discuss all of their requests with the leadership. And then secondly is to remove the issue of stipends but to add reasonable expenses upon [inaudible] receipt. Would everyone agree with that?

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: From my side, I support that. I'm not sure [inaudible].

SATISH BABU: I also agree.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Olivier, do you have any comment, or are you in agreement?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: I'm afraid I dropped for part of what you said, so I'm not going to comment.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Heidi suggested, I think, two main action items, including the RALOs' approval in the forms, and developing a criteria, and the criteria, I guess, needs to include that supporting documentation needs to be provided. Heidi, did I summarize what you said correctly?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah. Just really quickly, the first one is that going forward, fiscal year 20 at least, all requests need to get approval of their RALO leadership to ensure that they comply with the RALOs' strategic outreach plans, and then secondly, staff will be removing the stipend from the form and replacing it with reasonable expenses upon seeing receipts. And of course, we will bring this back to you before we put it into place. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. Olivier, that's reasonable?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Yes. Thank you, Mohamed. Indeed, that is reasonable. Absolutely. And it's funny because I guess we are improving the form as we go on, and one of the things, of course, is in EURALO, I never figured that someone could file something like this without getting RALO approval. So it's good that we had the RALO approval thing in there. But I thought it was a given some way. I'm surprised some people viewed it differently. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Olivier. Yes. Heidi, or –

SILVIA VIVANCO: Mohamed, I'm sorry, just to clarify –

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Silvia.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes. For the [inaudible] from the formal RALO approval, it would come in the form of a signature of certification by the RALO chair, I guess, that we would be looking at, including the form. Correct?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes. Sorry, Mohamed, what we could do is add another criteria on the online application that it needs to have – you guys need to see it first and tick “approve,” and then it comes to staff, if that's okay. That might be the easiest.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes. There's two ways to do it. There is the [field in the document] if you can include the field over there, which includes, yes, the RALO's chair approval or something like that. And I'm not sure, haven't seen the web form – if there's a web form, definitely, like the CROP form, there's clearly lines where the chairs or the leadership goes and they approve it and there's a date for it. That's what we're requesting.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay. What we could also do is ask that we do get something online, like the CROP form, because right now it's a bit inconvenient. It's a word document, you have to print it out, write on it, PDF it, send it back. So maybe we can look into doing like an online form for fiscal year 20. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yeah. That would be great. Okay, so if there's no further comments here, we can move to the RALO regional assembly. Heidi or Maureen, you can take the lead here, but I think I can admit as AFRALO that we need to start planning for our regional assembly – the general assembly. The last one we did was in Johannesburg in ICANN 59. That would be two years from now. But Maureen, if you have comments. And Heidi, please.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Mohamed. Yes. Of course, the workshop activity that we had in Kobe was – and I found that probably one of the most interesting

sessions of the Kobe meeting – was with the RALOs working with their regional partners. And of course, that was to start looking at ways in which RALOs could collaborate with their regional partners. And perhaps link up some kind of partnership agreement to do a joint venture and have the possibility of a general assembly within the region.

Following that, of course, there was a really interesting e-mail thread giving the pros and cons of having general assemblies within the region. And I think that given sort of the constraints that we have been given with regards to loss of CROP, loss of a whole lot of other things because ICANN seems to be running out of money, it is an opportunity for us to explore another way of doing things, and perhaps looking at different objectives.

They might not be the same objectives – a general assembly at an ICANN meeting usually does encourage people to attend ICANN activities, ICANN sessions and that kind of stuff. But to be honest, we've often found that people come to these sessions and don't attend. So what we want to do is make it – have an opportunity to do something a little bit different within the region, make it more focused, and this is what we're aiming to look at for this upcoming set of regional assemblies.

Now, I think from the actual meeting in Kobe, I think that might have been only – well, NARALO had actually only recently had a GA, in conjunction with ARIN, which was really good. APRALO had a really good discussion with their partners, and I think they're looking at something around about 2021 or something like that. But within

APRALO, we often have opportunities to meet with whoever is available at any regional event we have anyway.

But I think that this is one of the things that we've got to be looking at, just trying to do things a little bit differently, and I really appreciate the continuing conversations about what the potentials are, what the possibilities are within the regions, just so we can [– I meant like] doing things differently, working smarter, but at the same time, we do want to make sure that our members are getting the information that they need, and it might be better to do it in a regional context. But welcoming feedback anyway. Heidi, have you got anything more to add to that?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Thank you very much, Maureen. I believe that it was agreed in Kobe that you would all try to schedule or identify timing for your general assembly following ATLAS III, so it likely would need to be starting in fiscal year 21, so the first one would be the AGM in 2020. And what we have indicated to finance is that we need to have that tentative schedule by Marrakech, and we will be inviting the finance team, Xavier and Becky, to your regional leadership meetings to review that tentative schedule, and Maureen is also going to have another meeting with him just to see about the process on how we move forward, and then we have agreed with finance that by Montréal, we will have that final schedule.

If you could start identifying the meetings, working with your RIRs, your other partners, and then also work with each other, because we can't

have too many general assemblies per fiscal year, just budget-wise and also resource-wise, so it might be one year we would get two and then the next year, we'd get one, etc. So if you could plan all of that – and staff are very happy to help you with that – that would be really useful. Thank you.

And one last thing, sorry, Mohamed. Please, while you're planning that, those dates and those locations, please work with At-Large staff, Maureen and your regional GSE VP and/or Adam who is our liaison. We will need to be working very closely with GSE, not only in the identification of a location, but also in the planning, and definitely the implementation of any outcomes of that general assembly. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. Olivier, please.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Mohamed. So a couple of things. First, one thing that Maureen mentioned, which was that [she didn't] think that people were really attending sessions in ICANN when they came to an ICANN meeting, I do differ on this view, because to understand how ICANN works, you really have to experience it by going to an ICANN meeting. I've heard so many people say, "Oh, I didn't have a clue how the whole thing works until I actually went to an ICANN meeting." It's a bit like [riding a cycle.] You read about it, you're not going to learn how to actually experience it and so on.

So there's a difficulty in understanding how ICANN works if you don't go there, and also understanding some of the issues, because you do get [inaudible] lot of the people.

That being said, of course, yes, a RALO general assembly, you will be able to talk to a lot of other people there, but it'll be a little bit like reading a book.

And then the second thing that was mentioned was to do with – I think Heidi just mentioned we have to note where the RALO general assembly could be as a joint thing with other partners. The problem is some of those partners don't have a clue where their next meeting will be. They don't have a location, and sometimes they just find out maybe a year in advance or even less than that. So you might have difficulty in isolating this. And of course, in forecasting costs as a result. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Olivier. Satish, please.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Mohamed. APRALO is assuming that this is the kind of [inaudible] that it has been decided that we're going to have general assemblies in the region and not with the ICANN meetings. And with that assumption, we discussed in our regional meeting and we identified two potential partners, the RIR – that's APNIC – and the regional IGF. And considering the mix that we have in both these events, we have kind of [expressed a preference] for the IGF group. As Olivier said, we do not have the horizon of 21 or 22 which is when we

are planning our GA. Earliest, 21, latest – subject to the other RALOs' requirements and so on – 22.

So the original idea for [inaudible] – and we're going to discuss this in the next regional IGF in July at Vladivostok in Russia, the APRALO delegation is going to discuss with the regional IGF, the leadership group there. So they will give us a year's notice when the 2021 event is going to be in the next year or so as well, and we have to then weave it into the ICANN budget and work it out. Maureen is in the loop, Jia-Rong is in the loop, [inaudible]. So I think our plan is more or less now kind of set. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Satish. From AFRALO, a couple of points. [inaudible] didn't have any issue, by the way, in terms of the members attending the general assembly being active within ICANN meeting. Actually, our experience has been very positive about that, and for example in our last GA in Johannesburg, we had many people really attending actively, engaging and listening, and the experience [they're obtaining in] ICANN meeting is very useful.

With our regional RIR and local communities, we know the common event – one event for example in Africa [inaudible] African Internet Summit, are the issue that our partners there will not be able to fund our GA. That's one.

Second, also in Africa there are issues, the cost of travel within Africa is high. Interesting, you will find that it's cheaper to have a GA for example in a European city because the flight options are far more available and

many alternatives than flying someone from [inaudible] to let's say Zambia. So in Africa, one of the issues is the [inaudible] which could be more than what you expect. So we need to put that in mind.

I agree with both Olivier and Satish in terms of also the event locations are not [well] known ahead of time, and [in that case, we want it earlier,] like one year. So that would be an issue.

Doing that within the ICANN meeting in the region, something to be considered, but in Africa, [inaudible] cost of travel as indicated. I'm not sure if Sergio has anything to add from LACRALO's perspective on this. Sergio, do you have any comment from LACRALO in terms of having your general assembly within the region, in the regional event?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I don't really have anything else to add. With respect to the trips we have, [inaudible] some issues with CROP, then there's also the issue of how to use the discretionary funds, especially because we saw that many times, those discretionary funds have been used without discussing this in the RALO, and this is being discussed now. So I don't really know if now we are talking about ATLAS III, then maybe we are progressing on that. That's all. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Sergio. [It's coming to us as the] next agenda item. For the next meeting – Yes, Heidi.

HEIDI ULLRICH: We have Eduardo and myself with our hands raised.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Okay, so please, Eduardo first and then you? Sorry, I'm not following.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, that's fine.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Yes, please go ahead.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Thank you. Just wanted to mention my opinion on the GAs. I am pro doing GAs next to ICANN meetings when they come to your region for two main reasons. One, I think it's cheaper because some of the people that go to [inaudible] will be funded, and the pl in the region can travel locally. And second, if we want to integrate regional operators, they usually go to these meetings, and we just wanted to make sure that they go to these meetings and participate in our GAs. I think that's a more effective way than getting them into a regional operators meeting and then have a GA next to it, and basically, we did it once in NARALO, it works very well, but still, the main event there is the regional operators meeting, and the GA along it. So that's my opinion. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you. Heidi?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Yeah. Thank you, Mohamed. So a couple of things. There was some discussion of – Mohamed, I think you mentioned it that the regional operator could not fund the GA, that it's going to be ICANN funding it regardless of where it's held.

I do want to stress that for example NARALO and EURALO have held meetings away from ICANN meetings and they've been very successful. Some of the people have become involved in those areas since then.

Another option if you did want to hold – a few of the RALOs wanted to hold their GAs on the sidelines or even during an ICANN meeting, for example that might be an option that NARALO and LACRALO identify an upcoming meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico to hold their general assembly. Again, you might wish to hold them during the ICANN meeting or on the sidelines. It might be that LACRALO holds it a few days before and then NARALO holds it a few days after and you might be able to attend a few days of the ICANN meeting. Those are options.

So I think we do need to be creative, but again, we do need to have a tentative schedule by Marrakech. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Heidi. For Marrakech, I think there's a meeting planned with Xavier. DO you want in that meeting to have estimates, or do you just want that they, let's say, propose dates or locations for the GA?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Yes. Propose dates. We will need that. We will need tentative dates and locations, and the days, if it's going to be an RIR meeting, it's going to be usually about two or three days, and if it's at an ICANN meeting, it will likely need to be a shortened version of an ICANN meeting. If you choose to hold it at the policy forum, that's the shorter one in the summer, that likely would be the whole meeting. If it's longer, if it's an AGM, it would likely not be that full-time due to budget reasons. And then also for the community forum, the one in March, that would probably be a slightly shortened version as well.

But again, I do need to stress that we will need that tentative schedule by Marrakech. Thank you.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

[No worries. I think if it could be] an action item on our side, so before the meeting we can already have something tentative we can provide you. Okay, so we can go now to ATLAS. I'm trying to not exceed one hour, but we're already approaching that. But I think we can quickly go through the next agenda item.

We have ATLAS III, and my understanding is most of the RALOs have submitted the names of the representatives and the selection committee. I think APRALO [is pending, they have general consultations,] but I think that's on our side, that needs to be done on our side. Not sure, Heidi, if you have anything to add on this agenda item, also Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

As far as ATLAS III updates, I just wanted to first of all really ask for regional leader support for supporting applicants in their application and drafting their application forms, the information in there, and also to encourage them to attend the webinars or undertake the ICANN Learn courses.

Even if they feel that they probably won't qualify for the actual Atlas, the whole point of the capacity building program is to try and encourage more [– build more] capacity and knowledge about how ICANN works so that they can actually participate in any of the other discussions that we have, and just encourage more input from the membership.

I'm seeking support from the RALO leaders just to encourage their regional members to be engaged in the capacity building and support their efforts if they want to complete the application forms. If you have any questions, please ask. Staff are very much in sync with what is actually required. They're going to be very much involved in the evaluation process and the selection.

Now, when it comes to the selection committee, as Mohamed very rightly said, everyone is all geared up, except APRALO at the moment. We're awaiting confirmation or otherwise from one of our members who is out of the loop for some reason, and I know that she was having broadband issues. But yeah, that selection committee is really important, because there's a training process that they have to go through in order to do the proper evaluations that are required of the actual application form.

So that's basically the next steps, is training for their input into the application evaluation, and of course that the applications close on the 31st of May. But if there are any questions, please ask. That's not a problem.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

Thank you, Maureen. If there are no further comments or questions here, we can go to the next agenda item, which is the agenda for our regional At-Large leadership meeting in Marrakech, so [inaudible]. I'm not sure if we will be able in this call to discuss [inaudible] agenda item, but [inaudible] start doing that on the mailing list or by e-mail, that would be great.

So yeah, if we can discuss that on the mailing list, that would be great. And I'm not sure, staff, do we have any deadlines? Do you need us to submit those agenda items [inaudible] need to be published on a specific date?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

[inaudible] into the next steps, which I think is [item eight.]

MOHAMED EL BASHIR:

[inaudible] March meeting. Is there a specific date you want us to, let's say our deadline, to provide you with our meeting agenda items so it would be published maybe?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, for ICANN 65. That was end of May, so around that time, maybe beginning of June.

GISELLA GRUBER: Heidi, sorry –

HEIDI ULLRICH: Sorry, [inaudible]. Oh, go ahead, Gisella. You know more. Thank you.

GISELLA GRUBER: Apologies, Mohamed and Heidi, for interrupting. I'm just not at my computer. The ICANN 65 schedule is due to be published on the 3rd of June, so in order to have the agenda translated, I'd say we'd need this by the third week of May, please. If there's any change to that date, I will let you know. But if we have the agenda by the third week of May, that would be wonderful. Thank you very much.

MOHAMED EL BASHIR: Thank you, Gisella. Maybe if we can put an action item on our side to provide you that in two weeks' time, let's say mid-May, and we have a buffer of a week if we're really late on things. But let's have the action item maybe in mid-May to finalize the agenda, and hopefully we can try to work [to achieve] that target.

I'm not sure if there's Any Other Business you'd like to discuss on the call before we end it. Okay, I don't see anything on Zoom, so I'd like to

thank you very much for the call, and wish you a good evening, everyone. Looking forward to talk to you soon. Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Mohamed. Bye.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you, Mohamed. Bye.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Bye.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Gracias.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you, everyone. Goodbye. This meeting is now adjourned. Please remember to disconnect all your lines. Goodbye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]