

YESIM NASLAR:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO Meet the Candidate Call, taking place on Tuesday, 21st of May 2019 at 500 UTC. On our call today we have Satish Babu, Maureen Hilyard, Holly Raiche, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Liaana Galstyan, Aris Ignacio, Walled Khaliqi, Namarata Khetrapal, Amrita Choudhury, Gunela Asbrink, Birkram Shrestha, Winthrop Yu, Shreedeeep Rayamajhi, Hanan Khatib and Justine Chew.

I am also seeing Nadira Al-Araj has joined our call as well. We have received an apology from Kaili Kan. From Staff side we have Silvia Vivanco, Siranush Vardanya and myself Yesim Nazlar and I'll be doing call management for today's call. Just a kind reminder before we start to please state yours when speaking for the transcription purposed please. Now, I would like to lead the floor back to you Satish. Thank you very much.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much Yesim. A warm welcome to everyone who has joined this call. This call is a special purpose call for the APRALO Community to get to know the candidates formally. We have just one position where there is a contest and this is for the Vice-Chair of the APRALO and we have to two candidates, both of them are well known to us. However, formally we need to hear from them, as to what they have planned for the position if they get elected. Also, for the Community to raise questions and their response. Very quickly, the format of this call is as follows. We will start with a 10-minute presentation from each of the

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candidates and going by the alphabetic order, it's Lianna first and then Aris.

As I said, the time is a maximum 10 minutes, it can be last, that is for their position statement. Subsequently, the floor will be open for questions. The format of the questions is a maximum of one minute for each question and a maximum of two minutes for the candidates to respond to the question if they wish to. The candidates can of course say that they don't have any comments, that's okay. This is the format and I'd like to apologize in advance because I have to leave after about 30 minutes and Silvia will take over the chairing rolls after 30 minutes.

With that, if there are no other comments of the format of today, if there are any comments please speak now, if not, we will get started with the presentation by each of the candidates. I'm waiting for a few seconds for any suggestions or comments on the format. Not seeing any comments, I also see that there is a bit of issues with Aris's audio, we are hoping that it will get fixed as we go ahead. In the meantime, I'd like to request Lianna to talk to us. Over to you, Lianna.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Hello everyone, thank you, Satish. I'd like to start by thanking everyone for joining this call. As well to my memory with the six years I haven't seen something like this in APRALO, with a candidate call. I really appreciate this opportunity and everyone to ask questions of this candidate.

I joined APRALO, the organization which was then Internet Society 2012 and my first ICANN face to face meeting was in June 2013 when we had

the General Assembly. Since then, I started getting involved in the work [inaudible] in ICANN and my organization, which was not only the ISOC Chapter festivities, but also we are the registry for .AM, so that's why I have a high interest for the registry operations and registrar operations as well, as in my previous background I worked also for the registrar company, one of [inaudible] registrars, ccTLDs within Armenia.

I had 15 years' experience of working with the end users. This is where I found my interest to come to the RALO's the At-Large, which is in the interest of end users. Another interest that I had in ICANN so far, is the IDN. Previously we did not have IDN TLD in Armenia, so I was hearing and tends to be working group and looking what's happening, what re the discussions, the IDN issues. But then I launched the discussion within my [inaudible]. I launched discussions within my registry, if we need to decide launching the IDN in my country as well. We organized a conference and public hearings. The position was policy and so we decided the whole process and we launched in 2016 the IDN ccTLD in Armenia [inaudible] and I am proud to be one of those members of the administrative group. We launched that and, in my opinion, this is very important for the country to have the opportunity for the people to use the IDN domain name.

[Inaudible] and within this series of activities, I got involved also with the IGF form. In 2015 as well, we launched the Armenia IGF, the national one and started that every year -- we organized that in autumn, in September and October. Besides the national IGF, I'm also involved within the regional and also the global IGF, which is two years that I'm also serving as the UN member. But going [inaudible] with the discussion, [inaudible] stakeholder issues globally and regionally. I've

been once in the APriGF, which was in Macao and was happy to meet people from the region and also I had time to build [inaudible] present the issues and also about the [inaudible]. My interest is very wide.

Another thing was [inaudible] properly, I found my personal interest is the accessibility issues, my organization also supports the center of blind people. We organize training for those people with disabilities and I usually participate to conferences, the last one was this year, 2018 in December in Vienna the conference organized by the ITN. As I said, Europe, I'd like to touch the issue also, Armenia as a border of Asia and Europe, I have the chance to go and see what's happening in two continents. Being able to participate on the conferences within Europe and Asia Pacific and be the voice and bring the issues to two continents and also globally as well.

Thank you, Silvia, for putting in the chat [inaudible] At-Large; it is an updated issue. I see there are questions about the working groups as well, but I found very interesting and very enthusiastic were the outreach and engagement and I worked with a student, launched the current IGF in Armenia and two additions of it and this year I also planned to launch the regional schools, with in the college from Georgian, to have our six countries, which I'm really very enthusiastic for this and see what result we will have.

The last meeting in Kobe, the ICANN meeting, my and Kailia were mentors for the students coming from the Japan University and it was very, very rewarding to see those young people getting engaged into the discussions that we are running, not only with the ICANN but in general IGF. We present also and very active in the ISOC chapters,

being the Chair of the Board for the ISOC Armenia chapter. We did support the youth participation and also the empowerment of women. I organized a lot of events encouraging women to get involved. We do have trainings, we do have wiki's on and the youth, I am really proud that just yesterday the alumna of Armenia School on Internet Governance launched DNS for the youth IGF in Armenia, that was very fantastic for me to see the outcome of the work that I've done within the two years in the role.

Also, happy to see the growing to the regional and global IGF participation, many of them went to the regional IGF and are very active participants. As an external relations, managing my organization, I do have parenting with the new organization, trying to bring new voices as stakeholders to the country and discuss the interest of the end user and see what impacts can be done if something emergence is happening, discussing within a company and then try to disseminate in a wider to platforms.

I think I will stop now. I will just have -- we didn't have the opportunity last time at our call to join the APRALO monthly call because I've been in Uzbekistan and the connectivity was very poor, I couldn't connect to that but that was very, very fascinating to see APRALO, had never gone to that country to make out outreach. GAC was -- I felt very humbled to be at the country and make the connections, of which I will make another report for the Community. I talked to a lot of people and I think we might have some participants joining from those countries as well and regional IGF is also waiting for us to reach them. Thank you. I see now that the time is already up and with this, I will stop. Thank you very much.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Lianna. Thanks for your position statement and please standby questions after Aris makes his presentation. Aris, I hope your audio has now been fixed, welcome to this call. Over to you, please make your presentation.

ARIS IGNACIO: Thank you. Hello, good afternoon, good morning and good evening to each and every one of you, I am Aris Ignacio. I am from the Philippines. I am happy to be here with you right now. In case you don't know me, I am the one who's roaming around, taking pictures. I was given a chance to come off the ladder, which is I am a former fellow, ICANN fellow, and those [inaudible] inspired me to aspire something greater and maybe move up ladder and have a voice and that's what we are currently dealing with here in the present. We want to have our voice and also, we are taking the face that we emphasize with regards to how the internet is implemented.

Besides that, currently I am handling a follow ship empowered, I do have a capacity there and also currently I am the Chair for ISOC chapter and also part of the Multi Stakeholder group for the Asia Pacific Regional IGF. Also, I have been doing a lot of awareness programs here in the Philippines, most of which are dealing with students. We involve students also with a lot of activity not only here in the Philippines, but also [inaudible].

I do bring students to the APriGF because of the fact that we know we need to, as much as possible, start young and maybe make them aware

that there are certain things that as much as possible, they need to know about internet governance and such because in all of the places I've been here, I've been with and I've been in the Philippines, it's really tough to tell about internet governance because of the fact they really don't have an idea of what internet governance is.

I think maybe going up the platform, maybe it will be one way of maybe making a lot more people aware and maybe we can get more engagement out of that. There are a lot of things that we are into right now, we've also being doing a lot of outreach engagements with the help of the students, our awareness programs and also digital programs with some of the small schools around, not only in our area but also it could reach other, maybe farther.

I would like to give props to Lianna, that's really a tough act to follow. I would really give my all, my best, with regards to -- I don't know, if I be elected, it will be a great chance for me, maybe reach further more. Those are the things that are really needed to be done. I think that's short and sweet. Thank you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you very much Aris. We would like to congratulate both the candidates for stepping for the APRALO elections. At this point, I'd like to open up the floor for questions from anyone. I'd also like to request Silvia to take over moderating during the question period. Like I said, one minute for the questions and two minutes for the responses from candidates. Over to you, Silvia.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you. Thank you very much. I am looking now at the participants chat. I see one, it's Cheryl, please Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Silvia. It's a question that I'd like both candidates to respond to, I don't care in what order. I'd like them to let me know, as someone who's passionate about the policy development process, list two or three things that they would be doing to ensure the regional voice is better placed in the development of ICANN policy?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much Cheryl. First give the floor to Lianna the answer.

LIANNA GALSTYRAN: Thank you very much Cheryl for your question. Regarding the policy and the regional voice to be heard, what I would do is to use the opportunity of my travels, not only from the ICANN but the also a different opportunity. It's not like I would but I do that as well. Whenever I travel and see people around, we have discussions on different topics, I usually represent the ICANN and what we do at At-Large, and especially to to RALO when we have some hot topic and policy, but at that moment is being discussed and we have the update from our ALAC members.

I really use these meetings and opportunities to update on what is happening and always try to bring them and see which candidate we would have to invite actually, to our discussions and join us and bring to the team, to the APRALO team. That is actually the outreach part that I

always try to give, using my travels worldwide. Since we do have the challenges in the region, many of the topics that I said, like IDN, that is their high topic and the policy that we have and the issues, I use that one in wider sense of meetings. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much. Now, Aris please for the answer to Cheryl's question.

ARIS IGNACIO: For the question Cheryl, actually we are doing -- I would like to emulate what we've had done here in the Philippines. We were able to gain the framework for our nationalized [inaudible] and based on that framework and how it was being done, I think when we do awareness programs before the actual drafting of the framework we're doing with this multistakeholder type of environment in each and every session that we have around the country.

I think those awareness programs we are going to make [inaudible] about how policy development at ICANN is being done and also share with them the best practices. If there would be any good candidate and also, I think that will be the best way in how are we going to spread out the way on how the ICANN policy development is being done. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much, Aris. Now, we have three questions noted, first one from Shreedeeep to both candidates. Do part of the leadership

team, there is a greater responsibility of seeing before and after the position. [Inaudible] engagement is a greater challenge, so how do you being part and as a new member see this? First Lianna again and then Aris for the answer.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: I didn't get the question completely but about the responsibility. At the moment and after and I cannot see that in the chat. Can you repeat that please Silvia?

SILVIA VIVANCO: Absolutely. This part of the leadership team, there is a greater responsibility of seeing before and after the position, engagement is a greater challenge, how do you be part and as a new member, see this challenge?

LIANNA GALSTYAN: The challenges in our position, in the community, the experience of being involved [inaudible] in the multistakeholder community, working with different supporters, that gives an opportunity actually to bypass or to balance the challenges and work in a way that will bring the balance to the community. The responsibility, it doesn't actually matter whether you are in a position or not, if you are by yourself or responsible, then you are taking the role and represent that community, this is the most important role is that I think any candidate and any participant of the community should be doing. At first, being in a

leadership role and balancing, the challenge is the most important and the experience gives you the good background.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much. Same question to Aris please.

ARIS IGNACIO: Thank you, Silvia. Well, to start off, I've been a volunteer teacher, even though I haven't been elected to any leadership role. I been a teacher, I've been a volunteer teacher, I've been volunteer for the past 10 years already and putting a lot of time and effort with each and every volunteer work. I think same thing with regards engagement part, being outside of that. Volunteer is already a big part of it. I think being open to anything that is out there and just trying to have input and volunteer to help people, I think that would be one thing that I can do and maybe we with the cooperation of everyone, we can do it. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much, Aris. Next, we have a question from Holly Raiche to both candidates. What steps would you take to encourage more regional input into policy development? Lianna first, please.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: Thank you for the question. The encouragement of regional -- the community is actually through the face to face meetings and personal relations and finding those candidates that are involved to understand and get involved. The policy development, the multi forum for us, we

need to have more input. Again, with the regional participants [inaudible] do not even have an idea what is At-Large is [inaudible], where the policy issues can be impacted on them; as an end user, that is the most important things that I work on. To help people to [inaudible], and I saw for the [inaudible], that is somehow linked as well.

I think what [inaudible] participants to get involved in the policy situation, I think maybe people do not really understand or feel not able to be part of the policy. With the help of the experience, staff and the community members, they know that there is help, the webinars, the webinars we do would be ATLAS participants, that kind and a small group meetings, to breakout discussions that we do have at our meetings, I think those kind of steps and format, would really help for the people and regional, to get more regional input for the policy development. Of course, I did not think about the national issues, that is another opportunity to bring the new voices and new input. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much, Lianna. The same question to Aris.

ARIS IGNACIO:

Let's start from the lowest part of it, it's like we need engagement, engagement that we're going to get, we need more and I think the promotion of, which is a very program, the fellowship program and even the next gen program of ICANN, to regional members in each part of the world would be a great start, for us to be able to get more engagement, policy development. Because, I think what is lacking right

now with the fact that they're very limited engagement, is we need awareness. We really need to inspire people and make people aware that there is such a thing. There is such a thing, in order for them to be able to [inaudible]. Thank you.

SILIVIA VIVANCO:

Excellent, thank you very much, Aris. Then we go to the next question, it's from Nadira, again for both candidates. How many volunteer roles are you currently holding? How do you plan to balance the existing roles you hold and the role of APRALO Vice-Chair, that brings the voice of end users without any possible conflict of interest? First, Lianna.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thank you, Nadira, for the question. I do have a lot of volunteer roles but so far, I did not have any conflict of interest that would hinder me to work with them, the end users and the APRALO community. I always use, as it stands for another way of representing actually the community and the work we are doing. It's pretty much the internet system, actually cross cutting and has this combination of being in the same eco system and to present the issue from different angles, from different perspectives.

I would not say that this volunteer role is hindering or having a conflict of interest but rather the opposite done, that you take the different role and with the outreach, you do the activity and have the opportunity to bring the issues from different perspectives and roles. A lot of roles about the ISOC chapter, the ISOC community, being in the role, I do not

feel any conflict of interest so far. That opportunity, the benefit I would say, an advantage.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much for that answer Lianna and the same question goes to Aris.

ARIS IGNACIO: Thank you, Silvia. How many volunteer roles do I have? It's quite a lot considering that more often than not [inaudible] and how do I balance it? Well, I'm still living. I'm still breathing. I was able to balance it within my [inaudible]; and it's not only that, with the help of people around me, I was able to manage all of the things that are being shown. I think I will not have any problems. With regards to conflict of interest, volunteering is not really conflict of interest. I can't think of an interest with regards to volunteering I do at present. Just at the moment I cannot think of anything in any form with things that I am doing volunteer. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much, Aris. A question from Justine to both. What are two or three things that you would recommend APRALO leadership team to prioritize in the next two years? Lianna, please.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: Thank you, Justine, for the question. I would say probably the development field, to develop and also the leadership development. As

we will have the meeting in At-Large 3 and that is another prioritization of the At-Large, I think that is going to be an exercise within the APRALO as well but I do have a leadership development, it's not only leadership team but also within the community there is people who are capable to step in.

As you remember, we did have the mentorship program and that is an excellent program and we intend to continue. I think that would be [inaudible] step that we need to prioritize for the future and also the policy engagement and the actual capacity development in this direction. We need make this a capacity development in this way, to have more people getting prepared and be knowledgeable for the policy input. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much, Lianna. The same question to Aris.

ARIS IGNACIO:

Thank you. I echo with what Lianna had said, which of course is about capabilities and also some things with regards to awareness of the policy development [inaudible] and the issues at hand. Also, we need to hear and need to suggest as much as possible engagement and maybe create a body that will be able to go through certain ALSes, it's not possible at the moment but give capacity building awareness programs within those areas. I think with that and if we make people really aware of such things, a special spot, they're not really a lot of people who are aware of what we are doing right now. Make them aware, engage them

and from that point on, maybe we could have [inaudible] as much as possible. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very. Now I have question from Amrita, it's what do you think is the major hindrance for ALAS and communities to participate in APRALO and At-Large discussions? How do you plan to improve if elected? Lianna, please.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thank you, Amrita. This is a great, a challenging thing. We do have a lot of challenges within the region and hindrance, one of the things that comes to my mind is first of all the connectivity issue, the challenges with this. It does not allow a lot of people to join the discussion, to the calls and be a full participant as such. The main work is being done through the mailing list as well but still, I think the connectivity is a real challenge within the different countries.

The last one is [inaudible] and that is terrible -- you cannot physically connect and be a part of the discussion but still, there are other challenges too. Being that people do not actually understand this, will come in a later stage or are not well aware of what is happening; they need to be some capacity development I think [inaudible] even on the At-Large and ALAC meetings, I really appreciate the efforts of Maureen, organizing the breakout discussions and inviting special, I think that is exactly what we need and we do that and ATLAS 3 and ATLAS webinars are the greater opportunity for those people who are not -- how to check in.

We need more of that programs, that the discussions, the capacity development programs and I also think that we probably need to work on the ICANN Learn, to have and cover as many topics as possible, on the process and the discussions that are happening at the moment. I think that is one of the interests, that people do not understand what the discussion is about, they do not have institutional memory of the process starting many years, that is the tendency of a lot of topics in ICANN. I think I do not have time but I wanted to say. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much, Lianna. The same question to Aris.

ARIS IGNACIO:

I think Lianna has already pointed out everything. I'd just like to add one more and it is really [inaudible] and just like I've been telling everyone minutes ago or just an hour ago with regards to each and [inaudible] ALSes [inaudible] those other parts of the [inaudible] needs to have ability to have a local awareness of what has been having on the international scene, and that will allow awareness [inaudible] because if people will not be aware of what we are doing, how can they be able or how they could participate? I think that is one really big [inaudible]. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much, Aris. Now we have one more question from Jahangir Hossain. The question is, do you feel any challenges to bringing the voices of end users in At-Large community? Lianna, please.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thanks Jahangir for the question. One of the challenges that I would mention, it's a way of thinking of people in many Asian countries. People are starting to raise their voice. They do not feel comfortable, to speak out of any problems, of any problems that they please and they do not even know that they can raise that issue to a certain community and that is the way of thinking. I saw that in many conferences where people are being asked a question and they do not raise their voice but while the networking or having a small discussion, they raised those issues an address that.

Yes, that is one of the challenges but you cannot fight with that but rather to find the right format or finding the situations. To identify the issue within our communities, it's kind of challenging, maybe not everyone is in that. Once you identify and you know what is the challenge of the region, then there is no challenge for us to bring that to the At-Large. In the perspective ICANN, there is no challenge to voice that issue. All the meetings, all the working groups are really open and there is no challenge in these, to present these end user's voice of the region. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much, Lianna. Next is Aris for the answer to last question.

ARIS IGNACIO:

Thank you for that question. The question is, do I feel any challenges? Yes, there is [inaudible] and with regards with that, that is why remembering the fellowship program and the mentoring program and the NextGen program, I really, really, very, very [inaudible] and those are really great programs [inaudible] platforms, where we can all bring end users there to that platform and make them aware.

Also, that is why I started in this with students because I know the students are really the basic end users and with those students, if they start at the earliest now, I think they will have a feel a couple years later to make an impact because of what they have made aware of and all of the issues that have been the impact in NARALO and ICANN meetings. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you so much, Aris. I'm searching and I don't see any further questions in the chat. With that, we close the questions and answer section. The next steps, the elections. There will be lunch on Thursday, the 23rd of May and go through the next Thursday, the 30th of May. As you know, the elections take place in May but the position will be renewed in Montreal, after the end year meeting.

Finally, I just want to thank Lianna and Aris for introducing themselves, for providing all the details and background and sharing their time and experience with APRALO and to all of you, the audience, who joined us tonight to ask excellent questions. I'm sure that all the membership will be benefited from this excellent session. Thank you so much and stay

tuned for the ballots when they come on Thursday, to cast your vote online. Thank you. Bye, bye now.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thank you Silvia. I would like to use the floor and to thank everyone for coordinating this meeting, this was very interesting to have these challenging questions and also the opportunity to represent. Also, I like to thank Aris for stepping in being ready for this position and be a colleague. Thank you and good luck.

ARIS IGNACIO:

Bye everyone. Thank you again.

YESIM NAZLAR:

Thank you, this meeting has now ended. Have a lovely rest of the day. Bye, bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]