
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

This is Claudia Ruiz speaking. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. Welcome to the LACRALO Multilingualism and IDN Working Group Call today, Friday July the 19th, 2019 at 23:00 UTC.

Today we have Sergio Salinas Porto, Harold Arcos, Sylvia Herlein Leite, Mariel Aranda, Antonio Medina Gomez, Carlos Leal, Mark Datsgeld, Reina Granados, and Gilberto Lara. We have no participants on the English channel and from Staff we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Claudia Ruiz, as we are managing the call for today. Our interpreters today are Veronica and Claudia.

And before beginning the call I would like to remind you all to state your name before taking the floor, not only for the transcription but for interpretation purposes. Thank you and with that I would like to give the floor to you, Sylvia. Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. Thank you, Claudia. Thank you. Good afternoon and good evening everyone. My name is Sylvia Herlein Leite. For those of you who do not know me I would like to tell you that I belong to Internauta Brasil and I have been working LACRALO since 2007 so it has been a long time for me working here so it has been a pleasure for me to be here. I was also able to learn a lot of things.

I would like to welcome you all. This is a very nice Working Group. There are many people interested in this Working Group. We are almost 20

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participants, 20 members, and we have representation from 12 countries.

So, I'm sure that we're going to work in a great manner for LACRALO. So, without further ado I would like to welcome you all. I can promise you that we are going to work very hard and I hope you can help us and that we can accomplish good work. So, now I would like to give the floor to Harold for him to adopt the agenda.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Sylvia for Harold speaking. Thank you, Sylvia. Can you hear me? Harold speaking. Okay, we have a presentation today. We're going to introduce the Working Group structure, the idea in Working Group structure on item number five of the agenda. We will have Mark, Mark will be delivering a presentation on Universal Acceptance and he's the Ambassador of this Working Group.

Then, after this session we will have a Q & A Session for Mark. Probably we will be able to share some thoughts and comments. And then we will discuss topics related to IDN and Multilingualism. If you would like to add any topic on the agenda, you can do it right now or else you can raise your hand on the chat so that we can add that topic at the end of the agenda. I see no additional topics so now I would like to adopt the agenda. Sylvia, you have the floor.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. Thank you, Harold. Okay, so just to start with the structure of the Working Groups. Since this is our first meeting, our first

conference call, I have already posted the link of our Wiki Page that you already know of course, and we have divided our talk into different stages. We have finished with stage number one which was the creation of the Working Group, that was a very successful stage because as I said before we have many members. And stage number two is related to IDN and Multilingualism. And then we have a stage three because there was no specific place to address this topic which is closely related to IDNs and this is the Universal Acceptance topic.

Then, I'm going to explain to you how are we going to divide the tasks because we are many participants and these topics need to be addressed deeply. We need to devote time to the topics and we're going to create a subgroup, the IDN and the Universal Acceptance Sub-Group. But we will discuss that later on.

Now, without further ado I would like to welcome our speaker, Mark Datsgeld. Sorry, Mark, for mispronouncing your surname. Mark is a Brazilian researcher and consultant. He has a Master's in International Relationships, relations focus on internet governance and he's also specialized in the impacts of technology and the creation of public and private policies. And the presentation, and he's also the Universal Acceptance Global Group Ambassador. So, Mark, it's a pleasure for us to have you here and thank you for presenting today and thank you for sharing your presentation with us. We read the information that you provided us on the Webinar in December. We were also discussing that information but having you at first hand and having you here to tell us how we can help you, that's great for us. So, Mark, please go ahead.

MARK DATSGELD:

Mark speaking. Hello everyone. Thank you, Sylvia, for the invitation. I'm going to ask you to bear with me. I'm going to speak in Spanish, but my Spanish is not perfect so I'm going to make my best effort to speak. I would like to share with you different things. Particularly, I would like to speak about new groups, the new subgroups of Universal Acceptance. And I would like to speak about local initiative and at the same time I would like to speak about Universal Acceptance.

Universal Acceptance is a group that has been created some time ago. Back in 2017, it had a formal start. At that time, they started working on a formal basis and with a systematic approach. And now the thing is that we have a relatively large group and we have subgroups, Working Groups and we are working on different topics.

The first Working Group is Technology Working Group. This group is focused on specific things based on a focus on implementation. This is a group for developers, for people carrying out research on cyber security issues. Then we have the Internationalization Working Group. This is a specific group for the ISPs or similar stakeholders that work closely with email-related issues. Then we have the Communications Working Group. This is an average Working Group and the idea is to work with a different Internet Governance Stakeholder Community and discuss the different Universal Acceptance related issues.

Then we have the Metrics Working Group. This is a Working Group in which I am focused because the idea is to understand the status of Universal Acceptance. And this is a group which you will be working with closely. This is something new. This group had been created two months ago. That is a new approach for Universal Acceptance. This is a

new approach for Universal Acceptance. And we are testing, we are in the testing phase. Therefore, it is really important for us to make this effort right now because we will be able to clearly understand how we can approach to this Sub-Working Group.

So, this is a totally new approach that is being addressed now and this is the local initiative issues. The thing with local initiatives is that regions can work within the Universal Acceptance ecosystem with the support of the UASG and this is the Universal Acceptance Steering Working Group.

This is a Coordination Working Group. So, now there are no local initiatives available. This is something very new, the concept is really new, but I believe that this group is the clear definition of a local initiative because this is a diverse Working Group with members from different countries who are interested in the internationalization topics. This is something really new as you know but in the coming months this is going to be a very significant initiative and it would be worth talking to all of you because this Working Group will turn into a local initiative.

So, this Working Group may provide a significant support to us and you can also work on related topics, not only on independent topics. Everything will depend on the interests that you have but we can speak about this in the future.

Just to speak a little bit about what we're doing right now. I was the Coordinator of a Researcher's Working Group. And the idea of this Working Group was to discover the level of Universal Acceptance in the different webpages and web forms, for example, in HTML format. This is

a very important set of actions for users and for users to type their email addresses. So, this is a very complex situation because Universal Acceptance of email with different characters, for example, with the hand script from China, it is only 50 percent.

And there are many different reasons why these emails are not being accepted. One of those reasons is that the standard being used does not support the Universal Acceptance. This is quite surprising on one hand but on the other hand I believe that this is possible. This is not considered within the current standard. So, this is the kind of systemic problem existing right now. The plugins validating emails, or there is a very popular GQuery plugin, that is not supported by the Universal Acceptance. In general terms, we have many fonts to cover and many fonts to start working. The International Standard Organizations, local IPs, we need to work with the Civil Society. We need to work with other organizations to do some outreach, so we have a long way to go.

At the same time, there is a proposal, and this is to carry out research at a local level. We need to do local and specific research. For example, we started researching Universal Acceptance, in Brazil only, with only 50 participants. Now we can extend that research to a greater stand or a greater region. We can also have the contribution of university students, for example. But the idea is to create interest and awareness on the topic and to understand the local realities. So, I believe this is really important to start working with governments. Governments are the ones requesting metrics. In Columbia, for example, the acceptance of the hand script is really low, so we need to work with an International Standard due to different reasons. So, there is a long way to go and in

LAC, we do not have a great structure, so this is the first significant initiative that has a regional dimension.

So far, we have been working alone with the software engineering body, but I was working alone in this topic, so I believe it is really interesting to have more people to work with. This is just my brief general introduction to the topic because I would like to make it clear that it's the perfect time to start dealing with IDN and UA issues. It is a very particular time and the LAC initiative is the first one and I might say that the IAP initiative will be the second initiative for their gathering.

So, this is a very significant step forward. I mean, the fact that you have created this Working Group. This is just my brief introduction. Of course, we can continue the discussion. Sorry for my Spanish but I'm trying to read and I'm trying to discuss with all of you. So, if you want, we can continue with Q & A Sessions and I can of course reply to any questions that you may have. Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. That was great. No problem, and we understood you perfectly. I would like to tell you that in LACRALO, we are innovators, we are pioneers because since the very beginning of LACRALO we have been that so it's not unusual for us to be treated as such because this is part of our DNA. And of course, you might think that Asia Pacific was, or are the pioneers but it's Latin America in this case. Thank you very much.

First of all, there's kind of a complaint here written by Lilian so that you may know and make some comments to whoever may apply, but it says

in the call to join the UA Working Groups, you send the form to the group saying that you're willing to participate, that week's go by and no answer is received. So, Lilian said, well it's kind of complicated to participate or be involved in that Working Group. Is there any other questions? Can you write it in the chat board or raise your hand?

Specifically, I would like to ask you how, we have representatives from 12 countries, so how can we help you? What can we do? Because we read the report. We observed that you have analyzed the top 55, I don't know whether they are the most famous, they're the ones that are most accessed to, how did you define the 50 most popular sites in each country? So, while you think about the answer, I will give the floor to Harold Arcos. Harold, you have the floor.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold speaker. Thank you very much Sylvia. First of all, thank you very much, Mark, for your explanation, for the details you gave. This has been a very good update. And in Internauta Venezuela we have a team that is interested in this after the visit we payed to the office in [inaudible]. We have a team, most of them came from the Bolivar University of Venezuela, and we'd like to know what we can do from Venezuela? I know there are some kind of a handbook. So, I would like to hear recommendations, not only for me but for anyone interested in participating in this kind of exercise regarding Universal Acceptance and the websites. So, if anyone is willing to do a complete study what would be the first steps, the next steps, what shall we do? So as to then use it as well in the Working Group that we have formed in LACRALO.

MARK DATSGELD:

Mark speaking. Thank you very much everyone. First of all, Lilian, the point is that the group, UASG, has undergone a change. The leadership of the group is changing now completely. Don Hollander was the chair from the last four years but now he's no longer in that position and so Sarmad Hussain is the entering chair but he's an ICANN Staff so that's not the ideal situation. We're trying to find a new chair, whether a man or a woman, and the point is that the leadership is changing. This is why I bring up this is not the ideal situation, that this is something that will change shortly. But I will talk with Sarmad because this is a difficulty and that were complaints have been heard by many people, not only you.

But you may talk to me or any person involved the group so as to join the group and to speed up the process. With respect to Sylvia's question, I think that if you are really interested, you should go to the UA Discuss List, this is the main list, the most important one and there you will find the most important topics. They're included in there and for all members of this group, I think you should part of that list because this is the most important list.

Then, you have to think about the approach of this group within the subgroups that I mentioned before. Because, it will be very interesting. I mean, for instance, let's focus ourselves on communication, or metrics. And that's really good, if we focus on that. So, we'll still be more directly involved in this group and to get better results.

If I were the leader of the group, first of all I would try to understand the skills that each member and to find out if there is any pattern or any

consistency in the approach. This is very important because there are lots of things to do regarding UA , so if you want to do everything, only a little will be achieved. But one of the problems of UA is that it looks like a small group or a small topic, but it is not that. It is quite complex, so you need an approach to it.

And now going to Harold's question. The regional test may be simple if you want, but we now have a new standard. My team has been working on that and we are working with a database that is called MongoDB and our intention is to have connected open data so as to compare directly the data from Brazil and Venezuela, for instance in Dashboard, in the future. It's like we are doing something for the future so that all data would be used properly and private.

But if you want to do something simple, you may go to Alexa, there is the site, ranking site. And in Alexa you may go to the top ten of your country, the top ten sites of your country, and this is the metrics we are using right now. We are using Alexa's metrics. And, the Universal Acceptance leader has an XgenPlus, and I may give you the link because using the XGenPlus you may generate different mailboxes at different scripts, maybe Arabic, or any other script so as to make the test. You need to have form fields so as to capture an email and find out whether or not it is supporting different scripts or not.

And you may do something that is a little more interesting. This is to make a diagnosis of the problem. Is it SMTM5, it's a problem of a validation login, is it a regular expression because it's something common, the quality perhaps is very low, and it only validates the simple email addresses? But you may do, or you may use different

things, the results will be different as well. But this is a question of what is best for your region?

So, you may create a small team, three people, working forty hours something like that or something more complex. But you may do simple tests in this respect. So, there's no standard so to speak. Right now, I'm talking to the UASG to generate a standard, so we are thinking about it together and we are all starting at the same time. Its something quite new for all of us. I hope my answer was clear.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. Thank you, Mark. Since we are going to introduce the first local initiative, you mentioned subgroups Technology and Communication and you said that it would be great for us to be part of the main list, but I guess this subgroup should have another mailing list. Is that right?

MARK DATSGELD:

Mark speaking. Yes, that's right, Sylvia. The main list is all the participants of UA. There is the principle email list that sends the discussion is now more complex. We have started with different subgroups. I think that the most interesting aspect, in my opinion, is the metrics within the main team because this group may work with this initiative, the initiatives of the various countries. I think that there will be included in metrics. In the case of the Communications Group, if you have contact with ISPs or with [inaudible], or you have more experience in international organizations, I think that the Communications Group, is

perfect to you. Because this is a group and there is concern on not with development or metrics, but on how to work with various agencies.

So, as to receive what is requirement, you have the email address or EI as we call it, this is not just for technical people. But I don't know if you do any profiling because this is a group that goes to the protocol that let's say that is the most technical aspect of UA. Many people is interested in that, but they do not know about the group. In the case of technology, I think that developers should be interested in that, or those who work directly on technology because this is a technical discussion but not focused on the protocol. So, perhaps it's a bit more difficult to be a part of this group that if you have development profile you may go there. There's a question, what has been the major challenge so far? I don't know if I can answer that right now.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. Okay, Mark. So, I'm going to ask Harold for help so as to prepare a summary of this subgroup so that the people interested may go to the various list that you mentioned. So, thank you very much it's good that this is just beginning because we are with you at the first local initiative group. So, thank you very much once again and I know that we may get in contact with you if we have any questions.

MARK DATSGELD:

Mark speaking. Thank you very much. You may contact me whenever you like, if through the social media, send an email. I'm available to give some feedback and it will be great to work with you. Thank you very much. Still speaking. Thank you very much. Bye.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia speaking. Okay, thank you. Well, now we're going to Brazil with the second part of our agenda. Can you hear me okay? Silvia Vivanco speaking. Yes, Sylvia, please go ahead.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein Leite speaking. Great, okay. So, now, we're not discussing the PDF right now. We will do it later on. We are now starting Phase Two. This is the second part of our meeting that will have to do with the IDN and Multilingual list and Working Group. And this is a good opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of the indigenous languages. And of course, we will make the most of it to start this Working Group.

I read on an email that it was going to be a good idea to make a survey in the regions about the indigenous languages available in the regions because these languages are unknown to us. We had been working on that and we discovered that there are several mailing lists, and I was really astonished at seeing the amount of languages, indigenous languages, that we have in Latin America. However, since we need to focus on IDNs, we need to find languages and scripts and characters so to speak that could be recognized by a computer. So, this is what we're trying to learn now.

So, that's why I would like to repeat these requests to you. I believe that in order to speed up the activities it would be important that each of you in your countries verified in the alphabets of those languages whether there is any character that may be conflicting as in Unicode. So, we need you to perform that survey. Why? Because based on that, we

will start working. We got materials and Lilian in Marrakech, Lilian Deluque, she was working for our Working Group and she found a very important and interesting list and that is the PDF I was uploading that I circulated to Staff to upload it on the screen right now.

And this is list of languages created by an ICANN group, that is a group that is part of ICANN working on the IDN issue and they have already analyzed whether these 50 languages and these are not only languages from our region. I'm sorry but I am listening to some noises, background noises, can you please mute the line? Thank you. So, as I was saying, I would like, can you hear me okay? I mean, I would like to ask the Staff to upload the PDF on the screen. Thank you.

So, this Working Group is a GP Working Group, and this is the report they have created. They analyzed more than 450 alphabets. So, what you should do is this, is to try to find out whether the languages in your region have been already analyzed. So, if that is the case, that would be great because the work has been already done. And if that is not the case, if the languages have not been analyzed, we will have to start doing that. I mean, we would need to find out whether there is characters that are not being recognized or analyzed here and that are not working in the internet.

There you have the link. I'm going to circulate that information to you, and we need to focus on languages showing or presenting problems and which are not working on a TLD level, or at the ccTLD level. And at the same time, we need to find out as Alejandro Pisanty said before, we need to see whether those languages have a strong presence in the community. And the impact that those languages have on the different

phases, for example, if it is affecting a government, a university or a business interested in understanding or having characters in those languages and who are interested in turning those languages into a ccTLD.

So, we need to focus on that. We need to concentrate on that so as to be able to find results and so as to be able to create a new IDN. And this will imply including more than one registry where these IDNs will be hosted. Therefore, we need to look for a certain number of users and stakeholders with legal bases and support so that we can be successful in our initiative. As Mark said before, this is going to be a long and hard work ahead. We will need plenty of time and money and we need also many people. We need technical people, experts in WHOIS and experts in IDN creation.

So, where we are not contacting people, we are not contacting the members of this Working Group, who has entrusted this list. At the end of the list, they have already ruled out some of the characters that have been already analyzed and which were not included. I don't know why they discarded those characters but there are some characters that are not going to be considered. So, we are in touch with the Working Group members, with the members of these Latin Script Generation Panel and for our next meeting, we are going to invite them.

We will need to see how this meeting is going to be held, but the idea is for them to explain to us how the idea and creation process works. So, that is our idea to move forward. This is a large Working Group and we understand that these topics required quite a lot of time and effort so based on that, and I have been discussing this with Harold, I thought

about creating two subgroups; the Universal Acceptance Subgroup, or Sub-Working Group, and the IDN Multilingualism Sub-Working Group. Because we pay attention to the different characteristics of the members and we do understand that there might be some members who might be interested in one particular topic. But of course, we might all participate in both subgroups. We have little time. I don't know what you think about this, about creating this two subgroups. But I believe that this is a good opportunity.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Sylvia, I would like to take the floor.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia Herlein Leite speaking. Okay, but we can also get organized by email. So, this would be my summary for you all. And now I would like to give the floor to Sergio. Please, Sergio, go ahead.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Thank you, Sylvia, for giving me the floor. This is Sergio Salinas Porto for the record. I would like to congratulate you on this meeting and on the importance of this meeting and I would like to highlight something that I said last night in the Board Meeting and this is that we need to make the necessary efforts to participate in the different Working Groups, in the LACRALO Working Groups, but at the same time, we need to make the best effort to participate in ALAC Working Groups or in Cross-Community Working Groups.

I understood that the GDPR, WHOIS, and IDN Working Groups, we're working together on Universal Acceptance. If that is the case, then I'm taking into account what you mentioned, these will work on the IDN issues but at the same time we need to take into account the GDPR and the WHOIS Working Group because they're going to work in the Universal Acceptance Working Group but they will also have to work on other topics that will be related to the topic assigned to them. And finally, I have a question, and this is something you mentioned before, perhaps I was not paying attention to you, but there is something that Alejandro Pisanty said. He talked about finding funds for doing some research on these topics, is that right?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. Thank you, Sergio. Well, regarding your comment on the GDPR and WHOIS Working Group, we have Carlos Leal participating there. I'm going to talk to him and of course we can work together. Now, when it comes to Alejandro Pisanty's comment, he was alerting on this situation and this is that what I said before. And this is that we need to find other languages that are not in Unicode or ascii in order to start an IDN process. So, Alejandro emphasized the idea that this is a very expensive and long process and that we need to find the characters and a community supporting the language. And we need to find a community with a strong interest in initiating an IDN process.

So, that's why we have to participate in the Working Group and he's also requesting people to find a technical expertise but at the same time that we need to take into account the amount of speakers for that particular language and not only in the communities but also all around

the world. And, it is also important to know if there is political and economic support and interest to start a new IDN process.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Okay, based on that let me suggest two things. First, more than finding funds we need to find characters. I mean, of course, this is the task of government. This goes beyond the university and the private company. This is the government. I'm talking about the state, not only about the government. The state wants its own language to have impact all around the world.

For example, in Argentina within the .ar, we can use the ene character. So, this means that this ene character will be translated into special characters translating the ene character in something else. For example, by using signs. But whenever there is an ene character, if for example you want to write a program in [inaudible], so the ene, it is possible to register in our country. However, it is not possible to have the ene character recognized by everyone in the world so that's why the ene character is modified to be translated in the S key script.

So, there are some countries such as Argentina which are interested in having the ene character available. There might be some other countries, for example, French or Portuguese speaking countries, that might be interested in some other special characters. Yesterday when we wrote our first text in Guaraní language, I saw that there was an a with a special character or sign over the A. I don't know even how this A is being pronounced. However, that particular character, above the A character needs to be recognized by the internet. So, for example,

Paraguay might be interested in having special Guaraní characters available and recognized. In the Spanish alphabet.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia speaking. Sorry for interrupting you, Sergio, but that's why we're asking the Working Group members to do.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Yes, of course, but we need to focus on the state and governments and not be focused so much on companies.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia speaking. Yes, of course, we can also discuss that with our GAC people. Now, I would like to give the floor to the next speaker, Sergio.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Sergio speaking. Yeah, let me say something else. There is a list at ICANN so let's take this as a valid list for us to start working and to start interacting with governments.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Sylvia speaking. Thank you and this is what I said before because this is the list being compiled by ICANN people so that would be convenient for us.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Silvia speaking. Welcome, Lito. Do you want to say something to us?

RAFAEL LITO IBARRA:

Lito speaking. Thank you everybody. I would like to comment that within ICANN, as part of the IDN and Universal Acceptance Working Groups, so from this perspective I would like to be close to this Working Group so if there is any possibility of any relationship I will be there in the global Universal Acceptance, we are trying to understand the rules that are accepted as well as the various Working Groups and the various scripts, what are the characters used in each language.

But I think that it would be great to have this group in our region so that we have people in this region willing to work even though we do not have as much as characters, we have learned that there are lots of special characters or we may call this weird characters, even though they are not weird but of course they are part of IDNs and I like also to be related or to have contact with some other groups in the region as was the case with Mark so I would like to join this dynamic because I think there is a good synergy here to as to move on with a common work. Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Sylvia speaking. Thank you, Lito. Harold told me that in the readout you have made that proposal so I'm really very, very happy over having this link with your group or the group that you're at. I don't know if there is anything else because certainly the meeting, or the time was quite short. I think that we should need another call of ninety minutes so thank you very much for the Staff, thank you very much for the

interpreters, and I don't know if somebody's willing to say something more.

You know that we will meet every two months with a call like this one but on day-to-day basis, we will keep in touch with one another using our emails. I see no hands up so, thank you very much and I'm sure that we will do very good work among all of us. Thank you very much. Good evening, good afternoon, everybody. Bye everyone.

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