
MODERATOR: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all. Welcome to the LACRALO Governance Working Group call on this Thursday, 19 September, 2019 at 23:00 UTC. On the Spanish channel today we've got Sergio Salinas Porto, Harold Arcos, Cristian Casas, Vanda Scartezini, and Lilian Ivette De Luque. We have apologies from Dev Anand Teelucksingh and also from Jacqueline Morris.

From staff we've got Silvia Vivanco and Claudia Ruiz managing the call today. Our interpreters today are Claudia and David. And before starting, I'd like to remind you that you say your name before taking the call, not only for transcription, but also for the interpreters so they identify you on the correct language channel. And now I'm giving the floor to Sergio.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all. It is a pleasure to be on this LACRALO Governance working group meeting. Today we will have the special presence of David Plumb. We've been working together with him and Vanda very actively in the past few days. We've been preparing the work within the working group, so we can finish the rules of procedure that we have to complete in this process. There is a new proposal that David will explain. He will also explain the methodology that we're going to use to complete the rules of procedure. This work, as you know, needs to be completed or order for the early days of November, so we're going to have very hard work ahead. So, it is necessary to do this as fast as possible.

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So, now I'm going to give the floor to David so he can start and we will have 10 working hours with him, which means we will be able to streamline his time and this time that we're going to streamline with David's services will imply that we will also streamline our own work. It needs to be clear that we will also need to devote time so that our original leaders can reach their new positions with everything already in place. Having said this then, I am now going to give the floor to David, he's the one who's going to manage this meeting. David, you have the floor.

DAVID PLUMB:

Thank you, Sergio, and thank you all. It's a pleasure to be, again, in LACRALO providing support. I really did miss you. And so, today we're going to talk about how to do this work and how to do this in an efficient manner and not to fall by the wayside. I think the good news in all this is the operating principles that were agreed and the ones that we reached consensus on have some rules, they are very detailed. The good news is also that you already have an old version of those rules. You also reached some agreement at the mediation processes in the Puerto Rico meeting and also at the Los Angeles meeting. And we believe all this input will make our job easier as we progress towards writing the rules of the procedure.

Sergio, Vanda, and I had a few discussions in the past few days on how to get organized to do this work and these are the two documents that Sergio circulated to the mailing list a few hours ago. So, I recommend that you open the documents and I also would like to ask -- I don't

know, Claudia, who is in charge of managing the documents, alright, I see documents over there.

So, there are two documents, one of them is in Spanish, the other one is English, same document. And this document attempts to provide a new proposal on how to divide the work. So, this document simply takes the issues and the articles in the operating principles and this is what Sergio and I did. We thought about which are the questions that we need to answer to have this rule of procedure. What is missing in the rules of procedure document to be able to have clear rules on how to operate in LACRALO.

So, there are three groups, and in each group, we proposed the names of people who are the right people to have to be able to progress towards our first proposal of rules associated to these operating principles. So, there are three groups, we can have a look at them quickly now, and then I'll talk about two things. First, discuss the plan to say whether the operating plans make sense using also the input that we have for the first proposal for the rules of procedure. Then, we will devote some time to clarify some issues. We really don't have a lot of time today, but if somebody wants to add something, then this can be a good time.

And then, we need to finalize the commitments on how to progress and what are the commitments between us in the call. It seems that we have no representation from the Caribbean today on this call, but I did speak to Jacqueline today for about an hour and I can offer all of her perspective to you in this meeting. So, I can bring her voice and I can say the Caribbean is committed to this process. So, I am quickly going

to talk about what we're going to see in this document and also how to divide our work.

The first block of issues, the strongest issue there, is how to use this new facility of having individual users in the given numbers in LACRALO. And this requires a certain tool, perhaps, or a certain way to do this. We've already discussed this in Puerto Rico, there are other RALOs that have these already, but this is the new one. This is the new element that is not included in the current rules. There are other issues in this block, but individual users is definitely the most significant topic. We've also proposed the names of people who would be interested in participating.

Now, this is just a proposal. And today at this call, we need to see where is your interest and what are the capacities and the skills on the issues. And there's also a language issue. If we scroll down to documents, we can see that on the second group, all the issues there are typically related to the functioning of the assemblies and the elections. So, these are questions that we would need to have in the rules of procedure and you do have rules of procedure over there. So, the first step is to review what we already have, and we do know there are different kinds of input between English and Spanish, so we can now use this opportunity to make this clearer and have the same rules in both languages. So, this is another block of issues related to how assemblies and elections will work.

And we're not starting from scratch, we are using what already exists, what's already there, but this is an opportunity to fine-tune this and to make clarifications if there are confusions, especially language

confusions. And we proposed a few names, these are the names of people that we believe they would like to contribute. If we scroll down a little bit more, group three or block three, it is more associated, accessible to what we have in Article 7.1 on what is a conflict of interest. Both are in ALS as well as for individual who wants to apply for a leadership position in the region.

And then, there is the issue of rotation. Maybe not for this, but for the last election, we need to see if the way to implement this is the same way in which we are going to consolidate this in the rules or if we're going to make some changes. And then, there are questions related to that. The last item, Article 30 of the operating principles, is associated to conflict resolution within LACRALO and the rules don't really say much about that. If we scroll a bit more, a bit further down, there are some ideas that just emerged in the mediation meeting in Puerto Rico and these ideas are very detailed.

So, these are the topics and you will see that many of the Articles in the principles, most probably require nothing else to be rules because they are sufficiently detailed. So, say there are many Articles that have a sufficient level to be operative and functional, others do require to answer questions such as this. I'm not going to say much more, but I will add that there are some key issues on how to address this. One of them is to ensure that the Article does require some kind of elaboration in terms of rules, or if there is enough, so nothing else is required. Second, what is it that we already have in the old and current rules that is effective, that is good, so we don't start from scratch unnecessarily?

And finally, going to the agreement that we reached in the mediation meetings when we reached our conclusions on certain issues, and this can guide us in our work as well. The last thing I want to mention is we are pressed with time, Humberto has written this on the chat room, we need to have this ready for November first; September is ending, and so we still have a month to complete it. This implies that within the next few days we will be populating these worksheets with the first drafts and reflections on the appropriate rules.

This will also imply to start discussing in smaller groups so that we can have something on paper and then share it by email and work on it by email as well. So, this is an important challenge, but if today we can concern your interest in participating, and also to commit so that in the next few days we can start this process of discussing, reviewing the current rules, reviewing the mediation agreement, and to put something on paper, then we will be starting in October with a draft to circulate among all of us.

Sergio, I just want to give you the floor to confirm this process of closing and what I understand is this group proposed and then we will start consolidating, ensuring that there are no contradictions between the definitions and then we can maybe reach or have a draft that we can all together, as the governance working group, can work on it and at the end of the day we will say, "This package of rules is good for us." Sergio, is this what you understand as our way to continue working and sort of close the rules?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yes, then the process will then be that we split into groups, we'll work in the small groups, then we'll do a first review so that we can check that there are no contradictions with what the group might have said with respect to what other groups might have said and prepare a single draft which consensus on unanimous proposal of the working rules.

The idea is that all sub-regional working groups will have an agreement from that and then we will submit it to LACRALO so that LACRALO may have the opportunity to read it, discuss it, and approve it. Is anyone on the call willing to say something that may change the way of moving ahead? So, please, speak out now so as to define which is the procedure to be followed.

DAVID PLUMB: Thank you very much, Sergio. I think that we start with this question, the question that Sergio is making about the procedure and then we will discuss the rest of the things. But, for the time being, why don't we generate some kind of conversation among us so as to define the procedure we are talking about is reasonable and we may see that this may work in the very short time we have to complete the work. Is there any comment? Can you raise your hand here? I don't know how you do it in Zoom.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Yeah, when you click this button, David, if you click there you can see there are two hands up. It is Vanda first, and then Humberto, and then Harold.

DAVID PLUMB: Thank you, Vanda. Humberto, you have the floor. Yes, Humberto, go ahead.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: First of all, I apologize because I am in the middle of a dinner, but I wanted to be present because I knew it was really important. I would like to tell you that we don't have much alternative or choice not to modify what has been suggested by Sergio and Vanda. I think that this is almost a final draft, because I think that the final draft would have to be ready by October 11, including all the rules of the procedure.

So, I may contribute to whatever group you have thought about for me, I will contribute my best, but we have to, as Vanda said, in group number one, lots of things that have been discussed [inaudible], I would like [inaudible] supporting the idea of a [inaudible]. And in the other two groups, what you deem applicable, if you decide I should work on one or another, I will work as comfortable as possible with all my commitment. I would like to welcome David Plumb, because he will be with us in this final process, so thank you very much.

DAVID PLUMB: Thank you very much, Humberto. Harold?

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you very much David. In the same line of thought, I would like to say that some key points for this first step that we are outlining here, I would like to share that with you in the chat bot. The first one is to validate, of course, the people here in the group, to validate that, as a

matter of fact, we want to be there so that each small working group may know who their members will be to start with the meetings as fast as possible so that by next Thursday, September 26th, we have all the contributions and so that we may upload all those contributions in the drive, this shared space where all working groups can see what the other small working groups are doing, because I think it will certainly facilitate the possibility reaching ideas or making observations.

So, there may be some comments, there may be some proposals so as to enrich and to enhance our proposal. The idea is that all of us may see those comments and contributions, and I agree with Humberto, in the first of October, it would be the first two weeks of October, will certainly be crucial to reach a final version so that then the region may have an opportunity window so as to, we as the governance working group may respond or clarify some questions.

We may put this as an action item, or, I don't know, we will have to check with the rest of the group. We would have to send an email immediately after this has been approved so that every person included in this list of the governors group may say yes or no, because I don't know, they have a busy agenda in those two weeks, the idea is to know beforehand so that the small working groups will know which members will be able to work in those two weeks or not. Thank you very much.

DAVID PLUMB:

Thank you, Harold. I think it's excellent. I cannot see any other hands up, so I think we should do what Harold was suggesting. Those of you who I see here on the call should read the documents, spot your name,

and say something in that respect. Is it possible from today to September 26th to have a meeting on the phone with this group, so as to write something on paper? I think it would be great if you are here, take a look and perhaps say, "No, I don't want to participate in this group." or, for example, Jacqueline told me, "I want to, but I have no hours left for work from today until October first."

So, she's willing to participate, she may review some documents, but no time until October first. So, she will not make any contribution from here to September 26th, but when talking about review and consolidation, she will be able to participate. If there are any other things you want to comment about so [inaudible] tonight or early tomorrow and coordinate with the small groups so it's a start, with the meetings I'm talking. Any comments, any feedback? Vanda?

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

I would like to comment on what Silvia is saying, that we will have separate documents. So, we have a Google Doc ready and we're going to have frequent calls, I mean, all Thursdays at 23:00 UTC. So, we have questions that I think we need to agree upon today, so we can continue this moving. Some people may work on the weekend on some of these topics.

DAVID PLUMB:

Yes, absolutely agree with you Vanda. Sergio, you have the floor.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I would like to say two things. First of all, I agree with the dates, they're the deadlines mentioned by Humberto and we have to work towards that end, but on the other hand -- I have a question I received from Cristian who's here on the call and by Anahi Menendez. They propose to work on this, and Jose Arce is about to join the call, that it's another person that is not here and perhaps, so he will not be able to say whether he would join the team or not.

So, why don't we have a window open until tomorrow, so that more people may join the work, or shall we stay with this small group that we defined at the very beginning? I have not made up my mind yet, so this is why I'm asking this question to you all. Do we have a closed number of people or should we open it up so we have more people participating as members of this group and do the work? Thank you very much.

DAVID PLUMB: Thank you very much, Sergio. My proposal is as follows. Before and in this call, we defined a group of people that will coordinate among themselves, speak among themselves, start writing down ideas. However, some of the people may join that small group. People need to coordinate with Sergio, with me, with Vanda, because it's the three of us that are the like the coordination team, so if someone is interested in a certain topic we may know where the relevant group will meet and we may direct that person over there, but the idea is to have, of course, more group so we will continue with this discussion and not to wait until tomorrow.

However, a person may participate in more than one group, if people have time for that, it will be great. This is not to exclude one person from one group or another, but the idea is to acknowledge and recognize that we need to have a core group, that needed to move forward fast. I would say. Harold, you have the floor.

HAROLD ARCOS:

This is Harold for the record. Thank you, David. Just going back to what we have been discussing on the chat room and what everybody has been saying. I'd like to summarize this. It seems that we all agree that we need to make some decisions now, and so, in the chat room I'm proposing let's hear issues that seem, it seems that it is necessary to raise your hand about these issues and to make the decisions.

So at least here as this initial working group, governance working group. And if we want, we can have every Thursday at 23:00 UTC we can have a meeting as a general working group, a governance working group, to check what the progress is every seven days until -- we can begin from the 26th to the 1st of October, and then, if all the coordinators agree, for group one, group two and group three, then we should have access to Google Drive to start commenting there, and each group should also be able to see the questions the other groups are asking. These will allow us to know in real time if the issue that we are dealing with or addressing contradicts or coincides with somebody else's questions. Just the questions, not the work itself.

And thirdly, we should define what you were saying here, about the new incorporation, on boarding new people. We should vote, I think,

whether we are an initial group here and also all those that are present, and say if we agree to be the initial group through the vote. This is for us to have a record of the decisions made in these meetings, so these are my three proposals.

DAVID PLUMB:

Very good, thank you very much. I am looking at the chat room to see whether there are, there is any other comment. Those of you who are in this call, let me go one by one, because we aren't many, and I'm going to ask each of the LACRALO members to very quickly say in which group and in which block of issues would you like to invest some time for the next few weeks. Especially in the next seven days. So, let's go one by one to see which corrections need to be made to this list and we'll also know which is the number of people available for the work that will start tomorrow.

So, I would like to ask all of you to say this and whether... I am not very available to do this, but let me once again say, let's have a quick round to see if your name is properly written in this document. I can do this following the alphabetical order of your names if you want, or maybe you can do this on the chat room as well. Is there anyone who would like to say anything or to make a correction, or provide some improvement to what we have. I see what Harold is writing on the chat room. Vanda, you have the floor.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Thank you, Vanda for the record. Just to make things easier, I wanted to ask, if there are two people who want to join a group, Cristian is one of

them, I don't know which is the other person who spoke to Sergio, but these are people who are not listed there and it would be very important to know where they're going. Second, why don't we just ask if somebody wants to change because if they agree, there's no need to change. So, you can just use the green tick showing that you agree, and if you disagree, you can use the red cross. And so, we can ask the question directly so that we can know who disagrees and we can judge that progress faster on the survey.

DAVID PLUMB:

Okay, thank you Vanda. I hope this will work. I'm looking at the chat room as well, Lilian agrees, Harold, Vanda, Humberto is in the middle of a meal. Humberto, if you want to say something about which group you want to join, I think you said you're available for any group where you would be needed. What about Cristian? Anyone else? Thank you, Humberto. Cristian, if you still are on this call, it's a good time for you to write on the chat or just raise your voice and say where is it that you would like to be. Vanda, is that a new hand? Okay. It is not. Excellent then.

So, Cristian, we can have a look at that later on. I know it is difficult to get organized to speak. We can do these by email, using WhatsApp, so I think something important would be perhaps sharing the WhatsApp numbers, so we can have WhatsApp groups to work on these issues. I personally just have Sergio and Vanda, and I'd like, if you agree, I think I also have Humberto's number. And so, I'd like to put up these WhatsApp groups so that the coordination of conversations becomes

easier. So, if Sergio doesn't have your number, then this is a good time to share it by email, so our communication can work better.

There's also the governance working group mailing list, Silvia is saying. Maybe I'm the one to blame for this, these mass e-mails are the last ones I read on the day. And maybe WhatsApp is more effective. Vanda is just starting this. So please write your WhatsApp number and you can chat with me then, and with my number I can connect you to other people. My recommendation is tomorrow, in the morning, is there any coordination communication in this group, so that we can schedule the call?

In the meantime, I can upload this document, or a new version of this document to Google Drive, there is a language issue, it's easy now, because we're just speaking Spanish, but it's a challenge when we add English. So, let me see if we will have two documents in progress or if we can just consolidate the English and Spanish versions. So, I have a question for Harold and others, are you already working on Google Docs and Drive, is that something that is not new for you? Or do you need some support to make sure that we're all comfortable to work with Google Docs and Google Sheets? Is there anyone who prefers, or who would like to have some support, some help to work on this?

HAROLD ARCOS:

There's no problem really, we have already worked and used Google Drive, we have already shared Google Drive documents in the previous governance working group, so there's no issue with that, at least not for my part. Actually, on the contrary.

DAVID PLUMB:

Thank you, Harold. I can do this, perhaps, I can have a new version of the document, and I can upload it to Google Drive so you can all work on it and I will open it for comments, and I will allow everybody to edit. I think all the groups can just add their ideas to the drive to the same document, to the Google Sheets. The other thing is imagining how to work in two languages. We will need to be flexible all with that. And perhaps some conversations will happen in Spanish and other conversations will happen in English in small groups, and this call we have on Thursday, we have the interpreters to support us along the way. Okay. Is there anything else?

Jose Arce has joined the call, okay. So, Jose, if you're listening, this is David Plumb speaking. We are trying to be committed to work on the different groups, the different blocks of issues, and we are making sure that this work can start tomorrow, so that in the next four or five days we can have the first conversation in between the group numbers, and from that moment on, we can start to populate a document in Google Drive, then share it and different groups will also populate the same documents. So, Jose, if you have -- Oh, okay, I see, your commitment will be 100%, that's excellent So, Jose, maybe you did see the document, I think the name was on the first group.

And let me say this again, the fact that you commit to one group doesn't mean that you cannot get engaged with other groups. You just need to find a group of people that will push you forward. I think we're reaching the end now. What I'm going to ask is, since we still have twelve more minutes before the top of the hour, do you have any initial thoughts on

the questions asked on these spreadsheets? When you read the operating principles, do you feel that there is a question or do you feel that something's not clear in terms of how to answer that question, to reach our rules of procedure, so if there is a question this is a good time to ask it. And I see Harold is raising his hand.

HAROLD ARCOS:

So, I have two things, the first one, my question is whether we will have calls every Thursday, and second, regarding your question, I would like to propose all the groups working, that our input have a sort of a brief on the rationale of how and why we're proposing this. This usually helps the other groups and the governance working groups and then LACRALO to understand where these proposals are. Usually differences in opinion, even when we consider the last terms of the conflict, have become this not understanding why some people raise their proposals, so it would be good to provide the rationale for everything.

Just to make it more visual, when we deal with individual participations, some people believe they do have a right to vote, others believe they don't. Whoever thinks one way or the other, they need to explain their rationale, so that we, when we read this, we can understand what is this idea based on and contribute to the proposal. So, this is the general proposal for all of us to be able to reach a good end. Experience has shown that aside from showing reasons I see that somebody is writing something, but this is beyond the reasons. When there is a proposal to go a certain way with a certain proposal on the document, then we need to say what are the reasons why this idea is going that way. This is my suggestion, thank you David.

DAVID PLUMB:

Thank you very much, Harold. Regarding what you've mentioned and when I upload the document to Google Drive is to leave a space for that, so that each point you may revise or propose some language, and then the arguments why it has been drafted that way. And I don't know whether there will be calls every week or not on Thursday, I think that we do not have much time, so it's quite sensitive to have all that. In two more Thursdays, I will have another commitment precisely at this time so I won't be available.

I'm not the essential person here but perhaps we might think about some other day, the first week will be okay but from then onwards, or an hour before, maybe an hour before. So, we may prepare a Google to find where people may participate. I think it is great for this group to meet once a week, but we have to put an effort towards the push forward and to work and to not let the days go by. It is very difficult because we are working all these hours and we have to set priorities of course. So, Sergio I see your hand's up.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

I have one thing to add. It was a very tough process, from the last session to this one across many sub regional groups does not communicate or interact so it stopped working. We have to have something clear in our mind, those that are here start working, and those that are not there won't be any participation. We must move forward, because then we say well this subgroup is not here, we cannot move forward and suddenly I don't want that, we have to start and we

cannot wait for anyone. If some people are not willing to move forward it's okay. We cannot force them to come then to work. The point is we cannot be forced to stop because we have been stopped so far because there was no advances, this should not be the situation any longer.

DAVID PLUMB: Okay Sergio. In practice it would be that if we move forward today we discuss in a group has not been able to coordinate among themselves, so we'll put something in paper, some others will propose something so we have to write something down as a matter of fact. Vanda?

VANDA SCARTEZINI: I would like to remind everyone that it would be great to have a time line so that it's clear for all of us which are our responsibilities of duties and when will this end.

DAVID PLUMB: Yeah, great, super. So, from what I saw in the group summaries of Harold in between, we're talking from here to the 26th, that is next week, September 26th. The groups will have to have a draft proposal, initial one for the rules of procedure answering the question, or if the question is not correct, we should improve that question and give an answer to that improved question. So, in one week there will be a first round. So apart from speaking on the phone I would like to put something in writing about the content or the possible language of the rules.

So, this is the deadline, from here to September 26th. And from then to the next week we will try to consolidate and see that there isn't any confusion or conflict, and working groups may fill in the blanks that were left on the 26th and then it will be October 11th, but I don't have any calendar with me, that would be the week after the next.

We will have a possible version of the consolidated document. This would mean that shiftance from the spreadsheet to a document that will be the actual rules of procedure. This is what we'll have to do for the week of... let me think... the week ending on October 11th, I think. From then on we're going to have to speculate and draw some comments from many persons to meet the deadline whether the translation will be ready or not. Silvia, scroll it down, I think it's 25 or 20 something. These are the dates I thought about. Vanda, did you want to say something more?

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

What's [inaudible]?

DAVID PLUMB:

Okay. So, in practical terms, we should have the small groups coordinated, tomorrow morning we will have a mailing list, WhatsApp group, whatever, and please do not overuse the complete email list of the governance working group, because otherwise it will be too much for all of us. So, the small groups should coordinate, define time to, I don't know, join the conversation by Zoom or WhatsApp or whatever. If somebody talks over Zoom, I'm willing to prepare some answers on Zoom that, from here to September 25 to have at least one

conversation and something on the Google Docs or Google Sheets so as to read the language proposed. Anything else? Sergio, Vanda, what else? Am I missing something?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I think that everything is okay.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: No, I think that we are ready. We have discussed all the issues we have thought about, and so, we have to start working.

DAVID PLUMB: Okay, that's great. Sergio, do you want to close the call with the final words?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, David. We have a lot of work and a great work to do, so we have to try and complete all this [inaudible] in this time. So, thank you very much, let's start working, tomorrow would be a great day to start working. So, those of us that are here, please start quickly your work. Thank you all and this is [inaudible]. Goodnight everyone.

SILVIA VIVANCO Thank you very much.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Bye everyone, thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Have a very good night everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]