
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the At-Large ICANN68 highlights webinar on Thursday the 4th of June 2020 at 15:00 UTC.

On the call today on the English channel we have Maureen Hilyard, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Remmy Nweke, Holly Raiche, Satish Babu, Vernatius Ezeama, Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede, Priyatosh Jana, Abdalmonem Galila, Alfredo Calderon, Barrack Otieno, Bastiaan Goslings, Glenn McKnight, Hamdan Hamoda, Holly Raiche, Joanna Kulesza, Javier Rúa-Jovet, Jonathan Zuck, Lito Ibarra, Marita Moll, [Megan Couture], Nadira Al Alraj, Priyatosh Jana, Sarah Kiden, Satish Babu, Vanda Scartezini, Alberto Soto, Sébastien Bachollet.

And on the Spanish channel, we have Lilian Ivette De Luque, Maritza Aguero, and Sergio Salinas-Porto. On the French channel, we have Minata Zong-Naba and Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong. From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Gisella Gruber, Yeşim Nazlar, and myself, Claudia Ruiz, on call management.

Our Spanish interpreters for today are Paula and David, and our French interpreters are Isabelle and Aurélie. From staff, we also have Silvia Vivanco. Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone to please state their names before speaking for the transcription purposes and also so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels.

A friendly reminder that we also have real-time transcribing on this call, which I have just put in the chat, and you can follow along. Thank you very much. With this, I turn the call over to you, Maureen.

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

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you very much, Claudia, and good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to you all, wherever you may be listening in to this session. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Maureen Hilyard from the Cook Islands, and I'm a member of the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization.

Although ICANN is known for its long list of acronyms, I'm sure you understand why we just call it APRALO. I'm also the chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee, which is, of course, the ALAC.

I'd like to warmly welcome you all to the At-Large ICANN68 highlights webinar. I'm very pleased to have your company at this session, and we've got some interesting bits of information to pass onto you, and to hopefully encourage you to come along and join us at ICANN68, which will take place in two weeks' time from Monday 22nd to Thursday the 21st of June.

It's great to see people on the English and French channels, as well as the English channel. Thank you to the interpreters for making themselves available for us today. I don't do it often enough, but they do a very valuable job for us in At-Large and I just wanted to mention that today.

Can I have my slide up, please? With me today, I have five members of our At-Large leadership team, who are the moderators of the five policy plenaries that At-Large is putting together as our contribution to the ICANN68 program.

First off, we have on Monday Joanna Kulesza, our ALAC Vice-Chair of Outreach and Capacity-Building, who will introduce DNS abuse and COVID-19 and its impact on end-users. Also on Monday, we will have ALAC member Holly Raiche from APRALO to explain Public Interest Commitments, and the dispute resolution process and getting it right.

On Tuesday, former ALAC chair Olivier Crépin-Leblond will introduce what new gTLD applicants might expect in the next round. It's an interesting title. It's "Expanding the Circle." We'll hear more about that later.

On Wednesday, we will have another session on DNS abuse because DNS abuse is a priority focus area for At-Large this year. And Jonathan Zuck, vice-chair of policy, will be looking at setting an acceptable threshold for DNS abuse.

And then, last but not least, on Thursday morning we will have a session with the APRALO chair, Satish Babu, and his vice-chair, Lianna Galstyan, who will look at getting At-Large activated on Universal Acceptance.

So, it's a pretty exciting schedule. I'm very proud of what we're presenting at this meeting. But I'm sure that, after today's session, you are going to find that what I have to tell you will certainly encourage you to come along to the sessions that will be held from the 22nd to the 21st of June. I'll get one of the staff to put a link to the schedule for the At-Large at ICANN68 Policy Forum into the chat so that you can see exactly what time these sessions will be.

But moving onto number two on the agenda, as the chair, I get to start off the week early on Monday morning in Kuala Lumpur time for my own

little welcome session. This is becoming a tradition where I will introduce the highlights of the week, not only what At-Large is presenting.

But what you will hear about today, which is what you'll hear about today ... But also, what else is happening during the ICANN week that At-Large may also want to participate in?

Also, during this first hour of our At-Large program, I'll then pass the baton over to Joanna and Jonathan, who will explain the relevance of the session topics that we are presenting at ICANN68 to our At-Large Policy Platform, as well as explaining talking points about policy issues that we and ICANN will be raising during ICANN68.

These talking points are actually important to At-Large because they bullet point key ideas that convey why the issues we have chosen for our presentations at this meeting are important to Internet end-users.

And we usually introduce talking points at the beginning of our conference week in a face-to-face meeting, as well, more importantly, probably, because, in the corridors, we tell our members, if they meet anybody, to raise some of those talking points because they are issues that are important to us, and to use them to start conversations with anyone they may meet during the course of the conference itself.

But also, at the end of the week, I also have another session, which is basically the wrap-up session. This is where we will first of all do a bit of a debrief on the happenings of the week. And then, Jonathan will conduct an overview and discussion about our policy sessions and how they went.

But also, at this very last session of the week for us, on Thursday, we'll be inviting the board chair, Maarten Botterman, and his vice-chair, our own León Sánchez, and the CEO, Göran Marby, for any board news. We may have one or two short questions to pose to them that we haven't decided on, yet.

Although, I would hope that they might at least give us a heads up as a lead-in to what is our final topic of the session, which will be preparing for ICANN69, supposedly in Hamburg in Germany. The question is, will it be virtual?

Again, we're getting pretty good at virtual meetings, anyway, so for us, it's no big deal. But it is something that's sort of on the top of everyone's wish list, to be able to get back to a meeting. But of course, if we can't do it, we can't do it, and we're back to a virtual meeting.

But those two sessions are, actually, my contribution to our ICANN68 program for the week. But for this session, however, I can now move onto the really interesting part of our program, which is a brief five-minute-or-so overview from each of my speakers, and this will be followed by a Q&A session.

So, if you have a question as they're speaking, you can actually put your hand up later or you can put the question in the chat and staff will pick it up for the later part of our program. So, what I'd like to do now is to pass the microphone over to Joanna to start the speaking session. Thank you, Joanna.

JOANNA KULESZA:

Thank you very much, Maureen. The session I have the pleasure of moderating, and I suggested for us to hold during ICANN68, has somewhat an enigmatic title of “DNS Abuse and COVID-19.”

Since this is a capacity-building session, we would like for it to have a relatively broad scope to make sure that the participants get a good understanding of where to draw the line for ICANN’s mission in these challenging times.

The overall narrative we would like to have for this session is for us to look at COVID-19 with the world moving largely online using, online communications, using apps that might help the government to make sure where those who might have been exposed to the virus actually are located.

We want to look at DNS abuse in the context of fake medication that’s being advertised online. We want to look at the increasing scale of DNS abuse when it comes to online fraud, with the keyword “COVID” used in various combinations.

So, we would like for this Monday session, one of the opening sessions that is focused on capacity-building, to look at DNS abuse end-user interests and COVID-19 in somewhat of a broader scope.

We will start off with our own Yrjö Lansipuro looking at governmental advancements in fighting DNS abuse and tracing COVID-19, trying to minimize the scale of infections. We will look at issues of privacy, of tracing. We will look at individual interests as they have been exposed to online fraud.

Then, we would like to welcome participation from the GAC with the government perspective on those issues. We're seeking to answer the question on whether there is a role for the ICANN community to identify and better represent/protect the end-users.

We might also be joined by ICANN Org's own cybersecurity specialists, giving us an insight into the technical side of things. We're still working on setting the details of our agenda.

And the final takeaway, again from our own Marita Moll, would focus on multistakeholder decision-making. So, we would like to see whether the DNS abuse issue during COVID-19 has impacted the way that decisions relating to the DNS, relating to the Internet, are being made; whether this threat impacted multistakeholder decision-making, whether this process we participate in is under any kind of a threat.

Is this the time where the governments will actually decide it's time for multistakeholderism to be replaced by multilateralism, or whether this was actually a moment where the global community realized that multistakeholderism is, indeed, the way to go?

So, we would like for this initial session to have a very broad scope. Our purpose is to identify those issues that lie within ICANN's mission, focused on DNS abuse – as already said, be it tracing apps or, more likely, be it advertising for fake medication online.

We would like to hear back from governments but we would also welcome input from the technical community with the purpose of identifying an end-user perspective. I'm going to stop here. You can find a specific agenda, the detailed agenda, of that session already online. I'm

happy to answer questions. Thank you, Maureen, for giving me the floor.
Thanks.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Joanna. Okay. Next is Holly Raiche talking about the Public Interest Commitment. Thanks. Holly. Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE: Oh, wait a minute. Unmute. Am I unmuted?

MAUREEN HILYARD: You're unmuted now, yes.

HOLLY RAICHE: Okay, thank you. Yes. Thank you, Maureen. Public Interest Commitments, or PICs, for those who didn't live through the first round of the new gTLDs, were something that was added to the original, new gTLD Process Commitments that the applicant registries would make.

There were about four different types of them. There were the original ones, ones that were brought in because of some suggestions from the GAC. Then, there are voluntary PICs. We had a special interest CPWG. The policy group has a special meeting on PICs to look at them.

There was one slide that the presenter showed, and this would be the basis of the presentation. Because on that slide, which is a fairly confused-looking slide, on the one hand, you have the different types of PICs, and on the right-hand side, you have the different ways in which

they are enforced or not. So, the actual structures in place now are very confusing.

But the reason for looking at PICs from the end-user perspective, after the new gTLD round, there was a report, which I recommend to everyone, on Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice.

And in that report was the statement that, from the end-user perspective, there's an expectation that there is some relationship between the actual name of the registry and what you get when you put on a link from the mutual website with that new gTLD. The idea is, how do you make PICs work so there is some kind of meeting of the expectation of end-users?

And if you look at the structure of the slide, as I say, you'll see how confused it is. So, what I'll be doing is having a panel that will include an ICANN Compliance person to explain ICANN's compliance role. I've asked a member of the PICs dispute resolution process.

They have a standing panel – a member of that to explain their role. Hopefully, someone from the Federal Trade Commission or Competition body to explain ... If you look from the FTC of the Competition ... Sorry, the consumer protection perspective, what can be done, if anything, or should be done, about the fact that there would be a domain name that may or may not relate to these registrars that are using that name?

And finally, an applicant who has been through the whole process can actually talk about the process of PICs, the process of dispute resolution of PICs, and, in the end, how to make it work.

Because in the end, the purpose of this session is to better understand the actual nature of the PICs themselves, the structure in which they operate, and how they can be made more effective so they meet the expectations of end-users. I hope that's not too confusing and I hope that we'll see you at the Public Interest Commitments session. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Holly. If anyone is confused, please come along and unconfused yourself by listening in to Holly's session on the Monday.

HOLLY RAICHE: Oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. One question from Tim, "I don't see the slide." Tim, I haven't put the slide up. It would probably take the whole of this session just to explain that slide, and that's one of the reasons I'll be using it at the session, so do come along the session and see that slide. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Exactly. Okay. Next up, we have Olivier Crépin-Leblond. Is Olivier with us?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: He definitely is.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Oh, thank goodness. I thought we might have missed you. Okay, therefore, you have the floor, Olivier.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Maureen. Of course, this session, here, we're selling our sessions that we will be chairing during the forthcoming ICANN meeting. Hey, great. I'm getting echoes. "The New gTLD Applicants" is not quite a sexy enough title for this. In fact, what we have called this session is "Expanding the Circle." And yes, it is about new gTLD applicants, and it's about looking at the last round of new Generic Top-Level Domain applications and finding out what went wrong.

Because back in 2012, the profile of the typical registry, after the dust had cleared, was a wealthy portfolio company from the developed world managing a series of generic gTLDs and brands, not quite the sort of people that we were hoping, an organization that we were hoping as a community to find running new Generic Top-Level Domains, such as community applicants, etc.

So, the last-ditch efforts that happened just before the last round was launched was pushing for applicant support for the community priority evaluation, but most of these, if not all of these efforts, looking back now, appear to have been failures, somehow.

And so, we ended up with these very wealthy companies that ended up taking a significant part of the top-level domain space and the names, and so on, that they went for. And what we noticed was that the pricing structure itself appeared to create a systemic bias toward generic domains, rather than niche domains.

And so, that's how we ended up with the Applicant Support and Community Priority Evaluation program failing and pushing for these generic domains, rather than helping out specific domains.

Now, the At-Large community as a whole would like to see the circle of registries to widen. So far, if you look at the impact of the program that happened last time, you're not going to find a lot of small, independent registries.

A software developer can use Amazon Web Services or Microsoft Azure to create an enterprise-grade solution that scales with time and scales for purpose. You can start small, and then grow it. Same thing, also, for web companies, like Wix, for example, that provide you with the ability to start really small, very cheap, and then grow, and so on.

And the registrant should be able to do the same thing with a registry service provider. Unfortunately, that's not happening. In this session, what we want to find out is to get to the root causes of the 2012 failure, overall, basically, and brainstorm some recommendations, if we can, for improvement if there is a future round of applications.

Now, for this, we have a number of experts that will join us. On the panel, we'll have Justine Chew, who is the At-Large liaison to the Subsequent Procedures Working Group. She is going to be able to talk about the end-user perspective on these issues. She has been working on it with a small team for quite some time, now.

The whole thing is based around the Applicant Guidebook, the 338 pages, including addendums, that define the application process for new gTLDs. That's what's being reviewed in the Subsequent Procedures Working

Group, and, hopefully, the quirks, the problems that were there in 2012, are somehow fixed for this potential future round. But then, we're going to investigate that.

We'll also have Christa Taylor, who shepherded the Application Support program on the Subsequent Procedures Working Group. We'll also have a gentleman by the name of Constantine Roussos, who was an applicant for .music, a small organization trying to ... Not even a company. It's a small organization trying to put together a music community. He'll be able to talk to us about the challenges faced by community applicants.

And we'll have a couple more applicants that will be able to share their views on the pricing structures and on ways to improve the program. And of course, hopefully, we'll have you, as well, to be able to share your thoughts on this, and we'll be able to brainstorm something that, hopefully, will come out in an At-Large recommendation when we end up in that round of public commenting which we know is coming up. So, I hope that you'll be there. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you very much, Olivier. It sounds quite exciting. But anything that Olivier takes always sounds exciting. Our next speaker is Jonathan Zuck, the vice-chair policy. Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Hi, everyone. I am the vice-chair for policy for the At-Large Advisory Committee. As many of you know, the At-Large has taken up the issue of

DNS abuse as one of its focus issues because it's one of the aspects of the DNS that really has the most direct impact on end-users.

And as Joanna will cover in her opening session, these impacts can be quite serious in terms of loss of identity, and locked up computers, and all kinds of problems associated with DNS abuse.

And so, part of what we've been trying to do ... I almost feel like we should create a brand for it and call it the "DNS abuse Conversations," or something like that. We're trying to bring people to the table that need to work together to solve, or at least address and begin to lessen, some of these problems associated with DNS abuse.

One of the areas of concern is that, currently, ICANN Contract Compliance doesn't have a very effective way to deal with systemic abuse in a particular domain, whether the cause of that is the policies of the registrar or registry.

The Contract Compliance is, almost by definition, reactive to individual complaints that come in, and addressing those individual complaints. And so, a high volume of complaints versus the number of actual registrations should suggest that there's a systemic problem, but there's not a way for Contract Compliance to address this.

So, we've been having these fireside chats, as Joanna put it in our chat, here, to try and brainstorm together. I mean, one of the challenges is that the biggest offenders aren't even showing up to ICANN meetings.

And so, it's like we're talking amongst ourselves, among all the well-intended, and the more that we attempt to regulate the registrars, for

example—these are the folks that sell domain names—the more we’re just creating cost and complexity for the good actors and still not really touching the bad ones.

So, one way to address this is, rather than make specific policy recommendations or requirements for registrars and registries, instead, simply create some threshold numbers to which they need to keep. In other words, it’s fairly easy to measure the percentage of registrations in a domain that are being used for DNS abuse.

And so, you could suggest that, if the number of abusive registrations is too high a percentage, then that contracted party is, by definition, in violation of their contract, and therefore could be disciplined by Contract Compliance.

I mean, we had a situation with the new round where .science, for example, when it first came out, was over 50% abusive registrations. And so, if we set a number that was high enough not to catch dolphins in the tuna net, as we sometimes say—in other words, high enough that the good actors are well below it, but low enough that we catch the bad actors—and simply say that if your abusive registrations are over, say, 25% of your total registrations then you’re in violation of your contract with ICANN. And it’s up to you what measures you want to take to keep that number below 25%.

And so, rather than dictate policies, we’re just dictating an outcome and leaving it up to the contracted parties to form their own techniques and strategies for limiting abusive registrations within their domains.

So, this is just one in a series of fireside chats, or roundtable discussions, but we'll be having it during ICANN68 with someone from the end-user community, somebody from government, somebody from ICANN Contract Compliance, probably Jamie Hedlund, and somebody from a registrar, like Tucows or GoDaddy.

So, that's the talk. Happy to take any questions when we go to questions at the end. Hope to see you all there in the Zoom room. Thanks. Back to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you very much, Jonathan. Tijani, I hope you will wait just one more. We have one more speaker, and then we'll get onto the questions and answers. We have Satish Babu and Universal Acceptance. Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Maureen. I am from the APRALO. Yeşim, can I have my page open, please? Yeah. While it's coming up, this session on Universal Acceptance is, essentially, to bring the At-Large community closer to the Universal Acceptance and IDNs, which are a very related kind of topic – closer to the community.

Now, if you start talking about IDNs, people's eyes glaze over and they kind of switch off. So, we thought it would be good to kind of bring them to this topic through the aspect of the multi-lingual Internet, of which many of the end-users, especially those not speaking English as their first language, are quite passionate about.

So, the theme we have thought of is aligning UA, that is Universal Acceptance, and IDNs, which is Internationalized Domain Names – aligning these with the multi-lingual Internet and end-user perspectives on this.

So, the actual program is in the table. We have speakers from different aspects, both geographies and thematic areas. No, can you please go up? This one is different. Yeah, please scroll up to the previous ... Yeah. Hold it there, please.

So, what you see below is the prep session that Joanna has asked us to do, also on the same topic. But what you're seeing now is the actual workshop on Thursday. We have Hadia, our expert from Egypt, and of course, Africa, speaking to us about the challenges that these communities face in Africa.

Then, we also have Roberto, who is from Europe and has done a lot of work on IDNs, especially in the context of, currently, EuroDIG, which is going to happen shortly. He's going to speak to us about the European experience.

Now, the industry is a big player in IDNs, and Universal Acceptance, also, because we have to do the actual fix. The gaps that the Universal Acceptance process identifies and throws up has to be fixed by the industry. But this, of course, involves ... I mean, it's not just the big companies but it's also open for groups.

So, Dennis is from Verisign, and also from the leadership of the UASG. He'll be speaking to us from the industry perspective, and in what way

can the At-Large support or bridge the full gap between the industry and the rest of the stakeholders?

Then we have Edmon and [inaudible], and perhaps the first to implement IDNs in Asia Pacific. He's from the dotAsia registry. Edmon's going to speak to us about his journey and what he sees as opportunities in front of us.

Then, we have Sarmad Hussain, who is from ICANN Org. Sarmad drives both the IDN and UA programs from the staff side. So, he's going to tell us of the ICANN process and what it can achieve so far, especially in what we call remediation, which is getting fixes to the problems identified.

We then have UA ambassadors who are speaking who work at the Grassroots [Pacific] Initiative. We have one person from China, most likely, and another person, [undefined], from Brazil, Latin America. So, they're going to speak to us about their own journeys.

And finally, we have some discussions. Lianna, who is also ... In fact, it's interesting that both me and our vice-chair, Lianna, are directly involved in the IDN and UA programs. So, Lianna's going to come up and tell us the way forward.

So then, I just need to mention that what you saw below was the prep meeting on this topic, which, through the Capacity Building Working Group, we're going to have sometime in the week starting 15th. So, anyone who is interested, this is the rough program. Now, it still happens that ... Now, item number four, Lianna was a speaker, but she has a conflict with the IGF MAG meeting. So, we'll be [identifying] another speaker for this. So, that's it from me. Over to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you very much, Satish. So, those are the sessions. I'm sure you're all champing at the bit for the ICANN week to start. Just to finish off, before we go onto the questions, I just wanted to remind anyone who's interested in attending the ICANN meeting first-off, it'd be great if you could register for the meeting for ICANN's record.

But also, if you're interested in attending any of the pre-ICANN webinars, which are starting next week and are going to be held during the two weeks before ICANN68, it's important that you register for these first of all, and someone from staff will put the link to where you can go to. Because you have to register for the webinars in order to receive the details for connecting to the webinar itself. Very important. So, Heidi, if you wouldn't mind doing that?

And also, I forgot to mention—Satish reminded me—that, during the pre-ICANN weeks, the first week, we're going to be having a special, live repeat of the introduction to the DNS abuse session, which was taken by Jonathan Zuck during ICANN67. It proved so popular that they've asked for it to be repeated. And so, we're going to have it during the pre-ICANN weeks. And so, that will be starting next week, and more details will be available shortly.

But in the week just before ICANN68, of course, as Satish has mentioned, that's when the session on Universal Acceptance will take place, and note if there is a time for that. And also, just one more thing. When I was thanking the interpreters, of course, for their great job, I neglected to mention that you will notice that, in our meetings, we've had captioning.

I really do have to thank the people who are behind the scenes, really helping us by providing captioning, which is quite important to people who need to, probably, understand English, or to understand what is actually happening during the session. So, I'm very grateful for that. So now, we will move onto the questions. I'd like to thank Tijani for waiting so long. Tijani, you may take the floor.

TIJANI BEN JAMAA:

Thank you very much, Maureen. I would like to speak about the session of Olivier. Olivier spoke about the failure of the Applicant Support Program and the Community Applications during the 2012 round. I think that it will be very interesting to have Edmon Chung on the panel so that he will speak about the tough criteria of the Applicant Support Program that he passed, and he was the only one who passed it – the only one eligible for support. But he was dropped by the CPE, so he will speak, also, about the Community Application and the CPE who he was cut off from. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you for that, Tijani. Olivier, have you got room to slot somebody else in, or was Edmon part of your thing?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND:

Yes. Thank you, Maureen. Absolutely, yes. We're planning to have him. I didn't mention him because we didn't have confirmation. All the people that I listed so far had confirmed their attendance. So, we don't have confirmation from him yet but, hopefully, he can join, yes.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Awesome. That's great. Thank you very much. Sébastien, I note you have your hand up.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Yes. Thank you very much, Maureen. A few points. The first one is a technical one. Thank you for the link, Heidi. But when you are on this page you gave us, if you click to here, it's not working, and from the letter we received, the link is not working either. It's a [surveyclickto.com], and we don't get it. I guess there is a problem with the link in all the communication ICANN is doing, or registering for the prep sessions. Please have a look to that.

Second, I love this presentation. I think we have good ingredients, we have good chefs. They give us the flavor on what meals they will offer to us during this ICANN meeting. I would like to comment Universal Acceptance, that they are a real, global speaker list. As a less positive point, I would like very much that Jonathan think about not just North American people, almost not just North American people in the team for DNS abuse.

I think we really need to show, also, that we are global, and we can find people from all around the world in the different topics we are talking about. Thank you very much. Really, I wish all of us a very good ICANN virtual Kuala Lumpur meeting, and I hope that the next one will be physically in Europe. But if not, let's do it in virtual, too. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you very much, Sébastien. Yes, it will be very nice if we could have it in Europe. I do realize that the Kuala Lumpur time is going to be quite challenging for some of our participants. I do know that, for example, when we start the sessions, which is, I think, 8 AM in Kuala Lumpur, it's midnight for most of Europe all around that time.

So, again, very challenging. But as we have said before, that's not unusual for us in APRALO, to be contending with those sorts of times for a lot of the sessions that we take part in throughout the year with ICANN.

So, we hope you will just bear with us for these four days and be as involved as you possibly can in the program, despite the strange hours. But it's only for four days. Now, I don't see any hands, but have there been any questions from the chat, Heidi? Or anyone?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Maureen, I have a question.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes? Oh, okay, Judith.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: So, originally there was going to be an Open Data session. But then, it seems to be not included on the ones that ... In the registration data. Do we know, has that been dropped, or is there a reason why it's not listed? When you went through the registration process to register, they asked you to register for different sessions, and then Open Data is not listed.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yeah. Well, when we were actually having our ICANN planning session, these were the five top topics that came out of it. I mean, Jonathan might want to make mention of the topics that we actually have in relation to the policy platform. Would that be suitable for you, Jonathan, and probably address Judith's question?

JONATHAN ZUCK: Judith, can you repeat your question? I'm not sure that I understood it.

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Oh. I was actually asking not necessarily as an At-Large session but, in general, when Heidi gave us that link to register for the ICANN prep week there was going to be an Open Data session and it's no longer there. So, that was just my question. And then, also, I guess, in our At-Large session, we may talk about Open Data, because I know the platform is out and it's a really impressive new look at how to get data, and how to collect data, and what you see. So, that's why I was curious.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, Judith. I'm not aware of the ... It looks like Cheryl is answering your question about the session that got removed. We are, of course, very interested, in the At-Large, with the Open Data Platform, but we don't have a session for ICANN68 planned on it. But we'll definitely be looking at ways to leverage it.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Jonathan. And with regard to that, sorry, Judith, I misinterpreted your question. If you're talking about the ICANN plenaries, the three sessions that were selected for the ICANN plenaries were selected by the SOAC chairs and planning committee, so they are the ones who actually made the decision about what the plenaries were going to be. If you have a complaint, you'll have to take it to a much higher level than At-Large.

Now, I think that I saw a question, here, that Abdulkarim raised. Abdulkarim, I can't find it again. Would you like to ask that question? Oh, I found it. It was about why the AfrICANN session was not introduced.

In this particular webinar, we were focusing on the plenaries, but there is the AFRALO and AfrICANN ... There will be a session for that group during the ICANN meeting. If you have a look at the At-Large at ICANN68 schedule you will actually see that, as well as these plenaries, there are other sessions that we're actually focusing our At-Large community on.

And as well as the AFRALO session, there is also a session that's going to be taken by the regional chairs, the regional leaders' meeting. That is something that we felt being a cross-regional meeting would be a good ... Probably one of the rare meetings that we're actually including into the ICANN program.

So, that is just a couple of extra slots that we're including into our At-Large program. But what we have actually presented today is the key focus of our presentation. So, that's addressed in that. Does anybody else have any other questions? Please put your hand up if you do because, otherwise, we'll be finishing our session early.

No other questions? Oops. Staff? Does anyone from the moderators' list want to raise anything? We've got two more minutes, so if you have anything else that you'd like to raise in relation to your sessions or anything? Oh, Joanna does. Thank you, Joanna.

JOANNA KULESZA:

Thank you, Maureen. This is Joanna Kulesza for the transcript record and for our wonderful interpreters. Just briefly, following up on your brief announcement. There will indeed be two pre-ICANN68 At-Large organized capacity-building webinars.

As you indicated, it will be a rerun of Jonathan's DNS abuse, and there will be one organized, kind of, by Satish—thank you so much, Satish—on Universal Acceptance. I just wanted to emphasize that those will be [as though in the set] capacity-building webinars.

So, if we have participants here who are seeking more information on where At-Large stands, what DNS abuse is, what Universal Acceptance is all about, and what At-Large will be advocating for during this policy forum, as the meeting in Kuala Lumpur says, do feel free to join.

We will be sharing details on where to register and the specific times. We are trying to make sure that these will be Kuala Lumpur time-zone friendly. They will be focused on the region that will host this meeting, although it is virtual. So, you are more than welcome to drop by.

This will be an opportunity to catch up on the latest developments on these two themes that At-Large feels very strongly about. I just thought this would be an opportunity to advertise those two end-user-focused

capacity-building prep webinars. We don't want you to suffer too much Zoom fatigue, so we're just focusing on those two themes, spreading them out across the two weeks before the actual meetings.

We realize that those weeks will be tremendously busy but we thought this would be a useful exercise. Thank you, Maureen. So, just a plug for the capacity-building webinars. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Okay. Well, thank you very much for that. Jonathan, Judith asked a question. I see you've mentioned it in the chat, about the DNS abuse webinar that is the capacity-building one, and why we're actually having ... Would you like to speak more about the repeat of it? Is it going to be different? I know it's a live repeat, which is interesting. Would you like to say more about that?

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Sure, Maureen. Our outreach and capacity-building teams have organized a series of webinars, and one of them was on DNS abuse. It was a two-part webinar. The first part was just about different types of DNS abuse and defining the terms, like, "What's phishing? What's pharming?" etc., and there were some quiz questions.

And then, Drew Bagley from Secure Domains talks specifically about some of the new attack vectors that people have been using during the pandemic. And so, it was a well-received webinar but it was not scheduled at a very convenient time for Asia Pacific attendees. And so, we're going to replay it live.

And the real purpose of doing it live is to allow for questions. So, both me and Drew will be on the call to answer questions, and I guess that's the real benefit of it being live. In fact, because that call is going to lack interpretation, if you would prefer to hear the base discussion in French or Spanish you can go back and replay the last version of the webinar.

And then, instead of listening on the call, you could switch over and listen to the recording from the Wiki page, and then, just on the call, ask your questions if you can do so in English. So, those are some options that are out there. We'll be covering the same material we did before.

There are already French and Spanish versions of that discussion that are online, that on the session we'll point out to people. And then, the most important live part is the question and answer. I hope that answers your question, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Jonathan. We have Satish with his hand up.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Maureen. I see a comment from Abdulmonem in the chat and I thought I should respond. The comment is actually why the UA section does not have any ambassadors from Africa. Here are the reasons.

First, I note that the session starts off with the presentation from Africa, which is by Hadia. Secondly, we just had the two slots available, both five minutes, for UA ambassadors, and this is because we wanted to hear from at least two ambassadors.

We consulted the UA leadership and we said we want one from Asia Pacific because this meeting is hosting in Asia Pacific, and the other can be from anywhere. The response from the UA leadership was what we took into account in the program. So, that is the short answer. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Awesome. Thank you very much, Satish, for that clarification. Judith?

JUDITH HELLERSTEIN: Yes. Thanks, Satish, for that clarification. It was helpful. Also, thank Jonathan for that, too. I thought that really explains it, and I just was wondering. So, hopefully, because we can't have interpretation, we can get RTT on it, captioning, and then it will help others along with the process who are either bandwidth-challenged or who don't speak English. So, hopefully, that will also help on that. Thanks.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Great. Thank you, Judith. Abdulkarim. Abdulkarim?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Hello?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes, yes. I can hear you. We seem to have a problem, here. How about if we have Laxmi while we sort out something, please, Claudia, about Abdulkarim's connection. Laxmi?

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: Hello? Are you listening to me?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes.

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: Yes.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Hello. We can hear you.

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: Just I want to know one thing. Can we explain the DNS abuse with example ...?

MAUREEN HILYARD: I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch that question about DNS abuse.

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: With example. For example, [very open] DNS, as well. There is [inaudible] registries. There is the process of registering. But I want to know with a real example how abuses [inaudible].

MAUREEN HILYARD: Right, thank you. We won't have time to do that today, but please come to the session. There's the session next week, of course, for the webinar, but also the actual session at ICANN68. We just have a couple more minutes and I just wanted to mention that we are planning a final session which I hope Jonathan can just give a little plug for.

And although, when we're in a normal face-to-face, we have every day some sort of social meetings, I just wondered whether Jonathan would like to mention, very, very quickly before we finish, the trivia night that you're planning.

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: Okay, okay. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Laxmi. Sorry.

LAXMI PRASAD YADAV: No, it's okay.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Jonathan?

JONATHAN ZUCK: Yes, hi. I guess somebody is still unmuted. There we go. For just At-Large only, we're doing some kind of cooking demonstration, but we're also sponsoring a community-wide event, which is like a quiz show on TV.

So, there will be trivia questions and a host making jokes, and everybody can get on Zoom and participate in the quiz questions, as well as converse with each other, and talk, and text, and chat. So, it's meant to be an attempt at a social event in the virtual world. So, we'll be doing the quiz show on Zoom on that Wednesday.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Awesome. Awesome. Thank you very much, Jonathan, for that. So, we're at the top of the hour. Just a little bit over. I'd really like to thank everyone for coming today, and I hope we see you again either at the pre-ICANN webinars or at the ICANN68 sessions themselves.

Thank you very much to the presenters, who made the sessions very, very exciting, and I'm really looking forward to ICANN68, and so looking forward to seeing you all there, as well. So, thank you very much for coming, and goodbye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]