
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening everyone. Welcome to the At-Large Leadership Team, ALT-PLUS, Monthly Call on Wednesday, the 22nd of July, 2020 at 16:00 UTC.

On the call today on the English channel, we have Maureen Hilyard, Joanna Kulesza, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Andrei Kolesnikov, Yrjö Lansipuro, Satish Babu, Sebastien Bachollet, Eduardo Diaz, Amrita Choudhury, Glenn McKnight, Ricardo Holmquist, and Holly Raiche. On the Spanish channel, we have Sergio Salinas Porto.

We have received apologies from Matthias Hudobnik, Seun Ojedeji, and Tracy Hackshaw.

From staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Evin Erdoğdu, and Yesim Nazlar, and, myself, Claudia Ruiz, on call management.

Our Spanish interpreters for today are Claudia and Marina.

A friendly reminder that we do have real-time translation and I will put the link in the chat right now. A friendly reminder to also please state your name when taking the floor for the transcription purposes and also the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels. Also, please keep your lines muted when not speaking to prevent any background noise.

Thank you very much, and 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:

Okay. Thank you very much, Claudia, and good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone wherever you are. Thank you very much for attending this morning or afternoon or evening.

Just going through the agenda and as you will have noticed, it is a little bit different from what we've normally done. And I guess, from my perspective, it is really due to the fact that we've finally finished the At-Large review, which I actually used the ALT-PLUS a lot for getting feedback on a continual basis for just ensuring that we were actually sort of always on top for getting the best information that we could for the review.

Now that it's over, we can actually revert back to what I think is a better use of this time. And, as Eduardo has mentioned, now that we've got a system, I think we will start on that new system. We do have two items that are starting off this discussion section that's probably a little bit special for us. And so, therefore they're at the top, but what you will notice is that within the program itself, there is a section that will allow for a topic that comes specifically from the CPWG and is one that is actually has been raised for today. Ricardo will be able to raise what is on top for further input from the At-Large leadership on the operations side.

And there's a RALO topic, and very timely for us what EURALO is proposing and that it offers an opportunity for them to get some feedback from the other RALO leaders and other community members as to what we're actually going to be doing.

So, normally that would be the start and then there may be additional items that we may add. But, like I'm assuming it's a time for the At-Large leadership to be able to discuss issues with each other, which was the norm expected initially, but covering those sorts of things that probably can be or the leaders would actually like some further input from RALO leaders that they may not get on an ordinary working group meeting.

So, to start off, and as I explained earlier, it is an opportunity for the ALAC members who are with us on this meeting and to give them an opportunity to be introduced to Amrita and Aris. I'm not quite sure whether I see Aris on the call, but Amrita is here, and so she has an opportunity to introduce herself. This is a three-minute max presentation. The voting by the ALAC for the NomCom candidates will begin straight after this call.

So, Amrita, I'd like to invite you to do your three-minute presentation. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Maureen, and hello everyone. Many of you may be knowing me. I am currently the NomCom representative from APRALO, and I have reapplied for the next year too.

The reason being the first year was more of a learning experience, and I attempted to actually network, reach out to community members in the Asia Pacific region, encouraging eligible candidates to apply for the various leadership positions available, and actively participate in the NomCom discussions. And also helping spreading the news and update

of what is actually happening in NomCom and what are the issues we are facing, but keeping in mind the confidentiality which we need to maintain.

The reason for applying for the next year is that I feel the experience, which I've been gathering this year, I could make it to more use in the next year. Perhaps I could lead some committee [rule]. Of course, this year I was part of the Interview Committee. And continue my outreach initiative within the region, encourage eligible people to apply, and fulfill the necessary responsibilities of a NomCom member in the community and to select suitable people for the leadership position.

So, I'm happy to take questions. I don't have much to say, but just this much that I'm learning, I'm trying to utilize whatever experiences I'm gaining from the community, as well as from the other NomCom members and trying to make best use of it to select the best candidates here and also share back with the community what we have been doing at NomCom as much as possible. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Amrita. I see I have a hand up. Abdulkarim.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE:

Thank you very much. Sorry, my Internet went out before Amrita took the floor. It's not a question for Amrita, it's a question for the ALAC Chair. Can I go on?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Sure, go.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Okay, thank you. I'm a little confused. When I joined I knew there was going to be discussion around this, why this is going on at this point in time. I just want to say I think we need probably a little bit of background of why we have this presentation today, because I do not think it's [inaudible]. I actually wanted to object to having this on the agenda for today, but my hand was not recognized early enough. And I don't want to mix issues together.

My issue is with what we are doing. I do not think this is the appropriate forum for this and I don't want us to set this as a way going forward. Personally, I have the opinion that RALOs should be given the opportunity to present their candidates and having this kind of presentation I totally object to. Thank you very much.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Abdulkarim. Your objection is noted, but I would like to add that the ALT-PLUS is an opportunity, and we haven't used it; before we were being pretty constrained. And, in fact, there were complaints from various sections that people didn't actually like what we were doing before anyway.

So, we are changing it to actually do what we actually wanted to do in the first place, and that's to encourage more discussion amongst the leadership team. Now, those discussions can actually be brought up by anyone from the ALAC or the RALOs, if they so desire. And, as the Chair,

I think I actually have the right to bring something up that I think is of importance to ALAC members. And this is an opportune time. For example, when have our ALAC meeting later on, that will be to announce the candidates, and I could have just done it by email, but this gave an opportunity—we don't often have an opportunity like this—to have our candidates come forward.

And I know that, for example, for Amrita it's midnight and I can't see Aris and it's 1:00 in the morning for him, although he did say that he would be coming, I'm not surprised that he's unable to be here, which is unfortunate.

But at least one of our candidates has had an opportunity to present herself and that will be something that will be something I'm sure that the ALAC members will appreciate that anyway. Are there any other questions or queries? I'm quite happy to repeat myself. Thank you.

Okay, thank you Amrita. Midnight your time, I do appreciate that you've taken that time to come to our meeting and you can stay or go back to bed if that sort of appeals.

So, let's move on, therefore, to our next item, which is, of course, the At-Large Review and the report that we've recently presented. And I think that one of the things that I wanted to do was to, especially for those who weren't there in the earlier days, and this is an abridged version of a presentation that I gave to AFRALO just to explain what we had actually done. And why we had sort of sent the report in with a little bit of urgency, so that people didn't actually have time and it was

noted they didn't have time to discuss it. And we're giving them a little bit of an opportunity to respond.

And one of the things that has actually happened is that we've had some feedback from the OEC already and from Avri Doria, the head of the OEC, that we had to present. And I can just read the email which I only received yesterday.

"Dear At-Large Review Implementation Working Group,"

"On behalf of the Organizational Effectiveness Committee of the ICANN Board, I would like to thank you for the recently submitted At-Large Review Implementation Final Report. The committee reviewed the report during its recent meeting on 14 July, and will make its recommendation to the Board in due course.

"Overall, the committee agrees that the report provides a comprehensive overview of your work, and we will ask ICANN Org to publish the document on the relevant review page on ICANN Org," and she has provided the link.

"Again, many thanks for your effort during this important review process, which helps improve the effectiveness and accountability of ICANN's Multi-Stakeholder Model."

So, this has been an immediate response, which I thought was very timely for this meeting. And so, it's been reviewed, and they'll be looking at it again to make some recommendation to the Board about the report itself.

But this is just a brief introduction to what we've been through in order to actually provide that report. And, next slide, please.

This is the journey that it's actually taken since 2015 when we first started this course of action with regards to creating some improvements that were first identified by the reviewers, and what we've achieved to date.

But in 2015, when we first met, and it was our turn to be reviewed, we went through a big self-assessment process where we, for ourselves, looked at where we thought we were lacking and where we thought we might be able to make some changes if the opportunity was going to arise, where we would be given the resources perhaps to do so.

And so, even though, we met in January 2015, the actual team that did the reviewing wasn't appointed until May the following year. And, for them, it actually took like seven months, eight months, to actually undertake their review, where they carried out interviews, both within At-Large, down to the RALOs, and then out to the community. And the community's response to how they viewed At-Large gave them a lot of different perspectives on how we saw ourselves and how they saw us.

So, they produced a draft report in January and then the final report was presented in May. So, a whole year after they'd actually begun their work.

And so, once they actually presented their report, that gave us an opportunity to respond, firstly, working with the OEC to basically respond to the review, and there were some things that we agreed with, some we didn't.

And from then, and every time we went over one of these sorts of things, actually we had to provide a report.

So, there was working with the OEC, and then we went and looked at an implementation plan. And then in June of 2018, we started doing that implementation of the plan that was okayed by the Board. And we spent a year looking at what steps we would do to make the improvements that we'd actually agreed with the Board that we would work on. And those were the eight issues that we've been working on for the last 18 months.

So, going through that whole process during that time, we've done our progress reports until we get to this particular stage where we felt we could actually put in a final report because we've just about finished everything, except for a few minor tweaks, which we always knew that these two items were going to need a little bit more time.

So, that's the five-year journey that we've actually been through. Next slide, please.

Okay, so when the reviewers did the review, they came up with 16 items. And we went through a process and told them what we actually felt was okay with the report, but also things that we didn't agree with.

And I think that, when all said and done, the thing that created the most antipathy amongst the At-Large was the suggestion that we should get rid of ALSes and make everyone an empowered member, anyone who wanted to join. And it completely negated our whole purpose for having ALSes and what we valued most about ALSes, which is why it was given special attention in our review activities, although a little bit delayed,

because Alan was running that particular item and EPDP got a bit in the way there. And so, he started a bit late, but at the same time, I think everybody recognized once that they had actually started that particular work, just how valuable and how valued the ALSes are within At-Large.

The things that I've actually highlighted in yellow were things that we actually said to the Board that we're actually already doing this sort of stuff. We've working with the GSE. We did not think that the process that we were using to choose our At-Large Board member was too complex, had social media activities working already. We're still working on our messaging workspace. We think it can still be improved, but that's something we don't have much say in, as we found.

And that we certainly did not agree with their replacing the ATLAS with the annual general meetings, but we did say that annual general meetings would take place, and, for us as At-Large, we wanted to retain the ATLAS if we could because that's all reliant on ICANN Org.

But the three things that are in blue, there were three items, which were completely out of our control. There is no way we have any say in how ICANN Org distributes its funds, or how it will use auction proceeds. And we couldn't quite get what they wanted, what they meant by rapporteurs as additional people.

Okay, so those are three things that we rejected. The five other things we said, "Okay, like we're already doing that, and we will continue to work on those issues." But the eight things, of course, is what we've been working on for the last 18 months and that's what we've been doing. Next slide, please.

So, we set up dashboards for each of those items and people were assigned to lead those. We had actually set up a timeline in that top right-hand corner. And, as I see it, yeah, we knew that policy was something that was going to be ongoing. The developments that we're doing and even today's session will actually show how CPWG's actually working in with other sections to promote and support Item Two, which has to do with activating the ALSes in individual members to do what it is that is their role.

But everything else we knew. The Third Item has to do with staff, and we're constantly working with our staff. And the introduction of Alp to help us do some of our work has also been an important part, and that happened August sometime. And so, if we can get more staff at any time, that's all well and good for us.

But everything else was sort of finished quite early. And so, apart from the things that we had already said to the Board, "Okay, those things are going to take, we'll probably need until December." And that's what we're doing at the moment. For example, in Item Two, we're giving Roberto time to do his work with individual members, and we've got until December, but we'd like to have it done by September actually. So, he's working flat tack gathering his people and he'll be starting on his program for that. And, of course, as I said, policy will continue. Can I have the next slide, please?

People started populating the dashboard. And if you have a look in the dashboards, you will actually find that for every month there was some kind of activity. Whatever was being done for that particular issue. during that month, we tried to record it. And that information is what

we've used to transfer to our report so that it is a report on what we've completed. And all the information that we've received and included into that report is actually what is on those dashboards. Next slide, please.

So, what we eventually really wrote within the report was what we completed. Everything that we said that we'd done, what we'd completed, and more.

For example, like in the policy section, one of the things that we had done over and above what we said we would do, one of the things was of course the development of the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group, and explaining in the report to the Board that there was a need for CPWG's workload to be reduced. But that the expectation from ICANN to still continue policy comments meant that we actually had to remove things from CPWG and give it to another group who could still do that. And we produced the Operations Group, which is working in my section, which sort of seems to be appropriate.

And similarly, with the membership, there was quite a lot of work that actually went into that particular ... And for those who were part of that group, I'm sure you appreciate the importance that we wanted to put on ALSes. And I'd just like to sort of say that the ATLAS III Survey, Analysis and Recommendations Report has also stressed for us that people within ALSes and individual members are working together.

And actually, within the ATLAS III activity, we've now created a group of people that we think are very much engaged with and very active in

their work in their communities, but also starting to look at what we need to get, the information.

We're still working on that communication strategy. It's coming together really well, and we'll get that out to everybody. But for all the planned activities we had, we were able to say that we had actually completed what we said we were going to do. And again, that's reported in the in the report. Is there anything else after this? Next slide.

Okay, that's just the Contents Section of the report. And there's a link in the agenda with regards to if anyone who hasn't read it, and I'm really hoping that everyone has, because it has been an At-Large effort. It's not been just the ... I mean, there's been people who have been working very, very hard putting the report together without doing the big [raise] that we could have done. We were wanting to be very specific about what we completed, and how we did it, and what we believe was actually achieved and I think that we've done that.

Hang on, I think there is that one. There's another slide. Can I have the last slide, please?

Yeah, for us the CPWG participation data that we were able to gather straight after ATLAS III. And, for us, this really encouraged us that what we've done within ATLAS III made a difference. And if there was anything that we really wanted to impress on in the report was with the CPWG, which is the policy area, we had impressed on our attendees at ATLAS III about the importance of policy. And we were very encouraged that those members who were able to attend the ATLAS III, plus others,

have really become engaged. And even though it looks like there's a bit of a downturn here, of course we're just getting right. And everyone's coming along and [still] learning, I mean, we weren't expecting them to be jumping in and acting as if they knew everything already. I mean, even I don't even try to do that, but just being there to learn.

And then we get hit by COVID. And we can really appreciate that. And we're noticing that already, that the decline in attendance at ICANN meetings and that sort of thing. So, it's impacted a lot on what we do. But, at the same time, it's really encouraging that we're still getting new people coming, and people who weren't at ATLAS, but new members who are becoming a lot more engaged and that's what we need within At-Large.

So, if anyone's got any questions or queries, now's your time, about anything in the report, anything in the process.

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Maureen, we have two hands up. Seun, and then Holly

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you. Seun, nice to see you, I thought I saw an apology, or was that something else. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Yes, thank you. Yes, I came in late. I just realized that the meeting I was supposed to have is going to be in another 20 minutes' time, so I'm here. This is Seun for the record.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Well, Seun, great. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yeah, I just wanted to mention that at AFRALO, we had a singlepurpose call on the reports, and of course we also had Maureen, the Chair of ALAC, attend that particular call.

From the outcome of that meeting, we decided that we would write a mail to the Chair of ALAC, especially perhaps also to copy the ALAC itself, on two things. The first one is that we think that, yes, the report itself contains updates. It's kind of an update on what's been done, but at the same time, how we did it was necessarily not discussed, did not go through the approval of ALAC itself.

So, I think it's not just a formality, it also gives some level of credence to our work, especially, if you recall, when this process started, it started with [us] actually, ALAC, and the entire community saying that what ITEMS has written, we don't think that we agree with them. And that was a long community process. The final report on what we believed that we agree with are the issues, we also put it to the community and, of course, ALAC was very involved on that.

So, we think that this particular [one, too] before it went to the OEC, should have actually gotten a formal vote form the ALAC. And, of course, we would have also appreciated that some level of [nodding] is also sought from the RALOs as well.

The second point is in terms of the approach with which we address some of the issues. Of course, there is nothing that is perfect. And, as Maureen had said, [I commend all of us, perhaps there has been] a bit more heavy lifting in actually putting the report together, but nothing is perfect.

So, I think we still have to be open to [review] some of the ways by which we actually address some of the issues, improving upon them post submission of the report, and, of course, it should be good that ALAC put in place such a process to allow that.

Those are the two things that I think that came [out strongly] in our meeting, which we will still be communicating to the ALAC Chair, but I thought since we are in this call now, it's good to mention that.

Nevertheless, thanks for all the work. And, of course, we would continue to do our part as well from AFRALO, and of course, eventually it's all for the good of the community. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Seun. And just before Holly does her intervention, I just wanted to say that, yeah, I guess we have to apologize that the report took so long to actually to be completed before ICANN 68 because we wanted to give it, that was the opportune time to pass it over to the OEC before June 30, which was our deadline date.

And there were things that held us up along the way so that the report was not completed until a few days before ICANN 68. So, when we presented it, of course, it just meant that rather than during the formal

vote, we did the consensus vote and asked for people to read it assuming that they would have had a general idea. And it wasn't a long report, we just felt that it was a pretty opportune time to give them the weekend, and then we could send it off basically on June 30, which is when we sent it.

So, yeah, we can see the error of our ways with regards to the lack of timeliness, but it was things that was happening within the ALS Mobilization Section of the report, which was delaying us from actually finishing that off totally.

But, taking that on board. Okay, send the letter. Holly.

HOLLY RAICHE:

First of all, I had forgotten some of the horrors of the rapporteur and the individual members and some of the other, let's just say, interesting proposals that came out from the review. Congratulations, I think, to everybody who's putting so much work to get this done.

But, looking at the attendance, should we be in some way charting what the impact of just online meetings has to participation, and who it enables to participate? Because you don't have to travel, you don't have the huge cost, and so forth, and then all of the hassles of traveling. As opposed to the people who cannot participate, for whatever reason.

I mean, it just might be really interesting charting what the new obstacles are, if there are any, to participation and whether we're attracting more people or not. I just don't know, but watching those figures and seeing is it going down, why is it going down, and is—not

that we can do anything about online meetings—but is that the reason or is it something else? It would really be interesting to follow that up. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Holly, yes. And it has been discussed and I think it's been raised within ICANN Org, I know, and, of course, it was raised in that final plenary of ICANN 68 where each of the SO/AC Chairs was asked about what the impact of COVID-19 on the workings of the various sections. And they didn't take too kindly to what we suggested, and I haven't actually heard anything about that since.

But, at the same time, within our own systems, you're right. We do need to perhaps getting some feedback from the RALOs and their members about what is actually happening within each of the RALOs because everyone's different. And when you're looking at the current situation with regards to [exploding] COVID-19, again, that reemergence of the pandemic in some areas, that must have an effect.

But it would be good if the RALO Chairs did get us some feedback so that we can present that to ICANN as data. So, we need to work on that. Good thought. Are there any other comments, questions, or queries?

Okay. Taking onboard what's been said, we can now then move on to our next item, which is a discussion with CPWG and outreach and engagement. And Daniel's here as well. Is Jonathan here? Yes, he is.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

I am, [inaudible].

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yep, great. Okay, it's all yours, Jonathan and Daniel.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, can you hear me okay?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yep. You sound like you're in a tunnel, but that's ...

JONATHAN ZUCK: I'm in a new room. Let me see if ...

MAUREEN HILYARD: We can still hear you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: You still hear me okay? Can you hear me better now?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yeah, better.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Okay, it's a different microphone. So, I meant to prepare some kind of slides for this, but kind of caught off guard because I was involved with the IGF USA that's going on right now as well.

But what I wanted to do was re-raise something that I brought up over a year ago, which is the idea of doing an activation of the At-Large community, such that we try to get a message out to the entire community through the RALOs to the ALSes, to their individual members, a sort of campaign-style message.

Because I think that as one of the roles of the At-Large is outreach, that this outreach is very localized, and that's good, and it helps with capacity building and getting people engaged, but I think one of the things that would raise our profile within the ICANN Community would in fact be to do some kind of a massive activation.

And so, the topic that I had proposed for such an activation was universal acceptance. And I had a discussion with the previous head of the Universal Acceptance Steering Committee, and then in the middle of it he resigned and there was a new head and a lot of things happened between now and then that sort of derailed this effort.

But I thought I would take the opportunity of this new format for the ALT-PLUS call to re-raise this issue of doing an activation and I still believe that universal acceptance would be a powerful and non-controversial topic to use for such an activation.

What I had originally discussed with the former chair of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group was pushing out the idea of ALSes posting blogs about the importance of universal acceptance and trying to raise awareness among websites, maintainers, etc., that they needed to update their websites. And then, have the ALSes further push those

blogs out to their individual members and keep track of tweets that were activated by these ALSes.

And I think that if we were able to pull such a thing off in a concentrated period of time, say a month or something like that, that we could come up with some fairly amazing metrics of how these lines of communications are working and where they need improvement, etc.

Because we really want to have a more efficient mechanism for communicating downstream and back upstream, all the way to the individual members, both from the standpoint of an activation, such as this, and in terms of getting feedback back from individual members of ALSes and At-Large individual members, such that we could post a policy question, for example, and get fairly rapid response about people's feelings about it. It's something we've talked about a lot, it's come up in the context of the review.

And so, what I want to do is re-propose the idea of an activation to kind of blow the dust off of these communication channels, and really get something efficient in place for bidirectional communication, both from the Outreach and Engagement Team facing outwards, and back into the CPWG facing inwards.

So, that's what I wanted to start the conversation on. And I'm happy to turn it over to Daniel for his thoughts on it. But that's the proposal I wanted to make to this group because it really requires the cooperation of the entire ALT-PLUS, including especially the RALO leads. So, that was my conversation starter.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Thank you very much, Jonathan. Can I proceed, Maureen?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes. Tijani's got his hand up. I just wondered if it was to do with something that Jonathan said before you start. Sorry, Daniel.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Yeah, sure, [I can be patient].

MAUREEN HILYARD: Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JAMAA: Yes, thank you very much, Maureen. Jonathan, it's very good idea. I know it's wonderful, but how you will make the ALSes or the individual members in the regions interested, or not even interested, but even aware or more informed about universal acceptance? How you will make them engaged in this process if they are not led or mentored by people who know the subject?

I propose that since now we have universal acceptance ambassadors all over the world and in the whole region, I propose that in each region, for each RALO, they try to reach out to those ambassadors and make them raise awareness of the ALSes and the individual member in the region. Make perhaps some webinars. Perhaps make some practical activity to show and to make these people aware of the importance of the universal acceptance for them.

Otherwise, if it's like this, I don't think that people, members of the ALSes or individual members, will catch it and will perhaps participate and engage in this process. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks, Tijani.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thanks, Tijani. Daniel. Yep. Sorry, go.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Yeah, I guess I'll respond quickly, Daniel, if that's okay. I want to make this less about universal acceptance because that's how this keeps getting derailed. I know we have a lot going on related to universal acceptance, we have ambassadors.

What I want to do is attempt an activation, which the Universal Acceptance Steering Group are willing to draft op-eds, for example, or draft blog posts that could be used for this purpose.

So, this is the idea of a downstream outreach effort that is on a very non-controversial topic, the blog posts could be fairly straightforward and self-explanatory. So, I don't think we need webinars or anything like that.

It's more about whether or not we can achieve a communications channel and accomplish something in a campaign format with the ALSes and their individual members. In other words, do we have enough

influence over the ALSes to get them to post a blog post that we help create? Do the ALSes have enough influence over their individual members that they could talk them into tweeting and doing things to support that blog post? Those are the questions that I'm trying to get the answer to. Whether or not it's about universal acceptance or not is not really the top priority of this particular proposal, it's simply a topic area that's non-controversial. It's one in which everyone, if they even have a small understanding of it, would agree that it's a good idea, unlike many of the other things that we end up discussing that might be more controversial.

So, the only reason for making this about universal acceptance is that there's a lack of controversy surrounding it. But if somehow I'm triggering too many people's feelings about universal acceptance by making this the topic to use, then let's switch the topic.

The thing I want to focus on is whether we're capable of doing a broad spectrum activation of the At-Large Community because, if we are, that would be a powerful thing. And if we aren't, it's something that we should try to develop. I hope that's more clear.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Seun, is this a brief one so that Daniel can actually start his presentation? Thank you. Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. Yeah, I think what Jonathan is suggesting is something that we can really track. I think perhaps doing ... I mean, universal

acceptance is common to most of the regions, [I hope]. I know that for AFRALO, and of course I think the APRALO as well has been [engaged in universal acceptance].

So, that may actually be something that resonates across and I think that if during our calls, because the more direct place where we actually [talk to ALS or webinars] is during the monthly calls. So, apart from that, we only rely on emails.

So, maybe during the call we could actually teach this to them, [inaudible] what we need for them, the kind of publicity that we need from them, then we could pitch this to them.

In our region, we had a meeting with the universal acceptance—[I mean the tech team] [inaudible] by ICANN and we also talked about having a technical webinar relating to universal acceptance. And, of course, this can also incorporate the ambassadors, as well, just as Daniel said.

I think it's something that we should try. I think it sounds interesting and could indeed actually be [of good use.] [inaudible].

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Seun. Daniel, sorry we delayed your introduction here. Daniel.

DANIEL NANGHAKA:

It's all right. Listening to the conversation, this is something that is interesting, but everything has a little bit of downsides and the challenges that I encountered.

And universal acceptance is not the only issue that can be discussed here, or that can be used as an activation tool. It is one of the examples because this is something that has already caught a lot of attention within the ICANN ecosystem. And there is a niche to be able to enhance the way the community takes on the universal acceptance challenge.

Here, as far as the ALS community is concerned, it's about how do we convey our messages to reach our target community? And within At-Large, we reach out to the ALSes, then the ALSes reach out to their respective members.

The problem here is that not adequate information is reaching out to the members up to the ALS representatives. So, with the [mode] to conduct this blog posting, sharing content, whereby the ALSes can be able to redistribute the content to their respective community, and it could be a very good thing whereby this top down communication is being triggered.

We can leverage from the power of the ambassadors to be able to conduct training and capacity building. That is a great opportunity, but how much could we be able to scale this? If this works, then that shows us a new way on how the community can engage, both in policy comments or policy drafting, and also to conduct appropriate outreach within their respective communities.

This was an activity that was meant to take place during the ICANN 68—the one that was just completed. And it did not take place because of various reasons, various engagements that were taking place and everyone was overwhelmed during this COVID situation. And probably,

this is a discussion that we can pick up and see how it is going to work during the next ICANN virtual meeting.

And also, as far as outreach and engagement is concerned, we are seeing a lot of power being leveraged in the Social Media Working Group and Capacity Building Working Group. And through harmonization of these different working groups, we believe that we can be able to [steer] up the engagement, but encountering challenges of online meetings, Zoom fatigue, and so forth.

So, it's a discussion that we, as the leaders, have to take on and see how we can be able to spark the engagement. Based on the fact that right now the levels of engagement have gone low, how can we be able to steer them up such that we maintain this, and also participate in effective policy development processes?

Outreach and Engagement remains key, but it cannot stand on its own, but all we need is just the support from our regional leaders to be able to enhance this. Thank you very much. Back to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you very much, Daniel. And I think that it's like we're at a stage now where we're starting to initiate some discussion amongst the RALO Chairs, and I think they need to take that back to their membership and just see what suggestions can be made with regards to within the RALOs themselves, and perhaps bring it back out to the next meeting or taking it to the regional leaders meeting. That should be another opportunity to start looking at, as Jonathan actually wants, is getting that, what do we have to do to actually activate our members into action?

Why have we lost the screen? The agenda. Okay.

We do have a couple more items to get through. So, if you don't mind if we can move forward to those. And the next item is, of course, Ricardo's overview on the Operations Working Group and what's on top for them.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST:

Thank you, Maureen. Yeah, I just wanted to take 5 to 10 minutes to comment on the Operation, Finance, and Budget Working Group.

[It seems that it's not important that everybody should look into policy.] And everybody's aware of the CPWG, but my concern is that you all need to be aware of some of the things being discussed in the Operation, Finance, and Budget Committee, like actually the ATRT 3 comments where some ALAC members, some RALO members, are drafting the comment from ALAC, but also, we need some more people included in the meeting. Our next meeting is 28th, you are all invited to go to the meeting.

The other point we're going to discuss next week is the multi-stakeholder model update. And, of course, if we are not part of the table like we might find out if we are not aware of the multi-stakeholder model, all discussion is out. So, that's why we need to be aware of these discussions in the Operation, Finance, and Budget Working Group.

And that was all. That you need to be aware of that, and please be involved, and for the RALO leader team, please involve people from your region in the OFB working group discussions.

Some of the discussions we already had in the working group were the regional strategies. I think we are going to discuss the APAC regional strategy very soon, so please be aware of this. Thank you very much.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Awesome, thank you very much, Ricardo. It's good to get that feedback and highlighting that there are two groups, and that there is still some very important issues that are being discussed that are no longer part of the CPWG. And there's been a really good attendance at our meetings, but we could do with some more voices and contributions to the public comments that we still have to make on those issues.

So, moving now to our next item, which is Sebastien and his team presenting on their new proposal on RALO onboarding of new ALSes and individual members. You may take the floor, Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

Thank you very much, Maureen. And thank you for having me for this topic.

In fact, to be short, the story was following the Association of Individual Users in Europe. And they're starting to work on their welcome package and now putting documents together and to write something.

At the same time, I saw that there were some work done on the ALAC level with a project led by Dev to have ALAC onboarding documents. And I always think that it's good to have a lot of people working on the same topic, but if they are not coordinated, it will not work well. Therefore, I organized a meeting with the leaders of both projects, Dev,

Joanna, Yrjö, and Natalia, Roberto, to be able to have a discussion and to know what are those two projects and how they can work together.

It's always difficult in one call to have an agreement of everybody that we must merge the two projects. For the moment, the explanations that one needs to be more focused on, generally speaking, end users in the world, and the other, it's more focused on trying to engage individual end users in Europe.

But I think that a large part of the documentation that needs to be built can be shared. Therefore, at the end of this call, I suggest that we need to have one place to have this coordination done. It [can't] be just done by a single purpose call just because I think it's useful to have this coordination. Sorry, Daniel, again it will fall on you.

But I think the best place to have this coordinated project and an exchange of what one is doing with the other must fall to the Outreach and Engagement Working Group because I feel that the best place where we will not lose momentum and lose the information built by each group.

Now, the question [of the two,] the question of what is the planning, the question of which language we will use. All that it's an open question, but I think it's good that all of you are aware of that.

I am happy to try to answer any question you may have, but I feel that it's more to both Dev and Natalia, who are the leaders of both projects, to try to find, with the guidance of Daniel the way to go forward.

But I would like really to underline that it's important that we don't multiply the same work by different team without any coordination. It was the main goal of my suggestion for call for these two teams. And I hope it went well and it will be the case in the future.

I hope that it was what, Maureen, you were expecting from me, and I am available to you. And you have the link to both projects in the agenda today. Therefore, if you want more information, and if you can participate to develop those projects, it would be very useful. Thank you very much. Maureen, back to you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Sebastien. With regards to coordinating and merging projects, I think that with regards to the onboarding thing, we're using lots of different ways in which to push our message with regards to encouraging people to engage, to join with us and engage in the work that we're doing.

And I think that within the Capacity Building Working Group that's working hard at the moment, a whole lot of different tools are being produced to support the packages that people are working together to put together to onboard their members. And this toolkit is what we're actually building, and it includes things like the ICANN Learn courses that are actually being developed at the moment.

Dev's onboarding. There are other brochures, the talking points, all those sorts of things are all part and parcel of building resources that people can use within their RALOs that are just part of encouraging people when they come into At-Large and to the RALO system to

encourage them to become engaged on that policy. Actually, not only on the policy, just the workings of At-Large and there's a lot of things happening within At-Large any way that people can get engaged in as they're familiarizing themselves before they reach out into the working groups. And there's quite a lot of stuff that can be done.

I'm just wondering what other things are being done by other RALOs as well, if they'd like to chip in, but Sebastien's got his hand up again.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

Yes, thank you Maureen. I totally agree with you with the fact that we need to build toolkits, but what I would like to be sure that we don't build the same tool in two different parts of At-Large because it will be a loss of time and money at the end.

It really is where I think that coordination must happen. For example, if we rebuild the PowerPoint with the history of At-Large and ALAC, first it's good to find if there's something already existing and then if it's developed, it must be developed once and not three times. It will not be very efficient if we if we do so, and we don't have so much time.

And I really feel that if we can have a place where we put all of those toolkits, all of those presentation done by one or the other, who could be reused by us, as leader of At-Large, will be a great improvement of what is happening today. Thank you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Sebastien. And, I mean, I totally agree. And it is one of the reasons why—I [can't] put my finger on the URL for the toolkit. And I

know that the toolkit that we're actually looking at building has got very little in it at the moment, but that's because we are—within the Capacity Building Working Group, I know they're actually building things.

But at the same time, once we get a whole lot of information from each of the RALOs and from the working groups, and whatever we put into the toolkit, we can very easily organize it so everyone knows what it is, whether it has to do with policy, whether it's to do specifically with outreach, whatever the topics are, making it more accessible. And I think that the things we've been trying to do with our wiki spaces is to make it ...

If you've looked at the working group space, for example. Having Alp work with us, of course, has been great because he's really creative with ways in which to present the material in a way that makes it attractive, which I think is really important. And that people don't mind getting into it and looking at it, and the information is well organized, and it's useful.

And I think that that's what we've got to try and make sure that our toolkit is actually filled with material that is tried and true. Like if it's really good, if you've used it used a particular activity at an event and it's worked, people have engaged with it, and you're getting those messages through, please pass it over to us so we can try and see if we can make it into cross community tools that everyone can use.

That's the plan, and I guess it's all the RALOs working together so that we can make sure that we're getting everything coordinated, as we all want, because it's easier for our outreach ambassadors to use.

So, are there any other comments? There's lots of work I think here to be done within the RALOs and I'd really like that this is a sounding board as it's supposed to be people sharing ideas. And I think that's something that we don't do enough.

The RALO leaders have an opportunity in their leadership team to have a meeting about it, but you do need to share that with everyone else so that we're actually getting some feedback and can share it within the ALAC and within At-Large and in general. And, also, if you need support for things in relation to resources and stuff, it's better if it comes through the ALT-PLUS so that we can actually all share it. We all get a more collective. It's a collective view in that we can present something to ICANN in a little bit more of a coordinated way as well.

If there is nothing else, for the next call, I'd be very interested in getting topics so that we can get the agenda up as soon as possible. If there's anything that people feel they need to share with the ALAC and regional leaders, what's on top for you, we can incorporate that into the program.

This particular meeting was, because of the of the contents, is 90 minutes, but I'm envisaging that if we actually have specific topics, and they're used as started and used for discussion, that we may not need more than 60 minutes. So, we can work on that, just being a little bit more flexible, depending on what the issues are.

And, if there are no issues, then we probably won't have a meeting. It's no use having one if there's nothing to be discussed, but I think it's highly unlikely that there wouldn't be something that we would be wanting to discuss and wanting to improve as part of our continuous improvements that we suggested in our report.

So, if there's nothing further, I don't see any hands jumping up. I might be able to give you all 10 minutes more of your own time.

And thank you very much for coming today, and thank you very much for ...

GISELLA GRUBER: Maureen?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes. I hear a voice.

GISELLA GRUBER: I'm trying to put my hand up, but I can't.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Okay, sorry. Okay, Gisella, the floor is yours.

GISELLA GRUBER: Just, as we are discussing the next call, what would you like to do with the ALT-PLUS? And also, to make everyone's life easier, is to send out a Doodle poll to try and set rotating times for the ALT-PLUS, much like we

do with the ALAC, and we would offer a wide variety of timings and then take the two to three most popular times and work on having these on a set date and at a set time on the third week of the month as the ALAC meeting is always held on the Tuesday of the fourth week of the month. So, if everyone would be so kind as to look out for the Doodle poll over the next few hours, possibly 24 hours, we will put it together.

And then, again, if you could please respond with your general availability. It may not be for necessarily in August or in September, but just this really would help to put together a rotating and set day and time. I believe everyone's schedules are busy enough as it is. And if we could do that, I think it would help everyone. Thank you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Gisella. Yes, and that would be that really helpful I think to get rotating times and a specific date. Abdulkarim, I see you have your hand up.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE:

Thank you very much, Maureen. I just wanted specific clarification regarding this past proposal ALT-PLUS and ALAC meeting. Because it's necessary to have this clarification because I think this is like the second ALT-PLUS which we are having without having an ALAC meeting.

So, are you saying—because if you look at the membership of ALT-PLUS, technically I'm [not] a member of ALT-PLUS. Or I don't understand. That's why I just want to know that, are we replacing this with ALAC

meeting? Are we still going to have the ALAC meeting? And I heard you saying something about we're going to take some decisions and things like that. Thank you very much.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Abdulkarim. Okay, the ALT-PLUS is a time for the At-Large leadership to get together and that includes our RALO leaders. And it is a time, as we're doing, to discuss issues that are important to At-Large leaders as a whole.

The ALAC meeting is more constrained. The format that we actually have at the moment, because we generally have quite a few community members attending, so it's an update on what it is that we're doing within the ALAC from an ALAC perspective, but also that it's sort of giving everyone a fairly general idea of what's also happening in the RALOs because the RALO chairs are given an opportunity to do an update, as well as the Working Groups in that. But at the same time, the ALAC session is really to, if there are any decisions to make, that's when we might have a hands up vote or something like that.

But we don't generally get time in an ALAC meeting to do the discussions that we're actually having here. This is the time to raise those, and although the ALT-PLUS is theoretically the five ALAC leadership team members and the RALO chairs, ostensibly it is an open forum and anyone can come along and participate and discuss things with the ALAC members and the RALO leaders.

It's to get an overall view. So, I feel that they're two completely different kinds of meetings and the ALAC is the formal At-Large

meeting, and it's where, if any decision is going to be made, that where they're formalized, but it is an update opportunity for At-Large leaders to present anything that's formally being done within their regions as well. Okay?

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Sorry, I'm [wondering about] the membership of the ALT-PLUS, that's my worry. I think we will take it offline so as not to take time because it's a bit confusing. It's the membership.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes, I think in most working groups, we have members and we have participants and they all are equal, unless we actually have to make a vote. But in this particular instance, it was originally an opportunity for those leaders to get together and to have discussions. So, we have members and participants, as for any other working group. In the discussions, everyone's equal.

In the ALAC, it's only the ALAC members who actually vote, if there is a vote. Okay?

Right. Okay, we're taking it closer to the end time. And again, I'm saying farewell and have a great day, everyone. And thank you very much for coming to the session. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]