

YEŞİM NAZLAR:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO Monthly call taking place on Thursday, 17th of December, 2020 at 6:00 UTC. On our call today on the English channel, we have Satish Babu, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Holly Raiche, Amrita Choudhury, Syuzan Marukhyan, Eranga Samarathna, Lianna Galstyan, Suhaidi Hassan, Nadira Al-Araj, Maureen Hilyard, Shreedeeep Rayamajhi, Namrata Khetrapal, Ali AlMeshal, and Anriette Esterhuysen.

We currently don't have anyone listed on the Chinese channel. We have received apologies from Gopal Tadepalli, Priyatosh Jana, and from Gunela Astbrink. From staff side we have Heidi Ullrich, Gisella Gruber, Siranush Vardanyan, Mikhail Anisimov, and myself Yeşim Nazlar and I'll also be doing call management on today's call.

Our Chinese interpreters are Ray and Sandy for this call and before we get started, just a kind reminder to please state your name before speaking. Not only for the transcription and also for the interpretation purposes as well, please. And with this, I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Satish. Thanks so much.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Yeşim. First of all a warm welcome to the last call of APRALO for the current year. So, I think, some of us have already started going off on vacation but it is good to see that we still have all our leadership team, plus the—really the movers and shakers of APRALO in this call.

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.

So, once again, festive season greetings and let's get started with the call. I see that we have Anriette with us today. Welcome Anriette on behalf of all of us. Thank you for agreeing to speak to us about the IGF and the emerging developments there. And Anriette is joining us from Joburg, where it must be early in the morning, sometime around 7:00.

And with that, we will get into our agenda. As far as membership is concerned, we do not have any pending applications in the pipeline. And we go through the third agenda item which is our policy update and it's over to Evin, Holly and Justine for the routine policy update.

HOLLY RAICHE: Evin, do you want me to start or do you want to start?

YEŞİM NAZLAR: Holly, Evin is not on the call.

HOLLY RAICHE: Okay. Okay. Look, I missed the policy meeting this morning but I can give at least a little bit of an update, look at the recently ratified. I'm happy to take any questions about any of those. The things that are the two big issues—and I'm sorry that Justine isn't on the call. But we're finalizing comments on the subsequent procedures which is in effect looking at the new gTLD program and a range of comments that have been made in various places about, well, suggestions, what might be improved, what might not.

We're working through that and Cheryl can actually talk a lot more about that but that's been a huge topic. The other thing that has been an ongoing topic that we're starting on a new phase, the EPDP which is the policy development process in relation to the GDPR, the General Data Protection Regulation. [There will] be a new group formed to deal with one of the outstanding issues which is legal versus natural people.

And it's about the rules regarding the protection of personal information and whether or not that should apply to legal entities, companies, as well as individuals. It's a very vexed question and so there's a small group and I [inaudible] join that small group to deal with those issues but it's just more of the EPDP Working Group.

The draft operating budget, I'm interim chair of the OFBC and certainly we'll be working on that. Cheryl is also—there as a small group—no. Sorry. We will [inaudible] on that and starting to make comments on that. Domain abuse activity has been an issue that has been on ALAC's agenda for some time.

Right now, this is looking at a very specific issue which is reporting which is one of the issues that we've highlighted over time. Comments are being sought and I think from memory that will be Jonathan who's been taking the lead in that issue. I'm not sure if someone else is assisting that but it's an ongoing issue for ALAC.

So, I don't have anything further to comment unless—Cheryl, do you want to talk about the small subgroup that you're involved in? [And so am I].

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Sure. I can. There's not a great amount to say from an APRALO perspective. The sub aspects of the OFBC stuff that we're doing, we're sifting and sorting from a prioritization point of view with the perspective of Internet end-users. The document's public and it will be reported back to the OFBC at its next meeting which I believe is next week or early next week, I think.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you. Justine, there's no way that you can possibly summarize SubPro. Or do you want to talk about—do you have two or three issues that are primary or given that you're multitasking, can one of those tasks be talking even for two minutes just to sum up where we're up to with SubPro?

JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah, sure. I'll try to do that. Sorry. I have a little bit of a background noise where I am.

HOLLY RAICHE: No, that's fine. Go ahead. Thanks.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Yeah, sorry. I'm multitasking because I'm trying to finish the subsequent procedures brief for GAC at the same time while doing other things. Anyway, yeah, [inaudible] issue in respect of subsequent procedures, deliberations in the Consolidated Policy Working Group call earlier today for me anyway, where we managed to complete

discussions of what At-Large and ALAC should do in respect of the topics that we care about in subsequent procedures.

So, I'm happy to report that we've managed to get through everything that we need to do at this point. Moving on, the final report of the subsequent procedures working—the PDP Working Group is still evolving but it should be locked down pretty soon.

And that will be the version that's going to go out for a consensus call within the subsequent procedures, PDP Working Group. So, members of that Working Group will weigh in on whether they agree or disagree with the hundreds of recommendation and implementation guidance that's contained in the report.

So, we will be doing that as well through myself as a member of that particular Working Group. And what I intend to do is to take the positions derived from CPWG that's recommended to ALAC and apply those to the consensus call in my capacity as a member of the working group.

At the same time, we're in the last motions of preparing a ALAC statement that would be appended—submitted and appended to the final report of the substance and procedures PDP Working Group, basically stating in cases where we disagree with certain recommendations of SubPro, then we would state so and probably some rationale behind it as well.

And in the cases where if a recommendation that we think, well, sorry, inputs that we have provided which have gone into the final report of the subsequent procedures PDP Working Group but at the end of

consensus call does not receive the level of support needed to make it consensus policy and it's something that we had pushed for throughout our participation in the working group, then obviously we're going to make sure that we have a mention of that in our ALAC statement to Sub Pro. Okay. So, that's pretty much it. Thanks.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you, Justine. And all I can say is, there's almost a Herculean effort on your part to get all of this done. It will be coming up shortly and it's just—it will be a very interesting and very thorough report.

If you ... I hesitate to say start the reading because there's a lot of reading to do, but Justine's slides are very good in terms of pointing out what the issue is and then what we said about the issue [at various times] and then asking questions. So it's been very easy to follow along.

And if you are really interested, I can go back and use some of the earliest slides of the CPWG meetings to get some feel for what we're up to. Okay. Thank you. And Satish, I think that's it with me.

SATISH BABU:

Right. Thanks very much, Holly, Cheryl, and Justine for the update. Indeed this is the tremendous work and the slides are of course an excellent way to summarize for people who may not be able to read the full report. So, thanks again for everybody who's contributed to this work, especially Justine. We now go to the agenda item number four which is the ALAC update. Over to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Sorry about that. Just trying to unmute myself. Thank you. Thank you, Satish, and thank you very much to Justine, and Holly, and Cheryl for introducing the CPWG work which is an amazing, amazing amount of work that's been done in that group on behalf of the ALAC. And, I mean, we have already mentioned the work that Justine has done and Cheryl gave an amazing thanks to her in today's session which was really, really lovely.

And nobody works as hard as Justine has done for weeks and weeks and weeks on the SubPro [inaudible] and I'm really—you can be very proud of those three people and their contributions that they make to the CPWG. But just looking at other things that are happening—we're starting to slow down. There's only a few more weeks of the year to go.

So, looking at—Holly mentioned the work that's been done by the operations group and again Cheryl's taken on another load with a small group that is looking at prioritizing a whole pile of recommendations that have been made and just sorting out what is of value to end-users as she said and that we can actually comment on rather than like taking on the whole gamut of recommendations and trying to answer everything.

So, that work is happening in that group. But more specifically within the operations group is the Finance and Budget Subcommittee that is going to rise in prominence. It's these members who—just ordinary members of the Operations Finance Budget Working Group. But at a certain time of the year like now, they come into prominence because this is where RALOs can actually start making bids for additional budget requests, the ABRs that you've often probably have heard about.

And these are like looking at requests that you believe that with some additional funding from ICANN, that we can actually—might involve ourselves in a project or something similar that will have an impact [inaudible] of value, not only to At-Large, but ultimately to ICANN.

So, that you can actually look at—what's something different that we could actually do that would enhance the work of At-Large based on ICANN's mission, that's got to be something that's one of the top criteria. But also on our 2021 work plans that we're devising in relation to our policy work. We've got capacity building and policy. We've got outreach and engagement with—as well as the operational activities that we're involved in.

So, this is a time for you to put your thinking caps on. All ABRs, all additional budget requests must go through your RALOs. So, you've got to discuss it amongst your group first of all, and then those that are accepted by the RALO will go to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee. And they will look at all the RALOs' submissions and they will select the ones that they think has got the best chance of getting some additional budget request—additional budget [inaudible] ICANN finance. So, that's something that—I think it's [over in] January something. Heidi, what's the date, or anyone? It doesn't matter. Okay.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Hi Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

You've got a few weeks to actually be working on—Heidi, please.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah. Hi, Maureen. Yeah. So, again for At-Large, there's a slightly different process. So, the key deadline for you in your RALOs is the 8th of January. That's the date that it needs to be submitted to staff but before that, it needs to go to your RALO leadership and be endorsed or approved there. And then it goes again through the Finance and Budget Subcommittee and to the ALAC, and then it will be submitted to the finance team within ICANN. Thank you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Okay. Thank you very much for that. There's so many dates going out of my brain at the moment. But the other thing that we've actually been working on, of course, is ICANN 70. I mean, I know it's in March, but still, we've got to start. If anyone engaged in the ICANN meeting survey, you'll note from what was experienced this year.

And if you've seen the new proposed schedule, it's a lot more condensed but this is only a proposal at the moment. So, what we did today was a bit of brainstorming about what we might possibly do and for ICANN 70 but watch this space. What I really would like you to do over the next few weeks is just to sit back and have a break.

I think that it's been such a busy year that—I mean, we've all felt the pressures, not only of what we're doing within ICANN but pressures that we're experiencing in our own personal lives. We're in the midst of all this pandemic and I really hope that you can all—all that I can wish you is that you have a happy, healthy, and safe holiday, and best wishes for [inaudible] all of us. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Maureen. Thanks very much for that. I see Justine's hand up. Justine, you go ahead.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yes. Thanks. Sorry. I was typing something in the chat. Anyway, back to the request for ABR, the APRALO deadlines would be the 1st of January. The APRALO leadership team has asked for any annual budget requests—I'm sorry, additional budget requests by any members of the RALO to be submitted to the APAC discussion list by 1st of January 23:59 UTC so that there is an opportunity for endorsement by the RALO and also consideration by the leadership team before any is submitted to staff for the purposes of consideration, [onward] consideration by the FBSC. Thanks. I'll put a note in the chat as well. Thanks.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Justine, for that comment. [That's correct,] we need some time to assess the project before we can decide on it. So, that's why the deadline is slightly ahead of the ALAC deadline. Are there any other questions from anybody on any of these matters? Yes, Holly. Please go ahead.

HOLLY RAICHE: Just a suggestion, given that we're fast approaching a deadline for submissions for the ABRs, Heidi or Gisella, could you put in the chat, a link to the criteria that we will be looking at with some suggestions because if we're going to—the leadership is going to be using criteria

which it will be, obviously, then for all submissions will be very helpful for people who are wanting to make additional budget requests could have in front of them both the timeline and the criteria so that it will assist in making those submissions. I'd be very grateful for that. And I think Heidi is doing that. Thank you very much, Heidi.

HEIDI ULLRICH: You're very welcome. [Inaudible]. Satish, just really quickly, if I may, just to clarify.

SATISH BABU: Yes. Go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you, Satish. So, there are two sets of—if you can call them criteria or principles. Within this workspace that I put the link in, there are the ICANN principles that's put in the section called material information from ICANN. So, those are the ones that they will be looking at that you need.

In addition, there are At-Large criteria that need to be considered when just planning a proposal. And obviously the leadership team will be looking at that, at those criteria as well when submitting or when reviewing the proposal. Thank you very much.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you, Heidi.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Heidi and Holly, for more clarification on the criteria for evaluation. With that, we now move on to the—Justine, is that a new hand?

JUSTINE CHEW: Yes. Just very quickly. I did send out a notice on all the information needed to do up an ABR to the APAC discussion list. I think it was—I can't remember. 12th of December, I think it was. So, I'm happy to reforward that again but I'm looking for the archive link and I will find it and post it in the chat. Thanks.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Justine. We now move on to something that we've been all looking forward to. This is a short presentation by Anriette, who is the Chair of the IGF MAG, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group. Once again, on behalf of all of us, I'd like to thank Anriette for joining this call. She has been kind enough not only to say yes to APRALO but also to other activities for INSIG and APSIG, so she had actually joined us for the [inaugural.] So, over to you, Anriette and I'm sure some of us will have some questions so you have 15 minutes for your presentation and you'll take question and answers for five minutes.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: Thanks, Satish. I'm here. Just the usual juggling of presentations. So, let me just share my screen. If you can enable that for me, please. And I'll switch my camera off.

SATISH BABU: Staff, can you please enable screen sharing?

YEŞİM NAZLAR: She should be able to share a screen. Let me stop what I'm sharing.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: It's not working, but should I just go ahead, Satish, without the screen?

SATISH BABU: Maybe one more time. If you can't get it going, then of course you can go ahead. The slides will be very useful for us.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: It still says, host has disabled participant sharing. So, maybe you need to make me a co-host.

SATISH BABU: Yeah.

YEŞİM NAZLAR: Anriette, sorry for interrupting but you are already a co-host at my end.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: That's interesting. I'm not sure why I can't share it in that case. [Inaudible] co-host.

YEŞİM NAZLAR: Let's try to withdraw your co-host rights and then make you back again. Okay. Now you're a guest. Let's try once again. Make co-host. Okay. Could you please retry?

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: I am retrying and I'm still getting the Zoom message, host has disabled participant screen sharing. So, why don't I just go ahead, Satish, and [inaudible].

SATISH BABU: Yeah. Please go ahead.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: I'll share this with you later on. So, I want to start ... so just to introduce myself. I have been introduced but just briefly to everyone. My name is Anriette Esterhuysen. I'm currently the Chair of the Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group. And it's a real pleasure for me to be in the school with you all.

It's just such a pleasure because in fact, I got to know ICANN—I've been an ICANN fellow traveler for a long time. But when I served on NomCom on behalf of NCUC, I got to know ICANN so much better and I think

developed a much deeper appreciation for the work of ICANN through my NomCom role. And I miss not having had much contact with ICANN [inaudible].

So, thank you very much to ICANN and for support of the IGF to all of you for your participation. In fact, many of the people in this call—and I'm going to name Cheryl, but she's not the only one. I would see them part of IGF sessions at really weird times of the day.

And I think I do want to apologize or acknowledge that while we try to make the virtual IGF 2020 time zone inclusive, I think the one time zone that really did suffer was the Eastern Pacific, Asia Pacific region, that was not easy for you and so thanks for participating.

So, this IGF, the first virtual IGF, learned a lot from ICANN and ICANN's attempt to work inclusively not just with your normal work processes, but also with the ICANN meetings. And I think that was quite useful for us. I think we also learned a lot from the national and regional IGF community because by the time the global IGF had taken place, many of these other regional IGFs, including the Asia Pacific IGF, had taken place virtually.

SATISH BABU: Anriette, sorry to interrupt. Can you turn on your camera so that we can at least see you?

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: Okay. I'll do that. I'll do that.

[HOLLY RAICHE:] And we should be able as well to see her.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: Okay. Just give me a second. Okay. Now you can see me.

SATISH BABU: Right. Thanks for that.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: So, this did turn out to be actually a very inclusive IGF. It was a big IGF, in the sense that there were over 6,000 registrations. And if we counted YouTube views of sessions, those were going over 20,000. And I think what we did do, and what we learned from this process is that the normal IGF remote participation is simply not good enough.

And that when we had to create a level playing field for everyone, we actually ended up having a more inclusive IGF. And we had participants from 173 countries. And one of the most exciting things was that, of the total number of IGF participants, 59% were newcomers.

And that just shows what happens when you have a more inclusive process that more people join. Gender balance was also very good. And I'll share the slides with you that the secretariat have prepared that gives the breakdown by region. And Asia-Pacific made up 17% of participants. So, there, I think, it could have been better and I think the

time zone selection made a difference. And I think Africa, I'm glad was 15%.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: I think we saw the challenge of getting more developing country and global south participation in the IGF remains. And I think you have similar challenges in ICANN. But what I really wanted to talk to you about today is the IGF outputs, the policy messages and recommendations that emerge from the IGF, because I think some of them will be relevant to you in your ICANN capacity and many of them will be relevant or of interest to you in your day jobs, if you have time for day jobs.

So, the four themes that this year's IGF looked at were: data, environment, inclusion, and trust. There was a fifth theme—which is really digital cooperation—and that speaks to the UN Secretary-General's broader initiative to build this roadmap for more digital cooperation of which Internet governance is a big part—not the only part. And if you go to the IGF website, if you click on IGF2020, you will find the output. And there are lots of different outputs but the one that I recommend you look at would be the thematic messages. These are the kind of policy insights that emerge from all the discussions at the IGF.

Under the theme of data—I'm just going to give you the headlines. Very strong message that data collection has to benefit people. And to do that, we need better data sets. These data sets need to be compiled without bias, without gender bias, or geographic bias or other forms of bias, and these data sets need to be robust and [safe]. Otherwise, we actually can not make effective use of them, for whatever purpose it is.

Content, that was the other issue that stood out as a major issue—and I know ICANN has dealt those in your GDPR work.

And then the other important point I think is the connection between Internet connectivity and enabling big data and new technology. Without sufficient bandwidth, regions of the world that need to benefit from big data analysis and application simply can't. So, the connection between building infrastructure and the effective use of data for good should never be forgotten. And the next headline point on this data was the need for innovation in data policy. I think to a large extent the world has become stuck on personal data protection. But there's much more to innovation in data than just personal data protection. There are ideas of self-determination of data. The idea of non-personal data; India, for example, has a whole process of looking at the use of non-personal data. And Switzerland has in fact done a policy paper on digital self-determination, which looks at making citizens empowered about decisions about how their data is used. So, I think that's such an interesting thing and I think if ICANN is going to come up with innovative ideas on how to deal with the data that is used in the whole DNS system, I think that could also become useful for other types of data.

On environment—the first time this year that the IGF is looking at environment. And I think it's created a bit of a challenge for some stakeholders, but I also think it's brought people together because I think climate change is affecting people and there's just more recognition of the impact of climate change. So, you'll find under the outcomes on environment, looking at reduction of impact of digital technology. In fact, the Internet and servers are now a greater

contributor to global warming than the airline industry. And that does [place] a certain burden on them. But they're also looking at how these technologies can be used creatively to build more resilient, and more inclusive economy.

Under the inclusion theme—and that's an old theme for the IGF, and I think a theme that sadly does remain challenging because the divide between those that have meaningful access and that don't have—it's reducing but it's reducing very slowly. And you'll find their recommendations on innovative funding models, focusing on gender divide, looking at accessibility, and ensuring that all innovation, all new investment in tech is accessible by design. Multilingualism and cultural diversity—which I know is something that ICANN has done a lot on—also stood out as being essential. So, it's not just enough to build the pipes and have the infrastructure. Policies at all stakeholder level, be it government or multi-stakeholder or even community level needs to factor these other dimensions of the inclusion into their processes. Online education and digital skills also stood out as important. And so, there's much more there actually on inclusion. I won't tell you more because there's too much.

But then the final theme was trust this year and the need for a stability and resilient Internet stood out very starkly this year as a result of the pandemic. So, on the one hand, there was more recognition of the need for the Internet, but on the other hand, I think there also was more recognition of a need to have protected, secure infrastructure that is stable. This is a responsibility that exists at all levels. At the levels of states, but also at the level of individual users, and that the whole idea of a culture of cybersecurity needs to involve capacity building,

education and training, and partnership. This notion that governments have to be responsible for creating cybersecurity—and that is a conversation which only they should be part of—I think was really effectively debunked by all the conversations on security and trust at the IGF. So, when we talk about cybersecurity we are talking—and when we talk about trust—we’re talking about a safe and secure online space for everyone. I think I will leave it at that; there’s much more on trust and looking at the mechanisms that we need, the type of capacity building, the need for government to have greater capacity and understanding what it means to have a trusted environment for Internet.

And I think I’ll just leave it at that—I think now for everyone’s information—I think what is important from our perspective is that stakeholders such as yourselves look at those outputs. And that you look at them through a critical lens of utility. Are they useful to you? Are we packaging them in a way that makes the richness of the discussion and the diversity of the views that are part of those IGF sessions, that makes it useful to you and that generates more discussion? So, I think look at those outputs, use them. If they’re not useful, tell us that they aren’t useful and make suggestions as to how we can make them more useful.

The next step in the IGF process is going to be to put out a public call for input on IGF2020, feedback on what worked, what didn’t work, and what we should do differently. And then also, the next thing will be January; there’ll be a call for issues. Broadly, the idea is that—and I think there’s a strong feeling—that the IGF needs to be more focused. That it works very well as a large inclusive platform, but if it has to have

more influence and more impact, it also needs to narrow at least some of the issues it deals with so that there's more depth in the discussion of those issues. And what we'll be doing is asking the community to tell us what those issues are that they would like us to hone in on and engage in more depth.

So, the new MAG has started working. I'm glad to see we have new members—I don't know if Joyce Chen is involved in APRALO. We had to say goodbye sadly to some of our fantastic MAG members from your region such as Jennifer, but we have new ones. And we look forward to doing justice to the Asia Pacific region because it's just such a significant region in the Internet as a whole. And I hope that we can respect that and respond to that in the IGF and again partner with the Asia Pacific regional IGF. So, any questions? I'm going to start looking at the chat now. I'm giving back to you Satish, at this point, while I look for relevant comments in the chat. And I'm happy to answer any questions.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks so much, Anriette. The floor is now open for questions. If anybody would like to raise it with me, either paste it in the chat or raise your hand. Justine, please go ahead.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Thank you. Hi Anriette, so good to see you.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN:

Hi, Justine.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Thanks for coming and sharing updates on the IGF with us. I had a question regarding some of the timelines that you mentioned about a process in January, I believe, where you'd be looking, or IGF, there would be a call for issues and something along those lines. Could you repeat or elaborate more on dates? The reason I ask is because the APRALO is also looking at doing a survey to ascertain what might be the hot topics for our region. So, I think there could be some overlap in that. Thanks.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN:

That would be ideal, Justine. Okay, so, the two timelines is that today or tomorrow the taking stock call will go out. So, that's where we ask for feedback on the 2020 IGF. The call for issues will go out in early January, with a deadline of around 31 January. It might be a few days longer, but the real deadline is that the first MAG meeting will take place at the end of the first week of February. So, that's why essentially if we can get that feedback from you on an issue by the end of January, that then gives us enough time to synthesize and then process that, and at the first open consultation and MAG Meeting in February, we can then make decisions. So, if you are going to do the survey, ideally if you can get us the results by the end of January, that's perfect. If you need a few more days, tell us. But it can't be a lot more.

And then secondly, I think it would also be valuable if you can identify a representative to participate in that open consultation and present the issues that emerge from your internal process. So, I hope that timeline

works for you. I know it's not a great timeline, especially for the Southern Hemisphere, because people are on holiday. But there's also a lot of flexibility. So, if you need a slight extension of deadline, the secretariat will probably hate me for saying this, but I also know that they are very open to accommodating stakeholders if at all possible.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Anriette. I have actually two questions. I'll raise the first one and if there is time, we'll get to the second one. This is about the IGF Plus label that was introduced lately. And we are aware that this means global digital cooperation or [even] enhanced cooperation. But given the geopolitics of IGF's participants, especially some of the countries, do you think you can move beyond that common minimum program? Can you really push some of the agendas like digital human rights or digital inclusion [beyond a point] given the conflicting policies that pull in different directions?

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN:

Satish, you broke up a little bit at the end. Just repeat that last question, that one about, "Do I think it's really..."

SATISH BABU:

Yeah, so what I was saying was, do you think that you can go beyond a common minimum approach? And really push the boundaries as far as some of the issues like digital human rights, etc.?

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: I think it's a complex question actually and I'll probably give it a yes or no answer. But let me start just by talking a little bit about—before I go back to your question—just to talk about the digital cooperation process. So, I'm sure most of you know about this, it emerged first from the high-level panel on digital cooperation that the UN Secretary-General convened a few years ago. Previous ICANN CEO, Fadi, was a member of that panel. That panel produced a very huge complex report which included different models for cooperation and the IGF was just one of those—it was the IGF Plus model—but there was generally quite a lot of support for that.

This year, 2020, the UN Secretary-General in June published something called the *Roadmap for Digital Cooperation*. That was a narrower document and it developed eight action areas ranging from connectivity, to ORG, to human rights. This is where Satish's question comes in, to human rights, to artificial intelligence, to the architecture for digital cooperation which is really where ICANN and the IGF [inaudible] institutions. I think it is very ambitious, Satish. I think it is very difficult to have effective cooperation when you're not dealing with concrete issues and problems. But it can be done, I think there's some area where we've made so much progress.

Take something like Human Rights for example. Five years ago—let me say ten years ago—to talk about the application of Human Rights in a domain name development in the Internet and the IGF was very difficult. Now I think we have a more concrete understanding of which specific aspects of human rights relate to our work. Like protection of privacy for example. So, I think that provided that there is always a willingness to not just look at generality and feel-good statements about

human rights is important. Now provided we are as a community, willing to drill down to the specifics, I think we can make progress.

Now one specific challenge that I want to highlight from my perspective on the UN Secretary-General's digital cooperation process is the technical community needs to be more involved. So, one of the things I would like to do in 2021, and I've already mentioned this in conversation with some people in ICANN and in ISOC is to have some conversations specifically with the NROs, with ICANN, and with others in the technical community on this digital cooperation process and what it means for you. I think that's a conversation that has not been held sufficiently. And I then I think maybe at that level one can be effective, Satish. I don't think you can cover all those things at the same time; achieve cooperation on all of those issues but I think if you tackle them in a more specific way, but make sure that you tackle them in an inclusive way, I think that's important. And I'm not sure if I'm answering your question but I would say that even if the IGF goes more narrow in terms of the number of topics; I don't think it can afford to go more narrow in terms of the diversity of voices and experiences that it brings into the conversation about those few topics.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Anriette. That was very useful because there is potential—there is also a lot of challenges and that is a very exciting development for us as we look forward to the future. So, I'd like to once again thank you on behalf of all of us at APRALO. And on behalf of our community, we'd like to wish you Happy Holidays and a great year ahead as the IGF chair.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: Thanks very much, Satish. And thanks, everyone. And I look forward to the input from APRALO. And the IGF has to remain a platform that adds value to people like yourselves. So, that's really important. So, getting your feedback is something we really need. Looking forward to a [inaudible] year and Happy Holidays to all of you, as well. Bye-bye, everyone.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, very much. And bye. So, we see that Leon had actually joined us. Welcome, Leon. Would you like to talk for a couple of minutes?

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Satish. Yes, I wanted to join because as you know, I try to join as often as possible to the APRALO calls. And I wasn't able to join the last one, so I didn't want to miss the last call of the year. So, well, just to deliver a brief message on behalf of the Board—on behalf of Maarten as the chair of the Board—thanking everyone for their work throughout this year. We know that this has been a different year in many ways and I always say that the At-Large community work is always outstanding, but this year it has been extraordinary. And, I have to say that the At-Large community has been up to the challenge and has been—as I said not only outstanding but extraordinary in the way you have followed these trying times and the way that you have delivered on the work that you do and contributing to ICANN's mission. As you know, we are all facing very difficult circumstances but of course, being

all volunteers in this part of our community, it takes quite much to actually be able to contribute in a [inaudible]. And I think that the way that everyone in the At-Large community, and especially in the Asia Pacific region, has been again extraordinary. So, please receive this message on behalf of the Board and Maarten with our gratitude and thankfulness for everything that you have done throughout this year. We really wish everyone the best of holiday seasons in any way that you celebrate, well we know we are a very diverse community and may have different ways in which we celebrate the end of the year or the calendar year, at least. And we want to wish everyone the best of holiday seasons, to wish everyone to be well, to stay healthy, to stay safe, and we really look forward to the coming year and we hope that 2021 will be a better year for everyone in many ways. And hopefully, we will be able to resume normality and to begin meeting face to face again.

And on that end, you may be aware that there has been an ongoing effort of consultation between Org, the Board, and the wider community and we have been consulting with the larger community on the different ways in which we can resume normality and have a phased approach in going back to face-to-face meetings. We received feedback of different parts of the community to this first phase of interaction and this feedback is being analyzed and of course incorporated into the phased approach to going back to face-to-face meetings. So, I want to thank everyone else for filling in the survey, for providing answers to the different questions that were posed to you and encourage you to continue to provide this feedback. The only way we can have a sensible plan to try to go back to normal as soon as possible is with the input that you can provide. So, again I want to thank everyone who

contributed to this effort and tell you that we are working on trying to get us all back to normal as soon as possible.

Last, but not least, I want to wish again, Cheryl, a Happy Birthday. I know that I wished her a Happy Birthday three days in advance, then I wished her a happy birthday on the day that it was her birthday and now I believe It's already past her birthday where she is. So, happy birthday, Cheryl, and again may everyone have a healthy, peaceful, and sweet holiday season wherever you are and according to whatever traditions you have. So, thank you very much, and back to you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you very much, Leon, first for joining us on this call in what must have been a difficult time zone, but also for the really appreciative message from the Board. We would like to share our deep gratitude to the Board, please communicate to Maarten and Board our thanks and also wishing the Board very happy festive season and holidays ahead. Thank you very much.

We now move on to the NomCom update. Over to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Satish. Amrita here. So, we had our initial call last week at the NomCom, on the onboarding session. And for this year we were discussing the various sub-committees and who all would be interested in the others. In terms of schedule option, the ICANN Board members came and shared their overview on their expectations from the new candidates and what they were looking for. And the timeline based on

this [inaudible] aggressive schedule is currently being discussed wherein the idea is to give more time for the application process, but to go more aggressive on the soft dive, the deep dive and the winnowing process. The NomCom secretariat is expected to come up with more details on this—hopefully by this week or perhaps next week—to share it to the public along with the positions which would be opening up.

The application period is expected to open up somewhere around the mid of January and for a two-month period. That is how it is looking, but we still need to see how it finalizes. And the application sub-committee has started looking at the application to finalize it at this point of time. So, that's all from me on the NomCom front. I know many people are going away on your holidays but for the APRALO newsletter, in case your ALS or you as an individual member have done something, please do send me and the staff the update, preferably by this week or by the 20th, so that we can assimilate it. And while I would be sending out a mail to the APRALO leadership, but I would like to have a few lines from you on how you look at the next year from APRALO's perspective. Thank you so much.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Amrita, for the updates on NomCom as well as the newsletter. We have about a minute left. Does anybody want to make any last comments or questions? If not, we know that our next meeting is on the 21st of January. And until then I'd like to wish you all, once again, a very festive Holiday Season in wherever we are from that you are celebrating. And with that, we are adjourning this meeting. Back to you, Yeşim for closing the meeting.

YEŞİM NAZLAR: Thanks so much, Satish. Actually, we have a very short video that we would like to display if that's okay for you.

SATISH BABU: Yep, please go ahead.

YEŞİM NAZLAR: And this was it. Thank you all very much for joining the last call of the year. And wishing you all a Happy New Year and see you all in 2021. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye-bye.

SATISH BABU: Thank you and bye-bye.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Happy Holidays everyone. Thank you. Bye -bye.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Happy Holidays everyone. Bye-bye.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Goodbye for all.] Happy Holidays.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]
