CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. Welcome to the AFRALO FY21 outreach and engagement call on Thursday the 17th of December 2020 at 19:00 UTC.

On the call today on the English channel we have Bram Fudzulani, Abdulkarim Oloyede, Jules Nizeyimana, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Daniel Nanghaka, and Seun Ojedeji has just joined as well.

On the French channel, we have Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong. From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco, Yaovi Atohoun, and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management. Our French interpreters for today are Isabelle and Camila. If I could please remind everyone to state their name when taking the floor for the transcription purposes and also so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels, and also keep your microphones muted when not speaking to prevent any background noise. Thank you very much, and with this, I turn the call over to you, Bram.

BRAM FUDZULANI:

Thank you so much for the welcome remarks. And welcome everyone else on the call. I recognize the presence of Yaovi from our global stakeholder engagement, Seun, the secretariat of AFRALO.

Just to quickly go into the purpose of the call, it's specifically to agree—if you look at our outreach and engagement strategy for AFRALO, it has specific key areas that we would like to focus on. I don't know if you can share the documents, Silvia. Yes, thank you. So when the drafting of the

document was being made, there were a number of volunteers that volunteered to help with specific tasks.

So if you're looking at the document, you realize that there are some specific key areas that need or have lead in those key deliverables. So the idea of this call was to meet all the identified lead and then strategize on how we're going to operationalize our strategy key points. That's why we thought maybe we needed to meet and discuss and agree. Also, we'll hear maybe from Yaovi.

In our last call, there was a discussion in terms of looking at the new norms of doing business now, is that everything has gone virtual, online. So there was a request that maybe we needed to have a Zoom account that would help us also with our initiatives and our outreach and engagement activities within the region and country level.

So maybe before I go into much details, we could start by looking at the first task, which basically in our strategies is to increase the number of AFRALO members who are deeply engaged in At-Large activities, including ALAC and ICANN policy advice.

Now, this is definitely cutting across a number of activities, but if you look at the document, it has a lead under the teams. So the idea is maybe just to hear from Bukola, if you're on the call, to share ideas on how do you think we can operationalize this key deliverable strategy item. So maybe I can give the floor to you to share your insights, and then we will jump on to others on the call. Thank you so much.

BUKOLA ORONTI: Thank you, Bram, for the insight. What I'm thinking that we could do along those lines is [inaudible] create more awareness around policy discussion for members, because there are some discussions [that members] are not aware of, [inaudible] [not getting engaged, so we create no awareness] around most of these discussions. It also suggests new people from AFRALO that would probably get on Board and be more involved in this activity.

[Majorly,] I believe getting more information across to our members is another way of getting people interested in what is going on, so we could also [inaudible] how these policies affect AFRALO. That's what I can say [off my head] right now. And I'm sure other members of the team can add one or two things to contribute on how we can get this working. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Bukola. I think those are very great points in terms of increasing our engagement of members by 20% within the AFRALO. Like I had already pointed out, I think we have on the call Yaovi who may be in terms of—if there are any other ways in which we can collaborate with this office, definitely, it'll help us with some of these items. Then obviously, as a lead, feel free to also highlight those kind of important aspects.

But otherwise, I think there was a discussion in our last call, and a suggestion that maybe as a way of tracking down some of these engagement activities, we may want to have another call. I think that's the kickoff, if I'm not mistaken, column to help us keep track if we have

been able to execute some of these items. So maybe as a lead, this would be one other aspect to look at when we're looking at the key performance indicators for our activities that we have outlined.

I know we have other members of the team on the call. Maybe you can share your insights for correlation of ideas which we can all agree and set up for.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Hi Bram. I'm sorry for interrupting. We have three hands up. The first one to speak is Seun, then Daniel, then Chokri.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. I think on the Google docs, which is on the screen right now, if we scroll down in terms of the discussion notes, that part is about generating a list of hot topics. I think we went through that process in 20018, and I think that if we try to focus on that task, we will be achieving a lot of the bullet points that we have before this indirectly. So I just want to say I'm in agreement with what Daniel is saying on his comment, on this particular item, and I think that if the lead on this one and the entire team on this particular item can focus on actually trying

to generate a list of hot topics and trying to focus on those topics, we would actually be indirectly achieving the other things that we have listed under general notes for item one.

So I would suggest that we think around how to kick off the process to generating the list of hot topics, because the ones that we had in 2018, obviously, a lot of events have happened and some of them are already [inaudible]. Some of those hot topics that we'll now come up with, of course, some of them would not be unique to us in the region. At some point in time, there may be need to have capacity building webinars on them. And the good thing is I'm seeing for the membership of the team in this strategy number one, I see that Hadia for instance is one of the members who is going to be kind of significantly involved in the aspect of capacity building, and I'm seeing Tijani as well.

So I think that if we focus on hot topics for this one, we would be achieving a lot in terms of all the things that we put on that participation within this strategy item. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Seun, for the wonderful comment. There was a hand also from Daniel. Please go ahead.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: I'd like to just simply highlight on the process on engagement. The biggest challenge that we have as AFRALO in the ICANN policy development process, participation and engagement, is that there's lack

or inadequate knowledge regarding these policies that are currently being discussed.

So based on the suggestion that I have, if we can outline or collaborate together with the Capacity Building Working Group in that specifically for AFRALO, the key policy issues that are currently being discussed be scheduled for probably monthly topics whereby awareness is created that the members of AFRALO can gain knowledge on the respective policies that are being discussed, because some of these topics can be a little bit complex and you'll find that we as AFRALO members would prefer being in sub-working groups or working groups that may seem a little bit easier, but not dive into the technical ones.

For example, like how many AFRALO members are participating in SubPro working group? How many are participating in for instance the WHOIS? An example is that through the time when we had the GNSO RDS, I was the only member of AFRALO in that working group, and the participation was a little bit good, but how many of us are there?

So this brings in the need to be able to enhance knowledge and capacity of the AFRALO community to be able to understand this ICANN policy that are being discussed. I believe that once they understand, then you shall be able to have at least an enriched participation and this'll lead to increase [inaudible] 20%. Those are my remarks. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you so much, Daniel. I think those are very key, and I think those are pain points, you've rightly put it, that if we were to address proper inclusion and participation from the AFRALO, then definitely, we have to

find a way of—I don't know whether to call it deluge. Some of the key aspects of what is happening within the ICANN policy development process and present them to our communities in a way that they can grasp this and easily take lead in some of this composition. Chokri, you have the floor, please. Thank you.

CHOKRI BEN ROMDHANE: Thank you, Bram. I somehow totally agree with Seun, and I think that the best way to engage a community member or AFRALO community member is to make some action and to try to involve them in this action, the idea of based on some hot topics or based on some capacity building action, as mentioned by Daniel. But I think that using capacity building or learning methods always makes people more or less passive. So I think the idea to make some action and try to engage our community [deeper with this] action, it would be very useful. This, we can join to some mentorship that will be provided by some AFRALO leader. It would be very helpful for community.

But the main thing is that we have to find a way how to engage our community in some specific action and achievable action, and using this, we can make a lot of [inaudible] for community members. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you so much, Chokri, for that comment. I see most of the conversation is leaning towards that we need to bring back the hot topics, I don't know, working group to come up with the current hot topics within ICANN, but also to be able to develop the content itself that we can then use.

But I want to agree with Chokri also. I think as the outreach and engagement team, we have to be able to understand the community that we're dealing with and then be able to present the content that we feel is more relevant to the community for them to be able to understand the activities of ICANN policy development process, to easily onboard them, if you want to call it, in the policy development process. And that is, to be able to channel these hot topics in a way that is more relevant to the activities.

For example, if the target group in our local setting are dealing with the target group of network operators, then I think obviously, the context of the hot topics within ICANN that would appeal more to that kind of a grouping should help us to easily turn them into an interested group of members within the AFRALO.

So my appeal maybe is to say the conversation is, should we revive the same committee of 2018 that was working on the AFRALO hot topics?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Bram, we have a few hands up.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Yes. Please go ahead, Abdul, then we'll come to Daniel.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you very much. I just wanted to say that, yes, it might be a good idea for us to reactivate the hot topic working group, but I just wanted to find out what is going to be the aim, because at the time, [inaudible]

2018 [inaudible] hot topic working group, when the working group was actually organizing some workshops, some discussions, the ALAC was not actually organizing some of those webinars at that time. But at this point in time, I think At-Large is actually organizing a lot of webinars. I think we've had webinars in the last six months almost on a monthly basis.

So I want us to look at it critically, what is going to be the end result of if we're going to organize webinars regarding those hot topics or why do we need those hot topics. I don't mind to continue to serve on the hot topics working group, but I just want us to look at this critically and see if it's actually meeting our demands. Thank you.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Next we have Abdeldjalil on French.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you very much. Thank you, Bram. I concur with what Chokri said and with what [inaudible] said as well. I think we could perhaps once again restart our work within the hot topics working group with all members from ALSes and from unaffiliated individual members, so we should organize an activity with them to define what their interests are from what At-Large is discussing. So, what are the different working groups? That's [inaudible] because we speak of their participation and engagement in policy working groups, but I think that will depend on the members of the working group.

So maybe we should put together a webinar where we will let them know which working groups are in [existence, the] Social Media Working Group, the Capacity Building Working Group, etc., so that they're aware of the groups that exist, which should be well defined, and that would allow them to define which of the working groups interest them and where they would like to participate to work with [inaudible] strategy working group for instance, they could also decide to get involved, but if they don't even know that the group is active, they wouldn't be able. So we should start perhaps with one working group [per member.] We should encourage them to join at least one working group so that the African community within ICANN be stronger. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Abdeldjalil. There is a hand from Daniel. Please go ahead. Thank you.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Thank you very much, Bram. Let me first thank Heidi for posting that link of At-Large ALAC priority areas for FY2021. That at least gives us an insight into what we would expect. But I'd like to suggest that if we can put a process of identification of the key hot topics, how would I do this? One is [inaudible] list out all the respective current policy working groups that are taking place into at least one document. Then put out a survey to the members of the community to identify key topics or key policies that they would want to get involved in where in case they lack adequate knowledge, then we can organize these topics in terms of

webinars whereby the members will be encouraged to participate in them such that they have adequate knowledge in that respective policy that is being discussed, and then once there, then we'll lure then to join the working group.

I'd like to give an example. I have seen the way Abdeldjalil has been coming up and understanding the ICANN policy development process. One, he was able to identify an interest in the respective working group. I'll give an example. He has been observing the ATRT3 work that has been going on, and so he has at least knowledge of how the deliberations are going on.

So that is like the first step. If they can come in and observe, learn from there, then we can begin to at least put up their hands and make substantive contributions, because some of these policy discussions may affect Africa indirectly or directly. But how do we as Africa position ourselves in the policy discussion? How do we position ourselves to identify the ICANN legitimacy issues that are currently being discussed?

I think the very first thing would be to begin to interest them, to interest the community into the key topics or the key policy issues that are currently being discussed. Then two, go through training and capacity building through this awesome mentorship process.

I'll give another example here. When I joined ICANN, I got a lot of support from Tijani and Aziz who [worked so close] in making me understand the way the process works. And that would be a clear example of what you call mentorship. And from there, now the active participation comes in with guidance whereby one on one or one on

three or one on two begins to guide the members respectively to begin answering questions regarding to what is being discussed in the deliberation of these policies.

Then three, when we organize this document on what the general community must [do to] understand on how our role and participation is happening in reference to the current issues that are being discussed. How is this going to be done?

This will be done through presentation of key deliverables that are being discussed at the working group level to the AFRALO community. [inaudible] we are embracing the community to understand what is being discussed regarding to the policies that are undergoing deliberation. And through there, we shall have at least a general input into all that is happening within the respective policy.

And definitely, let's try to maintain a tool of communication whereby African position is being put forward. And this is being done through like ICANN readouts, but that's not adequate enough, because the readout focuses on only one topic, but there are very many other issues which may be of significance to the region.

So this can be discussed in different [surveys] whereby the positions are clearly outlined both to the ALAC and then to the community, and then in the global perspective. And I think through that, we can have an enhanced engagement, because knowledge has been achieved, capacity building is going on, and then participation is going on.

And definitely, we shall now come to the main key thing, which is outreach. And this is where we put a strategy or a way in which the ALS

community, the members of the respective ALSes begin to know or understand the discussions that are taking place within the ICANN At-Large. Because we haven't seen so much of the ALS community getting engaged in the discussions, unless otherwise there is an input that has been called upon whereby the general public has to comment.

But I think this is a point where we have to step a little bit forward to develop a mechanism of having active participation that drills down to the bottom creating engagement and awareness about these key issues, because these active members in the policy discussions will then turn out to become ambassadors of the ICANN policy processes back down into the root of their communities. [What I mean, some of them even won't understand Internet standards.] Some of them won't understand DNS abuse. Some of them won't understand DOH.

So I think that this gives a group hierarchy on how we can achieve a step by step process, is through interest. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you so much, Daniel. That was a lengthy and very fruitful, I think—there are a lot of proposals in there that I think could really work with the community that we're working with. I'll recognize Heidi, and then we'll go to Sarah. Thank you.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Thank you very much, Bram, and thank you for organizing this really useful call. I'm going to just structure my intervention in three parts. The first one is on the hot topics. That is just to let you know that

AFRALO is the only RALO that has completed their hot topics from the project that was initiated about four years ago, so you're well in advance there, and again, that document, if you take a look at it, you look through the topics that were identified, they were intended to be long-term.

So this document is meant to be more of a long-term document with the overall big ideas and issues that Africa, AFRALO would like to implement. So I don't know if it's urgent to update that piece at the moment, because again, as I mentioned, you're the first RALO to have that completed and so you're ahead of the game right now on that.

What I would suggest that you might wish to use instead is this At-Large 2021 workplan. No, sorry, we'll just stick with this. This one, you'll see that these are topics that I think are still really relevant for AFRALO. Promoting DNSSEC implementation. I think that's really key. You've got the new gTLDs and geographic names.

Again, you'll see that these are long. RDS and WHOIS, big topics. So you'll see that these are still, I think, really relevant for AFRALO. So that one actually has just come out. The ATRT report has just come out, the Board approved it, so that's now being implemented, big issue. So on and on. You'll see that these are more long-term issues.

So if we go to the At-Large work program for 2021, this is something that the At-Large leadership team, including Daniel, including your ALAC leaders develops with Maureen. And again, this sets out what the post-ATLAS work has been in those three tracks. Again, three tracks of policy, outreach and engagement, which includes capacity building, and

operations. So this is really the framework that ALAC and At-Large are now using in all of their work, and it just is a way that helps you think about where your work should take place.

So this is maybe an area to focus on because it talks about policy issues, the various groups working on that. It talks about the capacity building. And at the At-Large level, the capacity building webinars group is planning a series of 2021 webinars, including skill building, including how to chair a meeting, how to run a meeting, skills, but also knowledge about ICANN, technical issues for example, within the ICANN remit. So these are areas that will benefit AFRALO as well.

Operations are more with finance and additional budget requests. I'll come to that in just a moment. So coming back to this workplan, it might be useful for you to—what I call the three Cs, communication, collaboration and coordination.

So collaboration is to work with the other RALOs, work with your ALSes on this, communication to make sure your ALAC members and ALSes are aware of your work, and the coordination is to work with the GSE, Yaovi and his team, what they're doing and their strategy for fiscal year 21, and [inaudible] for fiscal year 22, starting on 1st of July, to make sure that you're streamlined, that you're in sync there. They can help you and you can help them. So it's a win-win sort of situation there.

So that's one key point. On the operations bit, one area that is coming up pretty soon for a deadline for all of At-Large, and that's the fiscal year 22 additional budget request. And that's that additional option of

having a budget for a specific project that you're interested in implementing. So as you think about what you want to do for the end of fiscal year 21, yes, but as you think about starting that fiscal year 22 project and you come up with some ideas that maybe fit in here, think about those projects that you may wish to request. And the deadline for those requests is the 8th of January, so you have about three weeks or so to do that. So it's coming up pretty quickly.

Just one final point, that RALO discretionary funding that we've had for all of the RALOs for the last few years has been moved to the core budget, so you don't need to ask for that. That's already been set. So that was a lot of information, so I hope that was useful. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Yes, very useful, Heidi. Thank you so much for those insights. Sarah, you have the floor.

SARAH KIDEN: Hi everyone. Sorry if you hear any background noise. I just wanted to talk about reactivating the hot topics working group. I just wanted to say that I think we're still in the first [inaudible] call for members to join our working group. Normally, we'll find it's the same people who join this working group. So instead of again having a duplicate group and calling for the hot topics working group as a separate group, maybe we can just adopt [inaudible] outreach and engagement working group and then do this as one of the activities. And I just want to say kudos and bravo to AFRALO for completing the hot topics. I was involved in the [inaudible]. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you so much, Sarah. So summing up all the input from Daniel and everyone else, Heidi, Sarah, should we go back and reactivate the hot topics? But obviously, taking into account some of the key points that have been highlighted in terms of the At-Large priority areas and our strategic document. Seun, please go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes. Thank you. I think significant comment has been made, especially with regards to the hot topics. I think based on some of the comments that I'm hearing, and the fact that there seems to be some relevance in quite a number of topics that were generated in 2018 and some of them are still very relevant now, instead of fully reactivating the hot topics working group, perhaps the goal would rather be to look at that document which was produced in 2019 and 2019, and then see which of the topics are actually aligned with the current FY21 plan and then we focus on that instead of—I think we probably should just avoid having to generate new list of topics, especially the current ones that still have some relevance in some of the current ones so that we don't get to have too many things that we'll probably not be able to follow up with.

So I think that can be the goal. Maybe not necessarily to reactivate fully the working group. Perhaps the team within the first group can just pick the reports of 2018, the hot topic document of 2018 and then look at those. I think there are eight major topics on that report if my count is correct. We can then look at which of those topics align with the current FY21 plan, At-Large plan, and then pick a few of them and then follow

through with implementation of those ones. That is what I've just ... Having heard what has been said so far, I'm just thinking maybe we should just not go full fledged to generating new topics, but rather, see how far we've gone on the current ones and build upon it. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Seun. There was a hand from Sarah. I think she's no longer on the call. Daniel, please go ahead.

DANIEL NANGHAKA: Thank you very much, Bram. I'd just like to put at least forward probably an interest to the members of the call. How about if we subject the current hot topics to prioritization whereby we set up a prioritization hierarchy? Because some of the hot topics that are on the document may have become cold. And then we add in the new issues that have come up, and then after adding them in, then subject them to a level of prioritization on which we can be able to handle. Because what is this right now? DNS abuse is a very hot thin to be discussed all over the place. That's an example of the many. SubPro could be another one to be considered. But if we do not set up a level of prioritization, then we may end up jumping from one to the other. Those are just my random thoughts. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you so much, Daniel. Those are actually very important points, possibly actually agreeing with what Seun was also saying, that we may not necessarily have to review the entire document but just pick a few

that are very relevant and also speak to the key priority areas for the At-Large. And then I see also Heidi is giving insight in terms of maybe we could have regional webinars where we will liaise with the GSE colleagues and then have presentation from key members within our community as one way of complementing efforts as well.

I'll put Yaovi on the spot. I see your hand is up already, but I think also, address the issue of—in our previous meeting, we had requested whether it's possible to have a Zoom account for the regional activities. Maybe you can also address that. Please go ahead, Yaovi.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, and thank you all for this call. First, I want to add to the discussion [inaudible] what you said. I just want to remind us that we are talking about fiscal year 21, and we almost completed half of this period. So the point is that we need to really take some action or have a plan in mind, because we're in December and if you're talking about fiscal year, we have just six months left. So it is important that we prioritize what we said, and I agree with the discussion. [inaudible] there's not really a need to start discussing about defining topics, but what is there, we've seen the list, and what we can use and how to prioritize. So I think that is a very quick action we can take now.

And then also, what I note is that one of us mentioned that some people don't know really which working groups are available now. So one idea can be maybe doing one of the monthly calls to [inaudible] that. The point is that you are doing a lot, I appreciate what you are doing in the group, but also, other colleauges to try to volunteer,

because you can do 100 webinars, but if people don't volunteer, they cannot be really active.

So I think the idea of maybe informing people about a working group, maybe you need a special session to plan that. That can be done during one of the calls or you plan a special call to provide information. So, [inaudible] volunteer in the groups? Are they still interested? So this is something you should think about so that really, you see the results, because if you take the first item, for example, you want to increase, but [there's] people to devote their time as you are doing. So it's important to find a way to tell them if they have some issues. That's bringing me to the point of tools you need.

We are still working internally to get a complete answer to your request, so we are still working on that. But in the meantime, if there is a RALO, an ALS, [inaudible] and then GSE team is informed on time. I can tell you that this one, we can plan that. But we are still discussing to have a global answer for your Zoom platform.

But in the meantime, if there is an activity with an ALS and we are informed on time, I can tell you that from GSE side, we can try to have— if it's something for 60 minutes, 90 minutes and we are well informed in advance, it is something we can [set.] But in the meantime, we are still working on a global answer for AFRALO, something like a platform.

But the answer now is that an activity from an ALS, if we are informed on time, it's for 60 or 90 minutes, our team is able to set that for you and we are still working on a global answer to come back to you. So this is what I want to mention, because the call of today for example, I don't

know if everyone was invited for this call. So the point is that whatever we do, whatever webinar, capacity building, we need to discuss [inaudible] volunteers to really participate.

So this is what I want to share with you so far. Maybe, Heidi, I don't know if you have something to add at this point. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Yaovi. Heidi, you want to come in?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah, I totally agree. I think that if you identify some topics that are relevant to everyone and put it either within the monthly call, partially or the entire call, or identify a standing time when the calls will take place during the month, maybe the two-week period between—so you have a monthly call and then two weeks later you have a standing AFRALO skill building or capacity building webinar. I think that might really be able to move a project forward. So I think that's a great idea.

GSE, your team there is outstanding. We can definitely get you speakers. You might wish to invite Board members from Africa. We can help coordinate all of that. And you might even then wish to prepare an ICANN Learn course. We're just about ready to finish two of them. We now have a template. So that's something you could do. So there's a lot of possibilities that you can do to help engage the end users and your ALSes within your region. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Heidi. I see Seun, your hand is up. Please go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI: One thing I wanted to touch—because I think I was also saying in the chat where Sarah was saying that she also did not get the invite for the meeting. For some reason, I saw it in my own Google calendar. So I think we need to ensure that we advertise or publish, invite the membership when we want to have this meeting so that at least they would know—members who are able to join would actually be aware that things like this are happening, and then they would have expectations when or if this group send a call for volunteer. It wouldn't be catching people by surprise. Some people will join this call [and] have the background to why they're receiving that call on the membership list.

So I would suggest that—I understand that perhaps the chair intends to have this meeting with the members, with the leads. Perhaps that's the intention. But I think subsequently, we should try to, whenever we're doing this call, there's been a suggestion for maybe once in a month call to actually do a particular part of the implementation, maybe it's going to be a webinar, maybe it's going to be even joining an existing webinar that actually fits into one of the topics that we already have identified that's of interest to the region. We should make sure that we invite the entire membership so that at least they can join.

And of course, when we are doing planning as well, like things like this, we should also try to invite members. Let's post it to the Discuss list. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you so much, Seun. I think there was an oversight in terms of engaging the wider community. Moving forward, definitely, we should be able to bring everyone on the discussion Board, and I think that is also one way we can consolidate various views in a way forward.

I think in our deliberations, we also touched on the next steps, which I think key to that is that we need to now review the hot topics, but with specific focus on those topics that are relevant to our region but also to the At-Large-wide areas. I don't know, how do you want us to proceed in terms of ...? I think there was a suggestion that we should not maintain just the same people who were on the same working group initially. Should we put a call for volunteers in terms of working on the priority areas? Abdeldjalil, you have the floor. Thank you.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you very much, Bram. I will be brief, but in terms of mentoring, I think it's essential for the community. For your information, our ALS was able to put together between the 14th and the 15th a school of Internet governance, and so we were able to invite Sébastien Bachollet and also the chair of [Cameroon] as well as Tijani Ben Jemaa.

And we worked on helping people along, on directing them. It's a little bit like mentoring. But I think in the end, it is important to put together that type of program. So perhaps we could have someone that [helps ten] people. You need to have a guide, somebody that walks along with people so that people can become more involved. And I think it's a

really important component as far as I'm concerned. So that's just what I wanted to say. Thank you.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Abdeldjalil. So I think the way forward is definitely we're going to have to work on the hot topics document with attention to critical and specific topics.

I don't know if there's any other—we're running past time to close the meeting—agenda items, businesses. Okay, I see no hands. Thank you, everyone else, for attending to this call. I think this'll be our last call for 2020 as most of us will be going into the holiday. I would like to wish you all happy Christmas and happy holidays. We'll meet again in 2021. Thank you so much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]