

A brief update for the month of March 2021, from the APRALO perspective



APRALO Newsletter, March 2021



The APRALO family during the ICANN60 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Abu Dhabi, October 2017.

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APRALO Chair, Satish Babu

Dear APRALO Community -

Greetings!

We have just concluded [ICANN70](#), the fourth virtual meeting. More than 1,700 attendees from 157 countries and territories participated in the meeting. The ICANN community has been making progress with online tools for remote meetings, and ICANN70 continued this trend with more communications/participation tools, easier language interpretation, automated live captioning and better scheduling methodologies.

While the full numbers are not yet out, preliminary figures of regional participation (Africa: 10%, APAC: 22%, Europe: 24%, LAC: 10% and North America: 34%) indicate that our region has participated well despite the inconvenient time zone for many parts of our region. ICANN70 had several sessions of interest to the At-Large community, including those on ICANN's mandate *vis-à-vis* the Next Generation, the LACRALO Round-table, Responding to National/Regional Legislation, Applicant Support, Universal Acceptance, Registry Voluntary Commitments, cross-community sessions and the Public Forum.

At APRALO, the results of the survey undertaken by the APRALO Policy Forum has been published (it has been published in this edition of the newsletter as well). We will be using these findings to guide our future programs. Two more surveys, one of regional policy hot topics and the other on the register of skills and Interests, are being planned.

One of the high-priority items from the survey was the already-announced [APRALO Mentoring Program](#), which is designed to benefit new entrants to our community including RALO Individual Members. Please watch our mailing list for announcements and take advantage of the opportunity.

ALAC Chair Update



Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all relaxing after ICANN70 to refresh yourselves for what we will be preparing ourselves for ICANN71 which is due in just under 3 months time, 14-17 June.

But first of all, a recap on ICANN70: Thanks first of all to everyone who came along to the sessions to support our At-Large leads in the At-Large and also the ICANN plenary that Jonathan coordinated on behalf of the ICANN community because we suggested it. This was of course the session on "Registry

Voluntary commitment" which started off with an introduction by Jeff Neuman, but then moved into the model of what was the At-Large presentation for our plenaries which was to create a conversation between invited guests. For the ICANN Plenary this consisted of GNSO stakeholder groups and representation from At-Large - Alan Greenberg and Greg Shatan, as well as Jonathan, from our CPWG. Voluntary commitments are of interest to end-users who expect that registries and registrars will take some responsibility for the domains that they sell, in keeping with their agreements with ICANN.

Our At-Large plenaries were also interesting and well attended. Matthias Hudobnic, ALAC Member from EURALO encouraged interesting inputs from former fellows and NextGen participants from across ICANN constituencies providing their perspectives of ICANN's multistakeholder model. This was further discussed in Hadia Elminiawi's session at a more high level, as we looked at how ICANN responds to the influence of national governments with regards to policy development and its impact on the multistakeholder model. Our third policy session then looked at something different - how can we make applicant support in the next round of new gTLDs, more successful. The recommendations from this discussion included: making the application process easier, but also ensuring the people are more aware of the expectations of what they are getting themselves into. This is where our ALSes and RALO Individual Members become important, because they are our conduit to the communities out there who might be interested in applying for a new gTLD. This may require translation of information into national languages, and of particular importance is ensuring that potential applicants are aware of the requirements for relevant financial information and business plans.

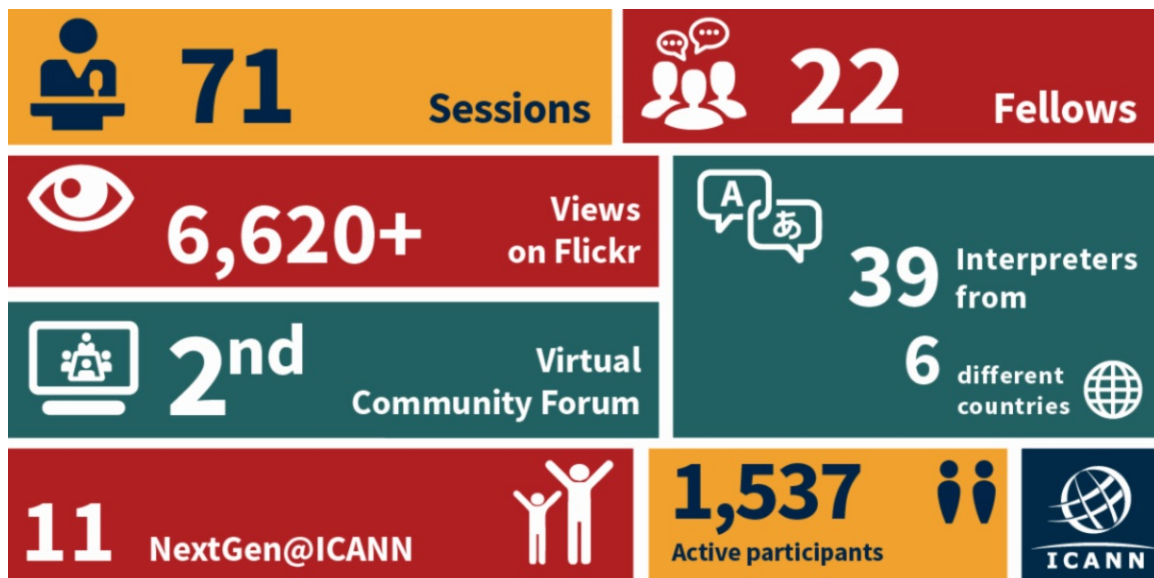
One of the most interesting sessions for At-Large, however, was the LACRALO social event. We all learned so much about the diversity of the different regions represented within LACRALO. It was very enjoyable.

Our next meeting in June will again be virtual, but perhaps with a little flexibility with hubs if they are at all possible. We will see how innovative At-Large can be for that meeting.

Until then, keep well and safe - and get vaccinated when it is offered - the sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we can get together again.

ICANN70 Update

The ICANN70 Community Forum was organised online from 20-25 March 2021. Held at Cancun, Mexico time, this was the second virtual community forum featuring 71 sessions with 1537 active participants. There were 287 participants from the APAC regions including 70 from India, 49 from China and 34 from Australia.



ICANN Update

In March, ICANN:

- Held the [ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum](#) from 22-25 March.
- [Terminated](#) the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) with Net 4 India Limited
- Invited applications for the ICANN72 Fellowship Application Round till 30 March.
- Invited comments on the [Initial Report on the Third ccNSO Policy Development Process \(ccPDP3\): Retirement of ccTLDs](#) by 14 April.
- Extended the [date of Registry Reports to move to Open Data](#) to 30 July.

- Announced that [ICANN71 will be held as a Virtual Policy Forum](#) from 14-17 June.
- Announced the [NextGen@ICANN71 Participants](#).

ALAC Update

At the ALAC monthly call on [23 February](#), [Christina Rodriguez](#), Sr. Director, Language Services, and [Sara Caplis](#), Manager, Meetings Technical Services from ICANN demonstrated and provided an overview of the Zoom Interpretation Features, a feature that was appreciated by most participants.

[John Crain](#), Chief Security, Stability & Resiliency Office, ICANN was the Guest Speaker of the month and provided an overview of the [Domain Abuse Activity Reporting \(DAAR\) 2.0.](#), the initiatives taken so far, the DAAR review process and also responded to questions from the audience.



In addition, updates were shared on the 2021 At-Large activities and initiative. Maureen provided information about the ICANN's FY23 Strategic Outlook Activities and how the At-Large Plus leadership would participate in an upcoming trends session; ALAC Liaison to GNSO Council Cheryl Langdon-Orr updated on developments from the GNSO Council.

An update was provided on the ALAC policy development activities. In addition, the ALAC Chair and staff provided an update on ICANN70 and At-Large sessions, and Lilian Ivete de Luque Bruges provided information on the Social Media activities for ICANN70.

Policy Update

All of APRALO and the At-Large Community are invited to contribute to ICANN Public Comment proceedings. For more information, please visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

Have your say! To contribute to ALAC policy activity, please comment on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as penholder, and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

The APRALO Community can also participate in selected policy-related discussions being taken up from a regional perspective through the APRALO Policy Forum. For more information, please visit the [APRALO Policy Forum workspace](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) submitted (2) statements to ICANN Public Comment and other forums since the last APRALO Newsletter:

- [Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency \(SSR2\) Review Team Final Report](#)
- [IANA Naming Function Review: Recommendation for an IANA Naming Function Contract Amendment](#)

The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (2) ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations:

Drafting ALAC Advice on [EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration](#) 30 March 2021 **CPWG**

Vote [ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures](#) 16 April 2021 **CPWG**

See: [At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice](#)

See: [Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice](#)

See: [Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)

APRALO Policy Forum Update

APRALO ALAC Member, Justine Chew

The APRALO Policy Forum Survey #1.2021 Report & Recommendations are now out and will be used to guide the activities of the APRALO Policy Forum this year. This survey, which was conducted throughout March, was designed to ascertain what impediments existed to deter participation in the APRALO Policy Forum as well as ideas for addressing those impediments. All RALO Members were invited to complete the survey.

The infographic is titled "APRALO Policy Forum Survey #1.2021 Report & Recommendations". It features the APRALO logo (a globe with rays) and the ICANN logo. The content is organized into several sections:

- Survey Facts:**
 - Designed to identify key impediments to participating in the APRALO Policy Forum, and ideas for addressing them
 - Ran for 4 weeks (4-31 Mar 2021)
 - Drew 17 unique respondents
 - Gained 4 new sign-ups to APF mailing list
- Key Findings/Inputs:**
 - Existing Participation in Working Groups:** 53% said they were already active in 1 or more A-L WGs / GNSO PDP WGs / CCWGs
 - Impediments to Participation:** But 59% said they either still needed more understanding in ICANN PDP areas, or didn't know how to participate in policy discussions.
 - 24% said they weren't aware of the APF before
 - Only 2 respondents said they didn't have time to participate in APF
 - Knowledge:** 88% said they were aware of ICANN Learn resources while 65% said they were also aware of At-Large Capacity Building (CB) webinars
 - Notable Inputs:**
 - Need for capacity building and mentorship to improve understanding of PDP
 - Have more policy discussions but target particular regional interest and don't duplicate / clone cross-regional activities / focus
 - Use APF as ice-breaker to get into ICANN policy, CPWG
 - Tackle engagement by addressing technical terms, research, problem or challenges, documentation, drafting
 - Allow sufficient time for review, engagement
 - Level of interest for identified projects:**
 - Register of Skills & Interests: 59% (10 respondents)
 - Regional Hot Topics Survey: 41% (7 respondents)
 - 5 respondents said they were unable to help with either at this time
- Recommendations to address impediments:**
 - Prioritize the APRALO Mentorship Program**
 - To facilitate more targeted, needs-basis capacity building
 - To build larger pool of ICANN policy subject matter experts
 - Maintain Selective Focus, Improve *Modus Operandi***
 - Maintain selective focus on issues impacting end-users regionally
 - Monitor CPWG activities to coordinate efforts, avoid duplication
 - Where feasible, simplify engagement:
 - Use of non-technical terms, plain English & explain ICANN acronyms/terms
 - Breakdown issue(s) by identifying & framing problem statement(s)
 - Source, provide underlying research on issue (if available)
 - Have brief documentation or calls/webinars to build capacity & guide discussions; identify topics for At-Large CB webinar organization/promotion
 - Allow sufficient time for review of materials, clarification, discussion
 - Where output needed, use appropriate tools to obtain inputs; identify, draw key inputs from discussion to guide output
 - Call for volunteers, staff assistance to support engagement needs
 - Conduct periodic review on effectiveness of *modus operandi*
 - Initiate the Register of Skills & Interests project**
 - As a source of identifying, engaging more subject matter experts, mentors
 - Frame project objectives & scope (may learn from examples, as appropriate)

Justine Chew, 1 April 2021

To view a clearer copy of this image, please click on [this link](#)

Please continue to visit [The APRALO Policy Forum](#) for more details on periodic participation opportunities in this dedicated space for facilitating better informed, inclusive regional input on issues within ICANN's remit.

APRALO Update

The [APRALO Monthly call](#) was held on 18 March and chaired by APRALO Chair Satish Babu. The special guest speaker for the event was Graeme Bunton from the DNS Abuse Institute. ICANN Board Vice Chair Leon Sanchez updated on the forthcoming ICANN70 meeting.

While providing an update on ALAC policy work, Justine Chew spoke on current statement in process: ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures; EU Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS 2 Directive); IANA Naming Function Review: Recommendation for an IANA Naming Function Contract Amendment; EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration; Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2) Review Team Final Report. Justine also spoke about the APRALO policy forum and encouraged members to participate in the ongoing survey.

Gisella Gruber spoke on the ICANN Prep session and [ICANN70@At-Large](#) elucidating to the three main policy sessions.

Amrita Choudhury encouraged community members to apply and/or encourage people from APAC especially women to apply for the positions.

The recording of the call can be heard from [this link](#).

APRALO Talk

The Guest Speaker in March was [Graeme Bunton](#), Director of the DNS Abuse Institute. Graeme spoke on the newly set up DNS Abuse Institute and its mandate. He spoke about DNS Abuse, objective behind setting up of the institute, elucidated to the existing "Framework to Address Abuse and highlighted the three organisational pillars of the institute, that is: (1) education: be a resource from abuse reporters; (2) collaboration and (3) innovation to fund research.

During the conversation, Graeme responded to the questions from the APRALO members, such as whether the institute would provide educational material for end users; how end-users can participate or collaborate in the work of the DNS Abuse Institute; the challenges of the DNS Abuse centre; whether end users would be able to provide their inputs to the institute and if there was a deadline for the project to share the concrete steps.

NomCom Update

by Amrita Choudhury, NomCom Delegate, Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region

The application period for the ICANN 2021 Nominating Committee inviting applications for the 9 leadership positions concluded on 29 March. NomCom has received 116 completed applications of which:

- 26 percent of applicants were female, 58 percent of applicants were male, 16 percent did not disclose
- 28 percent of applicants are from Africa
- 29 percent of applicants are from Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands
- 16 percent of applicants are from Europe
- 17 percent of applicants are from Latin America and Caribbean
- 10 percent of applicants are from North America

The NomCom will now be starting the evaluation process. Some of the activities that NomCom will perform includes: members independently reviewing each of the applications; holding a meeting to review all of the applications and narrow down the list of applicants; performing a deep dive into the remaining list of applicants; holding a second assessment meeting based on this shortlist of applicants and conducting virtual interviews with shortlisted candidates.

The 2021 Nominating Committee Will Fill Nine Open Leadership Positions



APRALO ALS Updates

Stakeholder discussion organised by CCAOI, ISOC Delhi and The Perspective
Amrita Choudhury

CCAOI, The Perspective and Internet Society Delhi chapter organised an interactive discussion “New IT Rules: Empowering Control or Controlled Empowerment?” Deciphering the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code” on 4 March.

The objective of this discussion was to provide clarity and perspective to stakeholders across the country (with possibly some foreign attendees) on the recently released Indian Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 and its impact.

In a fireside chat, Mr. Rakesh Maheshwari from the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) responded and clarified on various aspects of the rule.

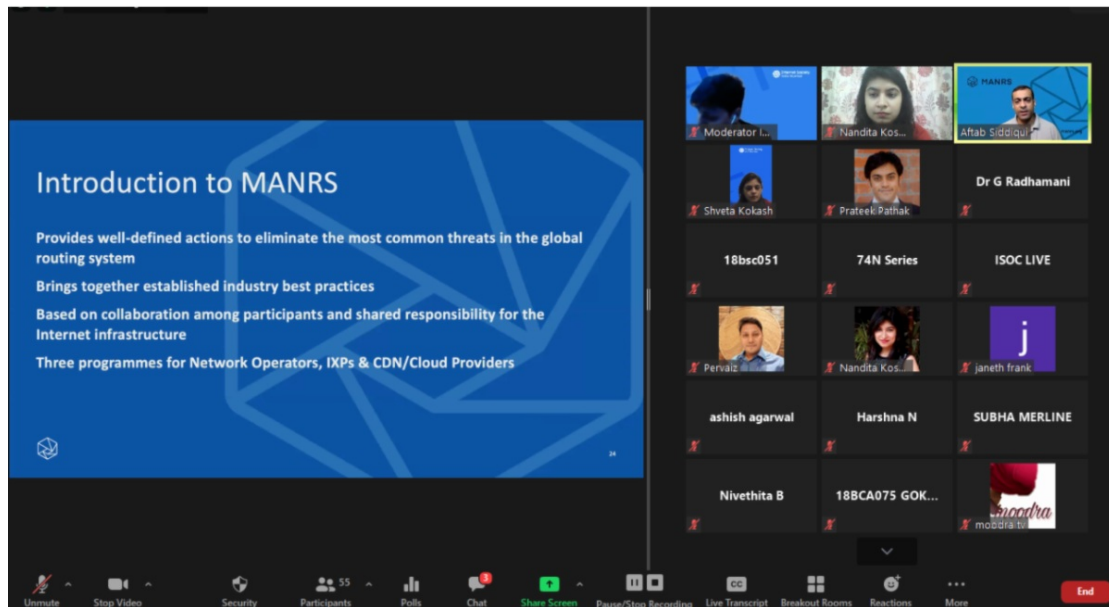
This was followed by a round table discussion on the new rules. The speakers were: Prasanth Sugathan

(SFLC); Kazim Rizvi (The Dialogue), N.S. Nappinai (Cyber Saathi), Robin Wilton (Internet Society), Anand Venkatanarayanan, Aman Taneja (Ikigai Law), Aroon Deep (MediaNama), Torsha Sarkar (CIS) and Yashovardhan Azad (Former Special Director, Intelligence Bureau and Former Secretary (Security) at Cabinet Secretariat).

The session was attended by over 109 participants over Zoom and there were 236 views on YouTube. The recording of the session can be viewed using [this link](#). We will share more details on the session in our next newsletter.

ISOC India Mumbai organises a webinar on MANRS **Nandita Koshal**

The ISOC India Mumbai Chapter recently organised an introductory webinar on Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security (MANRS). [MANRS](#) is a global initiative that provides crucial fixes to reduce the most common routing threats. Mr Aftab Siddiqui from Internet Society was invited as the speaker for the webinar. Apart from explaining basic concepts in routing, Aftab outlined the need for an initiative like MANRS to secure the Internet. The webinar was moderated by Mr Pervaiz Ansari, an ISOC India Mumbai volunteer and an inSIG alumnus. The webinar was attended by over 55 individuals. To know more about the event, please access the report [here](#).



Upcoming Events

- Join the APRALO April Monthly Meeting on 15 April 2021 at 06:00 UTC. The Guest Speaker for this call will be Edmon Chung, DotAsia.
- The seventh [Middle East DNS Forum \(MEDNSF\)](#), was held virtually from 5-7 April.
- The [IEEE conference No 4894 Being Human in Global Village](#) will be organised in Chennai, India between 22-25 July 2021.

Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of ICANN Staff