

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



APRALO Newsletter, May 2021



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

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APRALO Chair Update



APRALO Chair, Satish Babu

Dear APRALO Community -

Greetings!

We are now approaching one more ICANN Virtual Meeting, the ICANN71 Policy Forum. The Policy Forum Prep Week has concluded last week, and the ICANN71 proper begins next week on 14 June 2021. I request all of our community members to register for ICANN71 if you haven't already done so, and to participate in the sessions.

We have several interesting sessions scheduled for the ICANN meeting, including End-User Participation in ICANN PDPs and the role of End-Users in the ICANN Ecosystem; Governmental Regulatory Developments and their impact on ICANN; ccTLD Governance Models; GDPR and its policy implications; ICANN and the Internet Governance Ecosystem; new gTLDs and Protection of Geographical names; and Understanding Block Lists. There are also sessions such as the Welcome session where the At-Large Talking Points will be discussed, the Wrap-up session on Thursday; the EURALO Social Event and the joint AFRALO-AfrICANN session.

APRALO came out with its own [statement](#) on Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs, generally supporting the positions of the ALAC submission but also raising additional regional priorities. The statement was arrived at after a community process led by Justine Chew as part of the APRALO Policy Forum. I hope that the Policy Forum will be able to take on more activities of this kind in future.

APRALO is in process of electing its officers. Currently, voting is under way for the APRALO NomCom Delegate whose name will be recommended to the ALAC. The APRALO Mentoring Program is also under way, and we will be working on the applications to short-list applicants over the next couple of weeks.

The global pandemic is still holding sway over much of Asia-Pacific, but may be losing its intensity given the increasing vaccinations and following of protocols. I hope each of us and our families stays safe.

With Kind Regards.

ALAC Chair Update



Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

Dear APRALO members -

Although it was still a month away, ICANN71 filled our thoughts and meeting times. May was filled with

weekly gatherings of the At-Large Planning Committee seeking ideas and volunteers who would be willing to coordinate sessions for ICANN71. This involved lots of discussion about topics, potential participants, questions and talking points to ensure that we get across the end-user perspective on whatever issues are being raised. I believe that what we have planned for ICANN71 shows a diversity of participation from within At-Large but I would like to have seen APRALO ownership in at least one of the sessions as we have in the past. As the ALAC Chair I was very pleased with the encouragement towards policy discussion that Justine initiated with regards to the APRALO statement on Subsequent Procedures. This was an example of a topic that had the potential for developing into a session for an ICANN meeting - especially around applicant support for new gTLDs in developing regions like our own where participation was minimal. However, thanks to Justine and those who participated in the development of the statement on behalf of APRALO, it was a positive start within the area of policy discussion from our region.

Also I was very pleased that we were able to get two volunteers from the APRALO region into the team that is part of the GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) on the Transfer of Domains. While technical knowledge of inter-registrar transfers was a strong requirement, it was good to get Siva Muthusamy and K Mohan Raidu onto the group which works uniquely on this topic. Everyone who was selected, whether member, alternate or observer, contributes to the discussions at the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings, which is an innovation in itself within At-Large. Therefore, APRALO is getting involved at that level, which is really pleasing to see but it would be good to get more of our voices heard at the CPWG. I note that there is a new call for participants to apply for member, alternate and observer positions for an Expedited PDP on IDNs. This will require some experience in Internationalised Domain Names but this is a topic area where APRALO could and should have some representation. Our region has led IDN discussions in the past, although it would be good to see some fresh faces involved in the development of policy at ICANN level in this area as well.

But I look forward to at least seeing APRALO participants attending ICANN71 even though some of the times of the sessions are quite awful for us. I hope you can manage to support the At-Large sessions at least. And in the meantime, please take care as the world continues to deal with the pandemic. I hope you are all getting vaccinated so please keep safe and healthy.

Regards.

ICANN71 Update



The ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum will be held 14-17 June. See the [At-Large ICANN71 workspace](#) with all At-Large session agendas and resources [here](#). Read the ICANN71 Policy Outlook Report [here](#).

ICANN71 At-Large Policy Sessions:

- [At-Large Policy Session 1: End User Participation in ICANN PDPs and their Role within the ICANN ecosystem](#) on Monday, 14 June 08:30-10:00 UTC
- [At-Large Policy Session 2: ccTLD governance models - Testimonies from At-Large end users](#) on Tuesday, 15 June 08:30-10:00 UTC
- [At-Large Policy Session 3: GDPR as a technology - policy implications](#) on Tuesday, 15 June 10:30-12:00 UTC

ICANN Update

In May, ICANN:

- Board [adopted](#) the Proposed for Adoption FY22-26 Operating and Financial Plan and the FY22 Operating Plan and Budget.
- Published the [ICANN unaudited financial](#) and PTI published the [PTI unaudited financial](#) results of

- the third quarter of fiscal year 2021.
- Published [U.S. Tax Returns](#) for Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2020.
- The annual Service Organization Control (SOC) audit [confirmed](#) that ICANN org has the appropriate controls in place for IANA functions.
- [Received](#) the [Final Declaration](#) of the Independent Review Process (IRP) regarding .WEB.
- Published the [updated](#) domain name marketplace indicators.
- Published the [ICANN71 Prep Week schedule](#).
- [Issued a request for proposal](#) (RFP) to identify a contractor qualified to conduct research on Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) deployment across the Internet.
- [Selected](#) PDR Ltd. d/b/a PublicDomainRegistry.com (IANA 303) (PDR) to support and [manage the registered users](#) of the De-accredited Net 4 India Limited (IANA 1007) (Net 4 India).
- Organised a [webinar](#) on the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, Work Stream 2 (WS2) [Final Report](#).
- Announced [call for expressions of interest](#) for the position of ICANN 2022 NomCom Chair and Chair-Elect till 23 June.
- [Extended](#) NextGen@ICANN Application Round for ICANN72 till 14 June.
- Invited comments on the:
- Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)'s New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration by 1 June
 - For the [fifth version of the Maximal Starting Repertoire \(MSR-5\)](#) by 8 June
- [Draft engagement plan for the North America region](#) by 2 July.

ALAC Update

ALAC monthly call was held on [25 May](#).

The guest speakers were [León Sánchez](#), ICANN Board Vice Chair and Director selected by At-Large, and [Alejandra Reynoso](#), [Chair of the ccNSO](#), who provided [An overview of what the ccNSO is focusing on for FY22](#), and how At-Large members can contribute.

In addition updates were shared on:

- Action item from ICANN70
- ALAC policy development activities
- Review of current ALS and Individual Member applications
- Reports and discussion with At-Large Plus Leaders
- Discussion on the ICANN 71 draft schedule for At Large

Further, the ALAC Chair provided an overview of the [2021 election schedule](#), and information on the two newly released [At Large ICANN Learn courses](#).

The recording is available in [this link](#).

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 (1) statement to ICANN Public Comment since the last APRALO Newsletter:

- [GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration](#)

In addition, APRALO submitted (1) RALO statement to an ICANN Public Comment proceeding:

- [GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration](#)

The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (3) ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations:

[Drafting Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process \(EPDP\) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team – PHASE 2A](#) 19 July 2021 [CPWG](#)

[Drafting RrSG Draft White Paper: Registrant Protections in DNS Abuse Mitigation](#) Deadline: Flexible, around ICANN71. Invitation for ALAC comment from RrSG Chair. [CPWG](#)

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

See: [At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group \(OFB-WG\)](#)

APRALO Policy Forum Update

APRALO ALAC Member, Justine Chew

Having settled several foundational aspects of the APRALO Register of Skills & Interests (RoSI) Project, the project's small team members are now engaged in developing their work scope. Project progress and discussions are updated periodically at the [Project RoSI Work Space](#).

At its May 2021 Monthly Call, RALO members in attendance resolved to submit an APRALO Statement in response to the [GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration public comment proceedings](#) which closes on 1 June 2021. It was also determined that such a statement, while expressing a full endorsement of the [ALAC Advice on Subsequent Procedures](#) that was submitted to the ICANN Board on 16 April 2021, should in particular, highlight APRALO's call for action which to increase adoption of Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs); a further call for the increased and equitable access by "Global South", community / niche TLD applicants through the Applicant Support Program (ASP) and Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) as well as opposition to private auctions as a permissible mechanism for resolving contention sets; and APRALO's backing for the ALAC to be granted automatic standing to file Community Objections in Subsequent Procedures, against applications for strings found to be problematic through an established RALO-driven process. A small team of penholders were conscripted to produce the intended statement for prompt submission; please visit the [APRALO Policy Forum wiki page](#) to check on the status of this statement. 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. Kindly contact At-Large staff if you wish to join the APRALO Policy Forum.

APRALO Update

The [monthly APRALO Call was held on 20 May](#). At the call, Justine Chew provided the policy update, highlighting that the ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board is still to be discussed on the EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration and that ALAC is presently ratifying statement for GNSO Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process Phase 1 Final Recommendations for ICANN Board Consideration.

Leon Sanchez shared updates of the Board activities including the clearance of the Additional budget by the board, approval of the GAC communique of ICANN70, etc. He updated that the Board passed resolutions in consent agenda and finalised the June workshop.

Roberto Gaetano spoke to the community on the Unaffiliated Individual Members (UIM) Working Party Final Report.

Maureen provided an update on ICANN71, which includes, model of APRALO policy forum, the straw poll conducted if there is a need for an APRALO subsequent procedures statement.

An update on the [APRALO mentorship program](#) was provided by Ali. Satish provided an update on enhancing APRALO.

Gisella provided an update on the 2021 APRALO elections. While Amrita Choudhury provided an update on the NomCom applications.

APRALO Talk

This month the guest speaker was Roberto Gaetano. Roberto spoke to the community on the [Unaffiliated Individual Members \(UIM\) Working Party Final Report](#) which included update on the working party formation and process; identification of the issues that need to be addressed, issues related to terminologies, rough consensus, voting rights, things to be considered for followup action and discussion which the WG listed.

Questions were raised on what the next steps in terms of implementation will be. Cheryl clarified that At Large review implementation group will look after the recommendations of the WG and work with the leadership.

Unaffiliated Individuals Mobilization Working Party Report

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NomCom Update

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

This month the Nominating Committee was divided into teams and were busy performing the deep dive into the remaining list of interviews which is part of the evaluation process. The next step would be holding a second assessment meeting based on this shortlist of applicants and conducting virtual interviews with shortlisted candidates.

Opportunities

- AprIGF2021 has announced a call for proposal. Proposals are invited for the multidisciplinary sessions with fresh topics and emerging issues under the 3 thematic tracks: Inclusion, Sustainability & Trust from the community. For more details visit: <https://www.aprigf.asia/news/2021/call-for-2021-session-proposals.html>
- Applications are invited for the [Internet Society's IGF Youth Ambassador program](#) till 23 June.
- Applications are now open for the 2021 [Information Society Innovation Fund](#) (ISIF Asia) Grants and Awards Program under three themes: Inclusion, Infrastructure and Knowledge. Last date to apply is 19 July.

Upcoming Events

- [ICANN71 will be held as a Virtual Policy Forum](#) from 14-17 June.
- 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