A brief update for the period of September-October 2021, from the APRALO perspective

APRALO Newsletter, Sept-Oct 2021

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

APRALO Chair Update

APRALO Chair, Satish Babu

Dear APRALO Community -

Greetings!

We have just completed the ICANN72 Virtual Annual General Meeting, again in the virtual mode. Further, it was also announced that ICANN73, originally proposed to be held in the hybrid mode at Puerto Rico, would be fully virtual as well.

ICANN72 addressed several policy-related aspects in the ALAC Policy Track, the most prominent of them being DNS Abuse, Closed Generics and ICANN Accountability, Transparency, and ICANN Reviews. The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) also met with the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) to discuss topics of mutual interest, including ICANN and governments, DNS abuse, and a reflection on public interest processes. The ALAC also met with the ICANN Board, discussing topics such as the need to work more closely with governments globally, as well as engage, train, and interact with governments on geopolitical issues relating to the ICANN mission, and the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD).

In the Outreach & Engagement track, RALO leaders and members participated in regional leadership activities to focus on policy topics, outreach, and engagement activities. The North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) also hosted social networking sessions. Meetings of different At-Large working groups such as At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG), At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFBWG), and ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement took place in advance of ICANN72.

Since the 2021 AGM was over during ICANN72, there have been some changes to the Leadership Team of APRALO. Justine Chew, ALAC member, has taken up a new position as ALAC's Liaison to GNSO. In her place, we have a new NomCom appointee to the ALAC, Naveed Bin Raees. We thank Justine for her very dedicated policy efforts during her tenure. We also welcome Naveed to not only ALAC Policy-related responsibilities, but also to APRALO's organizational and outreach-related work. We also would like to thank Amrita Choudhury for her very meticulous work for her two NomCom terms. NomCom work is quite heavy at the best of times, and now with travel restrictions in place, there were also the significant constraints caused by time-zone issues. In her place, we have Ali AlMeshal who joins the NomCom. I thank Amrita and congratulate Ali on his new role.

Wishing that our community remains safe in these difficult times.

With Kind Regards.

ALAC Chair Update

Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

Dear APRALO members -

We always knew that October was going to be busy, and with three weeks of ICANN meeting it certainly was way busier than usual. The ICANN Prep week provided a great introduction for At-Large by way of a "fireside chat" with staff representatives of each of the ICANN sections. Silvia Vivanco explained all the different activities that At-Large was presenting during At-Large Week and ICANN Week, as well as a general invitation to two social events that NARALO had organised for "their Seattle meeting". These turned out to be a lot of fun.

At-Large week followed and this was our "work week". Despite not being held during the ICANN week. It did spread out the load and replaced other meetings that might have been held that week - using up two or three hours over each of the three days. We started the week with a programme that welcomed new ALAC and At-Large leaders; provided end of year workstream updates; and introduced our policy topics - covering the need for Generic tlds(or not); different approaches to Tackling DNS Abuse; and an interesting overview about ICANN Accountability from all over the ICANN community. This was organised by EURALO and was very fast-paced but great to get the different perspectives of a potential holistic review.

The ALAC met with three groups over the two weeks - the SSAC to introduce two recent security advice documents; the GAC where our policy experts shared the At-Large position with their GAC counterparts; and finally with the Board for whom At-Large provided some (great) ideas on how they might engage more effectively with governments. The final event for At-Large was firstly a farewell to departing ALAC and a welcome to incoming ALAC members, followed by the Wrap-Up with members of the Board, including incoming Board member from, Edmon Chung of DotAsia, an At-Large Structure. Edmon was appointed to the Board by the NomCom. All in all it was a long three weeks, but we covered a lot of ground and At-Large can be very proud of themselves. We now commence a New ICANN Year, and my final one as the ALAC Chair. I'm looking forward to making it yet another productive year for At-Large, as ALAC Chair. ☺

Please keep healthy and safe.

Best Regards.

ICANN72 Update

ICANN72 Virtual Annual General Meeting was held from 25-28 October 2021. However there was a ICANN72 prep week held between 12-14 October.

The sessions of the Prep week were mostly updates from ICANN Org and he SOs/ACs or capacity building initiatives. They include providing an update on ICANN Reviews and Implementation Status; a

GNSO Policy update; planning and prioritization framework design update; a policy update, a Root Zone Label Generation Rules update; Introducing the DNS Security Facilitation -Technical study group; a contractual compliance update; a NomCom update; and a Global Public Interest at ICANN update. In addition, Fellowship and NextGenemembers. , Also an update was provided on the ICANN org Risk Management Framework, Progress and next steps for UA and a guide for newcomers on ICANN72.

During the AGM week, there were two plenary sessions (Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team and Designing Hybrid ICANN Public Meetings to Equalize In-Person & Remote Participation); the ICANN Public forum, the 23rd AGM; community sessions that included a Joint Meeting of ICANN Board with Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG), with the ALAC, with the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG), with Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC), Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council; Joint meeting GAC with ALAC, GAC with GNSO; Security and technical sessions that include the Tech day sessions, RSSAC meeting, Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) public meeting, Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and Security Workshop; Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council meeting. Further sessions were organised to seek community input on GNSO EPDP-IDNs and discussion on the GNSO Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group.
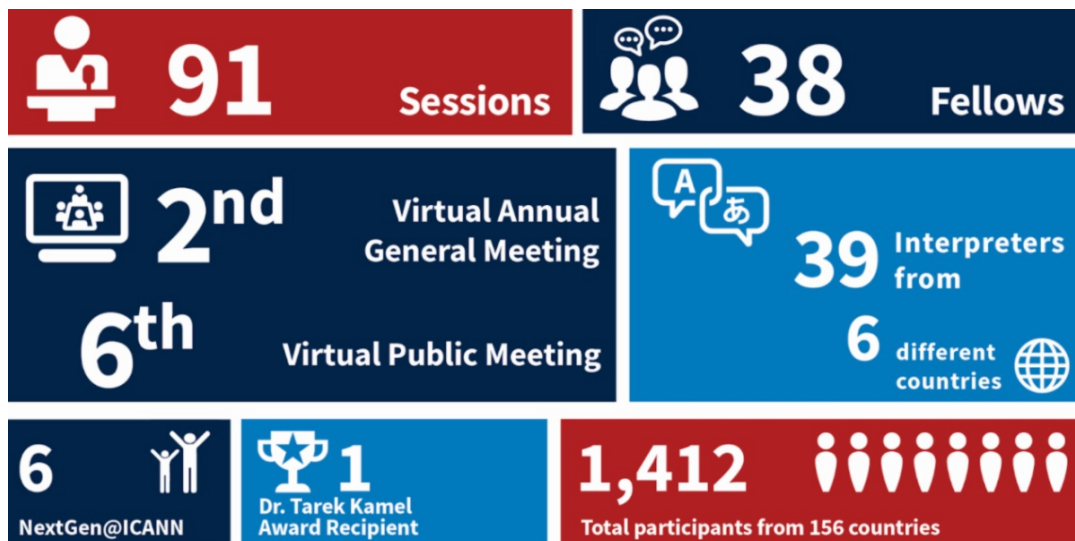

Satish Babu, APRALO Chair

During the meeting APRALO Chair Satish Babu was announced the recipient of the 2021 Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building for his efforts in promoting Internet governance and capacity building at the local, regional, and global levels.

Further, ICANN recognized several community members for their contribution.

The DNS WOMEN session during ICANN72 was on "Universal Acceptance- where are we today?"

At Large @ICANN72

Prior to the AGM, there was an At-Large Week where there were several plenaries and meetings between 18-20 October. These include: At-Large Leadership Session: Welcome to ICANN72, Workstream Updates & Policy Talking Points; At-Large Policy Sessions: (1) Closed Generics: What's Next? And (2) Tackling DNS Abuse and ICANN Accountability and Transparency and the ICANN Reviews. 'There was also an ALAC & SSAC Meeting and an At-Large Trivia Event, hosted by NARALO During the AGM week, At-Large held the Leadership Transition and Leadership Wrap Up session.

Besides, NARALO organised an At-Large ICANN72 Social Event.

See the ICANN72 Policy Outcomes Report and At-Large ICANN72 workspace for more information.

ICANN Update

In September and October, ICANN:

- Celebrated the fifth Anniversary of the IANA Stewardship Transition.
- Announced its unaudited financial results for the financial year ending 30 June and the Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) published its unaudited financial results for the same period.
- ICANN Board in a resolution, directed the ICANN President and CEO to organize the resources required to begin work on the ODP, and to advise the Board when the work of the ODP is initiated within ICANN org
- Announced the release of a new ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) page that offers a collection of public reports on activities and incidents related to the IMRS prepared by ICANN's Security and Network Engineering (SaNE) team
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the North American Network Operators' Group, Inc. (NANOG)
- Announced plans to jointly organize the Asia Pacific (APAC) region's first Domain Name System (DNS) Forum with MYNIC Berhad, the Registry and Registrar for .MY.
- The inaugural APAC DNS Forum 2022 is scheduled to take place from 30 March to 1 April 2022. You can register for this event here.
- The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) published its 2021 Universal Acceptance (UA) Readiness Report. The report documents current UA-readiness gaps, and provides an update on UASG activities for Financial Year 2021 (FY21).
- ICANN organised public webinar to provide information about the work of the ICANN Board Finance Committee.
- Held a follow up session on the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) Operational Design Phase (ODP) and a webinar to provide additional information on the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures ODP.
- Published the ICANN FY21 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and the PTI FY21 Audited Financial Statements.
- Announced that the Contractual Compliance Monthly Reports will now be made public
- The Nominating Committee (NomCom) published its summary report, which reviews its progress since convening at the conclusion of the ICANN69 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- ICANN Board has appointed Michael Graham to serve as 2022 Nominating Committee (NomCom) Chair, and J. Damon Ashcraft as 2022 NomCom Chair-Elect.
- Giovanni Seppia joined ICANN as the Vice President, Implementation Operations.
- In a positive step to provide a Comprehensive DNS Security Threat Analysis, ICANN will now be able to use an existing data set provided by registries for research purposes such as DAAR.
- Invited applications for NextGen@ICANN73 by 5 November.

ALAC Update

The ALAC held their monthly meeting in September, and during the ICANN72 Annual General Meeting in October.

The September ALAC Monthly meeting featured guest speaker *Ajay Data*, *CEO, Data Ingenious Global Limited, who provided an update on the activities of the UA Steering Group*. The agenda also featured updates regarding At-Large policy activity including ALAC advice, membership updates, and reports from At-Large Liaisons and WG leaders, as well as planning for ICANN72.

The ALAC also welcomed incoming and congratulated outgoing At-Large leaders during the ICANN72 AGM. Incoming and continuing At-Large leaders at the AGM include:

Dave Kissondoyal, continuing ALAC Member from AFRALO
Raymond Selorm Mamattah, incoming NomCom Appointee to the ALAC from the African Region
Seun Ojedeji, continuing AFRALO Chair
Aziz Hilali, continuing AFRALO Vice Chair
Tijani Ben Jemaa, incoming ALAC Delegate to the NomCom from the African Region
Maureen Hilyard, continuing ALAC ALAC Member from APRALO
Rao Naveed Bin Rais, incoming NomCom Appointee to the ALAC from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region
Lianna Galstyan, continuing APRALO Vice Chair
Ali Almeshal, incoming ALAC Delegate to the NomCom from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region
Matthias Hudobnik, continuing ALAC Member from EURALO
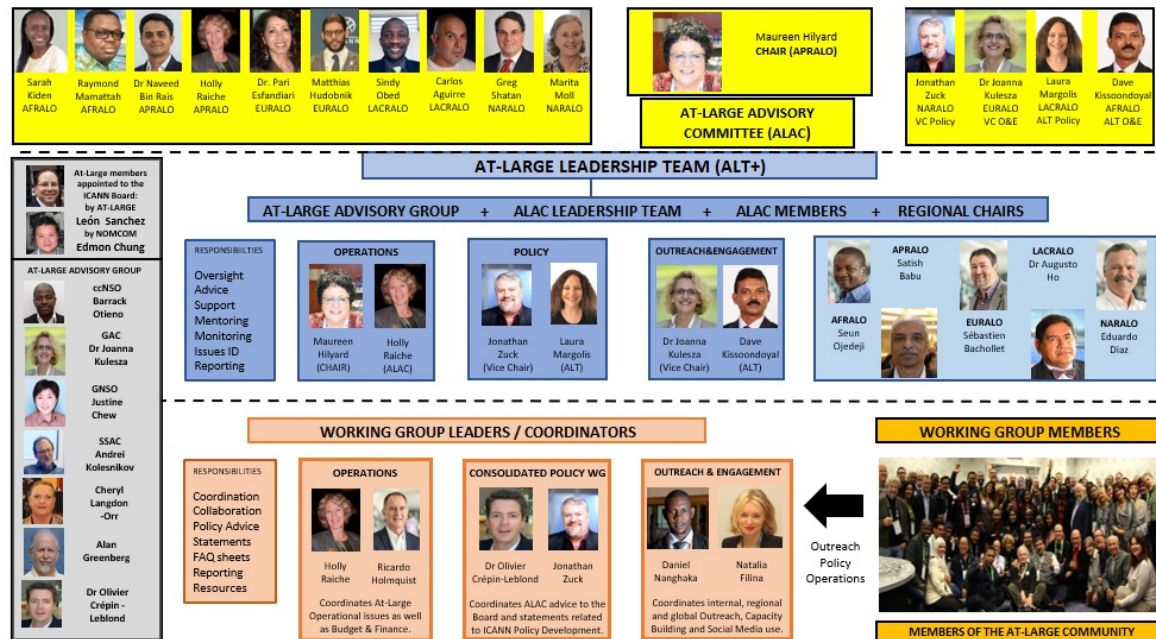Sébastien Bachollet, continuing EURALO Chair

Natalia Filina, continuing EURALO Secretary
Yrjö Länsipuro, incoming NomCom Appointee from the European Region
Carlos Aguirre, incoming ALAC Member from LACRALO
Laura Margolis, incoming NomCom Appointee to the ALAC from the Latin American and Caribbean Region
Augusto Ho, incoming LACRALO Chair
Harold Arcos, incoming LACRALO Chair-Elect
Claire Craig, incoming LACRALO Secretary
Sergio Salinas Porto, incoming LACRALO Secretary-elect
Vanda Scartezini, continuing NomCom Appointee from the Latin American and Caribbean Region
Jonathan Zuck, continuing as ALAC Member from NARALO
Glenn McKnight, incoming NARALO Secretary
Judith Hellerstein, incoming NomCom Appointee from the North American Region

At-Large leaders being recognized for concluding a term of service at the AGM include:

Hadia Elminiawi, ALAC Delegate to the NomCom from the African Region
Abdulkarim Oloyede, NomCom Appointee to the ALAC from the African Region
Amrita Choudhury, ALAC Delegate to the NomCom from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region
Justine Chew, NomCom Appointee to the ALAC from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region
Sébastien Bachollet, ALAC Delegate to the NomCom from the European Region
Sylvia Herlein-Leite, ALAC Member from LACRALO
Carlos Raúl Gutiérrez, NomCom Appointee to the ALAC from the Latin American and Caribbean Region
Sergio Salinas Porto, LACRALO Chair
Harold Arcos, LACRALO Secretary
Augusto Ho, LACRALO Chair-Elect
Glenn McKnight, ALAC Delegate to the NomCom from the North American Region
Judith Hellerstein, NARALO Secretary
Barrack Otieno, ALAC Liaison to the ccNSO
Yrjö Länsipuro, ALAC Liaison to the GAC
Cheryl Langdon-Orr, ALAC Liaison to the GNSO

Please see all results of the 2021 ALAC and RALO Elections, Selections and Appointments on the At-Large workspace.

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ALAC) ORGANISATIONAL CHART - 2022

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 (4) policy statements since the last APRALO Newsletter:

- Proposal for Latin Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules
- Draft PTI and IANA FY23 Operating Plan and Budgets
- Initial Report from the EPDP on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs
- ALAC Minority Statement on EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2A Final Report

The ALAC is not currently developing responses to ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations. However, the ALAC is developing responses to ICANN Board questions regarding ALAC advice.

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

The APRALO Register of Skills & Interests (RoSI) Project small team has taken the project as far as it can for now and that small team is presently contemplating a collaboration with the APRALO Hot Topics Survey (HTS) 2021 small team to conduct a RALO-wide feedback on its work. You can follow the progress and discussions on Project RoSI via periodic updates at the Project RoSI Work Space.

The APRALO Hot Topics Survey (HTS) 2021 small team had its first coordinating call on 13 October 2021 to discuss the approach for the 2021 survey. During that call, members of the small team concluded that in planning this survey, more in-depth consideration ought to be given to various factors, including careful reflection of areas to cover, concise crafting of questions and selection of an appropriate tool to conduct the survey in order to, both, maximize the quantity and optimize the quality of feedback from RALO members. To this end, the small team members felt that the HTS project should not be constrained to an unreasonable timeline, since the collection of useful responses is paramount to strategically inform the RALO's direction for the next few years. You can follow the work on the HTS Project via periodic updates at the HTS Project Work Space.

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.

APAC Space Update

The first pre-event webinar of the APAC DNS Forum 2022 held on 23 September 2021, the recording and presentation materials are now available within the event virtual platform. The second pre-event webinar of the APAC DNS Forum 2022 held on 14 Oct 2021.

APRALO Update

The APRALO Monthly call was organised on 16 September which was chaired by Satish.

The policy update was shared by Holly. She highlighted the recently ratified ALAC ALAC Minority Statement on EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2A Final Report and spoke of the SSAC presentation in CPWG and the ongoing discussions.

Justine spoke on the International Governmental Organization Curative Rights Proposed Recommendations and the issues involved. There was a discussion on minority statements.

ALAC Updates were shared by Maureen about ICANN72, Prep week, Atlarge week with At-Large plenary sessions, meeting with SSAC then the main ICANN72.

Holly shared an update from the ALAC Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) including its tasks,

Justine provided an update on the Register of Skills & Interests Project (Project RoSI) and its intersection with the Regional Hot Topics Survey 2021, She urged community members to volunteer for the Regional Hot Topics Survey 2021.

Ali and Lianna updated on the starting of the APRALO Mentoring Program.

Next APRALO which was supposed to be on 21 October was cancelled due to ICANN72.

APRALO ALS Update

Armenian School on Internet Governance, 5th edition | 18-19 September, 2021
ArmSIG – the Armenian School on Internet Governance is a capacity building program aimed at different stakeholder group representatives across Armenia. The fifth edition of the School was designed for journalists working in Armenia and interested in Internet governance related hot topics.

On 18-19 September 2021, Internet Society Armenia Chapter and the Armenian ccTLD Registry co-organized the 5th edition of the ArmSIG as an in-person meeting in Aghveran, Armenia. During the 2-day special course, the selected 21 participants, mainly journalists and PR specialists, were actively involved in various format discussions. Invited speakers first introduced the Internet ecosystem, including the I* organizations activities – ICANN, ISOC, etc. and later revealed the topics included in the program at length.

Although the 2-day program was fully packed, the fact that participants stayed in one hotel and could socialize beyond the program hours, made the event very successful. It also helped in creating bonds among participants. Moreover, a special Facebook group was created where all participants could interact and share information with each other, even after the completion of the program.

Upon the completion of the course, the participants were awarded Certificates.

Armenian Internet Governance Forum, 6th Edition | 8 October, 2021
On 8 October, 2021, the 6th Armenian Internet Governance Forum, was organized jointly with the Youth IGF Armenia to advance the outreach and inclusive discussions on local digital policy issues and current challenges in the country.

This one-day in-person event brought up 3 panel sessions on Hate Speech, Online Education and E-Health as well as provided the floor for presentations on other major topics. For the first time, a Town-hall session was organized on topics of Internet Freedom and Cybersecurity.

The other novelty was the sign-language interpretation in Armenian, making the forum more inclusive for community members.
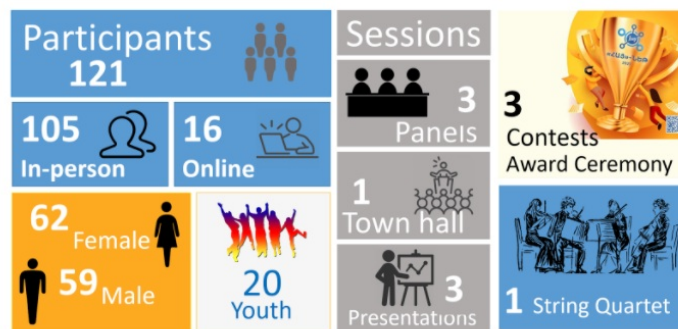
The discussions reflected the challenges that emerged in the country not only due to the pandemic, but also to the war that happened last year. All participants agreed that in the time of crises, the Internet was a critical tool. On the one hand, it served to connect people, to provide vast opportunities for education, for business, for health issues and all other aspects of daily life. On the other hand, we witnessed how it can be manipulative, destructive and harmful to society.

The discussions summed up mostly with the following:
- all emerging issues should be openly discussed,
- the government should be more collaborative with other stakeholders,

- there is no place for the hate speech and, measures to eliminate it, should be balanced so that not to constrain the right of the freedom of speech,
- the education system, though technically adapted to the online environment, needs to improve its curriculum and systemic approaches, as well as be inclusive for people with disabilities.

More details about the Armenian IGF with ongoing updates can be found at the official website.

Internet Society Bahrain celebrated Internet Day Bahrain

ISOC Bahrain celebrated Internet Day Bahrain 2021 online on 8 September with a series of panel discussions. Ali Al Meshal was one of the panelist in a session on Strengthening the Internet: Preserving the Open Internet Model.

Upcoming Events

- inSIG2021 will be held from 19-21 November with meet and greet on 14 November.
- IGF2021 will be hosted by the Government of Poland at the International Congress Center in Katowice from 6-10 December.

Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of ICANN Staff