

YEŞİM NAZLAR:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO Monthly Teleconference, taking place on Thursday, 18th of February, 2021 at 6:00 UTC.

On our call today, on the English channel, we have Satish Babu, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Gopal Tadepalli, Amrita Choudhury, Liana Galstyan, Ali AlMeshal, Gunela Astbrink, Syuzan Marukhyan, Maureen Hilyard, Jaewon Son, Dr. Govind, Aris Ignacio, Suhaid Hassan, Shah Rahman, Eranga Samarathna, Priyatosh Jana, and Nadira Al-Araj. We currently don't have anyone on the Chinese channel. And we have received apologies from Holly Raiche.

And from staff side, we have Heidi Ullrich, Gisella Gruber, Seher Sağiroğlu, and myself, Yeşim Nazlar, present on today's call. And I'll also be doing call management. As you know, we have Chinese interpretation. And our interpreters are Sandy and Ray.

And before we get started, just a kind reminder to please state your names, not only for the transcription but also for the interpretation purposes in case someone joins our Chinese channel. And with this, I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Satish. Thanks so much.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much. Welcome the February monthly call of APRALO. It's good to see that we have better numbers this time than the last time around. As Dr. Govind was saying, we all really miss our face-to-face meetings, but as things stand, the chances are pretty remote, I think

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

even this year. Or maybe, hopefully, in the last quarter, maybe we can get going with our face-to-face meetings.

So we'll get started with the agenda. And I'd like to warmly welcome everybody who's joined this call. We don't have anything immediately on the pipeline for the membership process. We have one Individual Member whose due diligence is proceeding and we have an institutional ALS applicant who's been on hold for some time now.

So we would like to get on with our regular policy update. But I think Justine just entered. So between Justine and possibly Cheryl, we will have the update. So over to you, Justine and Cheryl.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Yes. Thank you, Satish. Sorry I had to step away so I am late. Anyway, just very quickly, the policy update. Yes. Okay. If somebody could stop scrolling the agenda so I can have a look at what it is. Never mind. I'll have a look at my page. Sorry.

Okay. In terms of policy update, if we have a look at the agenda, there was one that was ratified recently, which is the ALAC comment to the Draft Financial Year 2022 to 2026 Operating and Financial Plan and the Draft Financial Year 2022 Operating Plan and Budget. It was another well-laid-out statement, in my opinion.

And it touched upon quite a few things, including things that relate directly to the At-Large Review implementation that's ongoing, in particular, things like the fact that we're trying to mobilize ALSes as well

as Individual Members. And there should, therefore, be sufficient resources within the ICANN budget and plans to support that effort.

Also, in terms of things like making sure that there are sufficient resources for the planning and implementation of RALO General Assemblies, including the ones for EURALO General Assembly that's upcoming this year. And we have, as APRALO, a General Assembly that's being planned for 2022, I believe. And obviously, there's a five-year cycle that involves all the RALOs. So the statement includes a request that ICANN ought to take appropriate action to ensure that the adequate funding is present for these five-year rolling General Assemblies in the future.

Also, in terms of the multistakeholder model, enhancing the effectiveness of it, there should be some continued resources applied that way and to not only focus on quantitative measures in determining its effectiveness but also qualitative ones, especially in light of the fact that the pandemic has made many of our face-to-face meetings virtual. So the element of quantitative measuring may not present the whole picture, in terms of measuring effectiveness. Yeah. So that's that.

In terms of the upcoming public comment proceedings, I'm not going to touch into that because it's upcoming. But in terms of the public comment for decisions, there are two, I believe, one being the EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendation for Board Consideration, and the other one being the proposed amendment to the IANA contract. The second one I mentioned isn't on the agenda for some reason. Those are still being considered at CPWG. And I trust that there'll be progress on those in the coming weeks.

With the current statements that are being considered or developed, the first one being the ALAC advice to the ICANN Board regarding Subsequent Procedures. That's an ongoing effort. The recommendations in the Subsequent Procedures PDP Final Report are being determined or decided upon by GNSO Council tomorrow at its meeting. And if that passes, then obviously the GNSO Council's going to try and submit those to the ICANN Board for consideration and approval. And that's where the ALAC advice would come in.

On that front, we are considering new information in the form of SAC114, which is basically the SSAC's comments to the recommendations in the final report. I offered to do a brief presentation at next week's CPWG to see if we would like to recommend that ALAC incorporate some of the recommendations and positions within SAC114 into our provisional ALAC advice to the ICANN Board. At the same time, we are also waiting on GAC to see if GAC wants to post some issues to us for consideration, including in the same ALAC advice.

The other two is the SSR2 Review Team Final Report. There was a presentation last week, I believe, on that final report. And I believe that the CPWG is working towards a statement. They're still waiting on the Drafting Team members to come up with recommendations for that.

And the final one being the EU Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems, or NIS2 Directive. That is something that the European Commission is proposing to issue as directive and kind of part-and-parcel, if I could just simplify it that way, to the implementation of GDPR or the consequences of GDPR.

And we had three very interesting presentations on that issue, the NIS2 Directive, earlier today anyway, at the CPWG call. And I believe that we have resolved to prepare a statement for submission for consideration by the European Commission because this is a public call for inputs. So I would invite you all to have a look at the presentations and/or listen to the CPWG call recording. There's going to be an update on this particular issue. So barring any questions from the floor, I will end my intervention there. Thank you, Satish.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Justine. Cheryl, do you want to add on anything to this?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Nothing to add. Justine has done a brilliant job.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Cheryl. Are there any quick questions on any of these points? I don't see any hands. We will move on. And if you have questions, please raise them later. Today, we have three special presentations. But before that, we have Maureen with the ALAC and ICANN 70 update. Over to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Satish. I hope I'm coming through loud and clear. I never know, with my headphones and a very dicey-operating laptop—like a lemon. But yes. I'm sure you're all well aware, of course, that with

ICANN 70 coming up at the end of March, ICANN 70's taking up most of our waking hours, for those who are on the ICANN 70 planning committee. But there have been some interesting developments involving the ALAC during the past weeks and moving forward that have also taken up a bit of time.

The DNS abuse, of course, is our At-Large priority policy topic. And while it might not be one of our topics in ICANN 70, which I have to say is very unusual for us, we haven't dropped the ball on it. In fact, we have a team that was presenting yesterday. And unfortunately, I was off the island so I didn't actually have access to internet. But they were talking to the GNSO's Contracted Parties House, which is really interesting because we haven't really been invited to actually participate in any GNSO working groups before, not as a participant of a working group.

But this session dealt with registries and registrars. And At-Large was invited to put forward our views on what we think. Because we have mentioned that registries and registrars should take this responsibility there. And they just wanted to hear more about what we think. Wow! That's pretty outrageous. Sort of late but very welcome to think that they'd want to know what we are thinking about things. But I've yet to get some feedback about what happened at the meeting yesterday and I'm really keen to learn what other involvements we can have in that particular area.

But one registry that Nadira and I are on the advisory board of—that's the Public Interest Registry [inaudible] on behalf of [inaudible]. That really has taken its role seriously. We know that personally. But very recently, like yesterday, they launched a new DNS abuse institute that

looks into raising aware and resource development for .org domain owners but other domain owners as well, to keep them safe from DNS abuse because they are very serious about it. And you're bound to hear more about that soon as they get the ball rolling. They made a start on it already but I think that's going to be of great interest to us in At-Large and our focus on DNS abuse.

But we've also become very popular with GNSO in another section, in the NCSG, the Non-Contracted Stakeholders Group. They very recently asked us to provide a short history of At-Large to include into their history of civil society in ICANN. And they're producing webinars and they're thinking of converting them into ICANN Learn courses, which we've done also, because it fits in very ...

Quite interestingly, there's an ICANN Learn course which will be out very shortly. And I'm sure Cheryl would agree with me because they've been working on it for a year, now, almost and we'd hope that it could have gotten out a little bit earlier. It's our introductory course to At-Large, Welcome to Our World. And it really is an introduction for newbies to At-Large but also to educate the rest of ICANN about what the [inaudible] we are in At-Large.

So we are continuing to make our mark within ICANN. Although with ICANN 70, it's a short meeting so we're not going to be as involved, I'd really like At-Large to look at what people are doing elsewhere within ICANN. But more particularly, I'd like At-Large to be helping LACRALO to celebrate their General Assembly at this meeting. This is the Latin America and Caribbean community's first gathering under their new

management and organization. It's taken them many, many years to get to this stage and I'd really like us all to celebrate and help them.

I'd like to invite you along to our ALT Plus meeting, which is coming up March something. It's very soon. And you'll find out more about what's actually happening within At-Large—the work that we're actually involved in. And I would like [inaudible] people who are interested in joining that. But also, if you're interested in our next ALAC meeting, which is [inaudible], where our monthly—because we're introducing monthly speakers. And our monthly speaker this month is going ... Actually, we have two. But one of them is John Crain, who's going to be talking about DAAR. And that's ICANN's Domain Abuse Activity Reporting project for DNS abuse in top-level domains. So it's relevant to us.

The other interesting speakers, who are going to be on pretty early, are going to be introducing the new Zoom interpretation tool. So they'll be introducing it and then they'll be sitting in to see how it works for us during our ALAC meeting. So that should be interesting.

So there's lots happening. And I'm hoping to see APRALO people in the Zoom Rooms at those meetings. And yeah. Hope you're all keeping well, and keeping safe, and thank you. Thank you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Maureen. Yeah. We have a number of things coming up next month and the rest of this month. For our meeting today, we have the next three presentations. Obviously, first it's a guest presentation. We, the Leadership Team of APRALO, has decided to invite guest speakers

on topics relevant to our community. And Nikhil Pahwa, who is going to speak to us, this will be our first such presentation. If any of us want to invite any other person for our subsequent meetings that you think is useful for our community, please suggest to us. We'll be happy to invite them.

Today, we have the presentation on the topic End-User Implications of the Privacy Policy Changes of WhatsApp by Nikhil Pahwa. This is a topic of high interest, especially in South Asia but I suppose in many other parts of the world as well. So before I turn it over to Nikhil, I must apologize for leaving only 13 minutes for him to present. I'm sure he has got a lots more than that. But that's all the time that we have. Our apologies. Over to you, Nikhil.

NIKHIL PAHWA:

Thanks, Satish. It's an honor to be here. And I'll do my best in 13 minutes. So you'll probably get less commentary and more context from me, just because of that. But just to introduce myself, I'm Nikhil. I'm the founder of MediaNama. It's a tech policy news site that's been following in the tech ecosystem since 2008. I've personally been covering the tech space in India since 2006.

So we've seen the growth of the Indian internet from 35 million users to now 500 million users. And we're in the thick of all the policy debates that are going on, on a regular basis. People come to us because they need to understand why certain policies are being rolled out, why they should care about those changes. In a sense, we help people make

sense of all the tech policy developments taking place with a special focus on India.

So the WhatsApp policy, which essentially came out on Jan 4th, the surprising thing about it was the amount of disinformation that followed that policy. And I'll start off with that context because it's important to understand in terms of how much it impacted users. I had aunts and uncles messaging me about whether they should delete WhatsApp or not. So the misinformation related to WhatsApp was just quite intense.

One example is there was a message that was floating around, saying that the new rules for WhatsApp and WhatsApp calls, which will be implemented from tomorrow, saying all calls will be recorded. All call recordings will be saved. WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and all social media will be monitored. Your devices will be connected to the ministry and WhatsApp will be sharing all of this information with the ministry, through Facebook, because WhatsApp owns Facebook. And this is just one example of the kind of information that is going around. And that led to a lot of panic in India.

Why WhatsApp matters, especially in India, is because India is its largest market with over 400 million monthly active users. I know it's huge in Brazil. It's huge in many parts of the world. But what Facebook is to the US is what WhatsApp is to our part of the world. And we have a very, very high daily active usage. It's the one app that everyone downloads when they get a phone. And there's a lot of personal and private information shared because it's end-to-end encrypted.

So as for the privacy policy that was rolled out, I'll give you some details on what WhatsApp was collecting on users. So according to the "information we collect" part of the privacy policy, they said that they can collect your phone number, profile photo, status, service settings, your "about" information, contacts from your phone book, your payment account, transaction information. India is one of the first few countries that WhatsApp has launched WhatsApp payments. So that's why the payment information.

Usage and log information, although they didn't specify what usage and what logs they will be collecting, device data, what mobile operator they're using, which ISPs, IP addresses, location information on the basis of IP addresses, broad identifiers. And if you're using WhatsApp Web, they'll be collecting cookies.

They'll also be collecting identifiers related to Facebook products and how users interact with WhatsApp services, including businesses. Your last three messages, any time you updated "about information." Any browser information, if you're using it on WhatsApp Web. Your mobile network, battery level, signal level, your time zone. So a substantial amount of information.

What it did not do very well in doing was it didn't mention what all it doesn't collect. So for example, it didn't talk about the fact that it cannot read messages and media because of end-to-end encryption. It didn't mention that it does not collect information about who you're messaging or calling. It cannot see your shared location or your group messages. And especially group messages are a big part of the

misinformation that was rolled out, that was being spread about WhatsApp. Shared location was another one.

WhatsApp also did not mention very clearly, at that point, whether it will stop identifying non-WhatsApp users in address books, which is a positive rule. I personally wasn't even aware the WhatsApp doesn't collect metadata about who you're messaging or calling. And that's something that they issued as a clarification later on.

Again, there was a gap between what WhatsApp does share with Facebook and what it can share with Facebook. So what it does share is essentially account registration information, any transaction data, service-related information, information on how you interact with businesses when using business services, mobile device data and IP address, which again is probably used for targeted advertising. But also, they said that, "We may use other information identified in the privacy policy, entitled 'information we collect.'"

So what it didn't ... It separately pointed out that it collects—that it can share all of this information with Facebook. But it didn't necessarily point out that it doesn't share. So the fear that people have is about how this will evolve over time because even this policy is an evolution from the 2016 change in policy, where WhatsApp initially began sharing data with Facebook. It's expanded now but it's also clarified better now because it was much more vague then.

So the difference between the old policy and the new policy is essentially that this is better-explained. There is more information that's been added about WhatsApp for Business accounts. So Facebook has

invested in Reliance JIO, which is India's largest mobile operator. And they're going to launch commerce services on WhatsApp.

And many businesses have started using WhatsApp for business. So if Facebook is going to provide the hosting services for those business interactions, then WhatsApp is going to share that business. That's the context about what information is being shared with the business, because it's hosted on Facebook servers, will be visible to Facebook as a company. But what people took this as was that they will be sharing all business data and all your interactions with a business with Facebook and in the network.

So I guess that separation between, like what you have between Amazon and AWS, was not really clear. And it's still not really clear. I don't think they've clarified it well enough.

But another point, and one thing that really, really pissed people off and got them very worried was the fact that they weren't given an opt-out option. In 2016, all of us were given an opt-out option that you can chose not to opt into WhatsApp's security policy. Now, you've been hit with a deadline. So initially, it was Feb 8th. Now that has been deferred to May 15th. But there is no indication that the company will revise or revisit this policy. They're only deferring its application and buy time.

So this became a big issue and many people started shifting to Facebook because I think people were reminded, after a very long time, that WhatsApp actually is owned by Facebook. And frankly, no one trusts Facebook when it comes to privacy. Even though this policy isn't that bad—even though it's not really worrying—that reminder was what led

people to shift. And it's like no one ... And people are worried about scope creep. So, "This is happening now." Later on, they'll expand the scope further. The privacy policy data is being collected and it can be shared with Facebook. So even if it's not being shared now, it could be shared in the future.

Again, the challenge was that ... The misinformation was a challenge, the opt ... What was very highlighted were the differences, of course, with respect to the EU versus India. So why doesn't WhatsApp not share the data of EU users with Facebook? WhatsApp doesn't share the data because of stricter regulations around privacy.

And when Facebook had initially bought WhatsApp, they had given an assurance that it would not use WhatsApp data. So European regulators are the only ones who have enforced that promise. So WhatsApp has been fined by the European Union in 2017, by France in 2017 again, Germany in 2019, and so on, because it has promised it wouldn't share data.

In India, there is no such provision. So therefore, people are pointing out the difference here. And there's been a fairly strong amount of support for Signal. And I have seen groups move. But it's not like activity on WhatsApp has particularly died down. So that's the context that I have on what happened in WhatsApp's privacy policy in India. I can answer any questions, if we have time.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Nikhil. I think there is an observation in chat that Cheryl has posted, if you'd like to comment on it. Are you able to ...? You want me to read it out?

NIKHIL PAHWA: Yeah. She's saying that that's a rather pervasive set of changes, regardless of what they're not able to collect. That's true. But Cheryl, the thing is that pretty much every business collects a vast amount of data like this for the provisioning of their services.

I think the concern is about them sharing this data with Facebook. There is no clarity on how the provisioning of WhatsApp, or the users of WhatsApp, will benefit from collecting this data. In a sense, does this data collection—is this being necessarily used to benefit WhatsApp users or is it being used to benefit Facebook? And that's the challenge here. I think that's where people have a problem, that their data is being used to benefit Facebook and its entire group of apps. But most of it is not being used to benefit WhatsApp users.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Nikhil. We have two people in the queue. We have Cheryl and then Gopal. Over to you, Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you. Nikhil, I agree with everything you've said. I suppose, from my very biased point of view ... And if anyone has worked with me for any length of time, they should know that I don't value privacy very highly so I'm not being reactive here.

But what I do value is that when I undertake, and when I expect most end users of anything that they're doing, undertake a relationship with a company, they're at least given the opportunity to read the fine print and know what they're getting into. I'm one of those people who do actually read the fine print. And I recognize that many people don't. But regardless, they had the opportunity to know what they were entering into the relationship with.

When significant changes happen—and this does occur quite frequently with purchasing of other companies, etc., or just simply change of board direction in a company that you've got a relationship with—how that is managed is critical to keep any trust in the relationship at all.

And I think it goes more than, "Oh my dear, it's going to Facebook." It's got to do with maintaining a trust relationship between something that, because it was trusted, because it had end-to-end encryption, had all the packaging that said, "Come here. We're here for you. You are safe with us. So is your data." And I think it's that turn of events that was very badly managed from a community communications point, which I know you've said. But that's really where my point was coming from.

NIKHIL PAHWA:

So just in addition to that, I just wanted to point out that there is not much of a difference between the policy back in 2016 and now. I think what's changed is the awareness of what all WhatsApp is collecting and what all it's sharing.

And I think the community's also evolved. At least—I can speak only from an India perspective—we are far more cognizant of privacy than

we were then. So we are reacting more strongly now than we were then, at that point in time. The four years that have transpired have actually led to a more enlightened community when it comes to privacy.

So I completely agree with you. For people, it was just a reminder about what all WhatsApp collects. And we don't need to be fine with all of that, to be honest. I think there is scope for discussion on data minimization as well, going forward.

Someone has asked about the privacy law in India in chat. And my sense is the privacy law is only going to impact things when there is litigation that follows. I don't think the data sharing is going to be much of a concern between companies because the privacy law doesn't necessarily restrict that, as long as it's a part of notice.

The other thing that you mentioned was about the fact that their communication wasn't that great. I think notices need to improve across the board. And it's only when we have, maybe, nutrition labels for privacy also coming into play that we'll probably have people getting a better sense of what data is being collected.

The Google Play Store is full of flashlight apps that collect all sorts of data and try to gain access to all sorts of information. I would just say that there's much worse that's going on. It's just that the scale of the impact here is much greater so people are more concerned.

SATISH BABU: Right. Thanks, Nikhil. Our time is basically up. But we will extend it by another two minutes because there are two questions. First is from Dr. Gopal and secondly from Nadira. Dr. Gopal, please go ahead.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: Very quickly. Thank you, Nikhil. And also thanks, Dr. Satish Babu. I would [bypass] all that that has been going on in the chat. We first started [addressing the problem] of anonymously on the web. To say that there is nothing like anonymity on the web. They've started collecting a lot of information and now there's [more influence]. They really want to [create an environment where] one who goes to all these next social media, anonymity is not there. Therefore, how likely is it that it's the physical appearance of [inaudible] is not there. The [inaudible] is getting adversely impacted. If I can't get [inaudible], I'll get a few others that were impacting us.

NIKHIL PAHWA: Sorry. I didn't understand the question.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: You see, there is no anonymity on social media. It's not possible. Therefore, they would want this person to be seen as an individual—as a person. We want involvement, engagement as a person. If that is not happening in the [due course] of time, will the people around us that are being impacted, will see is there any [inaudible].

NIKHIL PAWHA: I still didn't get it but I think there is anonymity. There are platforms that do allow a semblance of anonymity. Just today there was an announcement that India's intermediary liability rules are going to be re-looked at. And one part of the change in rules is traceability for all social networks. And there has been a call in India to link social media accounts to government-issued IDs. So we are going down the path where real names are going to be there.

But frankly, from what I've seen, having real names up on platforms doesn't necessarily affect their activity, especially when it comes to hate speech and the environment that is created on social media. What it actually does is it stifles vulnerable communities and their voices on issues that they want to speak about but not necessarily be identified because they might become targets when they speak up.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much. Last question. I think this can be a quick answer. Nadira's asking if it's possible the Facebook has something of a strategy behind this acquisition of WhatsApp? Is it to boost their own Messenger and kill WhatsApp in the future? Are you aware of anything?

NIKHIL PAWHA: I don't think Facebook has gone into this with the objective of killing WhatsApp. In fact, there is a move to combine the three messaging platforms—Instagram Messenger, Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp—and make them interoperable and end-to-end encrypted. So in this case, they wouldn't be able to read the messages that are

being sent on those platforms. So surprisingly, Facebook is leaning towards privacy there.

But let's also not forget that they are also collecting IP address details and that information is still shared across the Facebook platform, where the monetization is primarily advertising. So I think that's the route that they're taking. But they're also leaning towards privacy, surprisingly, when it comes to messaging.

SATISH BABU: Right. So thanks very much, Nikhil. It's been a great help and very enlightening.

NIKHIL PAHWA: Thanks for having me on.

SATISH BABU: And thanks, on behalf of the entire APRALO community, for taking time out to speak to us.

NIKHIL PAHWA: Thank you.

SATISH BABU: We'll now go on to the next item in the agenda. So this is a Mentorship Program proposal presented by Ali. So I request Ali and Amrita to keep

to eight minutes because we have gone slightly over the time for the previous presentation. So over to you, Ali.

ALI ALMESHAL:

Thanks, Satish and team. I'll just take you through, in this eight minutes, the proposals of how we will take our second mentorship program. And if any feedback or comments, we can take it offline later on, just for the sake of the time. So after our successful first mentorship program, and the outcome of it, and the results that we have seen, I'm coming up with this proposal. And we can just scroll down. Next slide, please.

So what is our goals and objectives behind this and the vision of doing this mentorship program. Basically, we want our members—our ALSes who are our individual ALSes and the organization ALSes—to be encouraged and to be active participants. So I'm sure everybody knows about this. And this is always our objectives, how to get them more engaged. Next slide.

So, this is the proposed timeline. But I think now, because we are already in the middle of February—almost last two weeks of Feb—I think I'll just be adjusting it. And upon the consent from the team, I will just make it starting from March. So the plan was that we'll start by Feb and open the application for the mentorship for the mentors and mentees to apply.

And then, we'll move along with the timeline proposed. It will be a six-month program starting from April. But this will shift again, starting from April to September. And then, we'll start the evaluations and the result of the program itself. Next slide, please.

So how would we take that mentorship program? So we are going in three phases. So there will be a design; then attract, connect, and guide; then evaluate. So when we spoke about the design, we'll set smart goals for establishing the guidelines and expectations. And then we'll move, how we will attract mentors and mentee, profile and backgrounds. And we'll come to that in a bit, details.

Then, we'll connect. We'll do a matching between mentors and mentees, based on their profiles and others. Guide, we'll start the guiding metrics and how we will connect and set the KPIs. And then, we'll start evaluating. Next, please.

So when we speak about the design, what is our goals? Future-proofing the quality of APRALO leadership, succession plan, and enhancing professional because we know that we have a rich portfolio of different expertise that they can employ those expertise in the APRALO and in the ICANN and At-Large community.

Providing the APRALO with better perspective of ALS issues. So once those ALSes are engaged with us more, then we can know what is their opinions, what is their issues that we can work out with them to support them. Next, please.

Yep. This is a continuation of the design phase. Then, it just is speaking about the culture and retention of the engagement of our ALSes because the more we leave them away without having a continuous engagement, I think it's a potential to those ALSes to lose their engagement.

So into the design, there is these guidelines and expectations. The achievements, and the goals, and KPIs need to be initially agreed. Active participation and involvement in the mentoring process for both parties, mentee and mentors. Understanding of the ALAC policy and the development process, which is our core. And we need feedback and comments both ways. And leadership appraising the process itself and following up. Next, please.

So mentor and mentee profiling, this is what I have just mentioned. And I'll just quickly go through. We need to match the genders, the academic qualifications, interests, affiliation, backgrounds, and networks, and country, and all of that that we need to, once we start the program, to have this matching. Next.

So we need to promote the benefits of doing so, what we are offering into this learning process or knowledge sharing, what opportunities we are offering to the mentees to contribute to the At-Large overall and ALAC. And mentors to pass important knowledge as well. So we have a great expertise in each of individual teams that are contributing to the ALAC and At-Large work. So this is the fortune that we need to use and promote—attract At-Large works in ICANN. Next, please.

So when we go into the connect, we'll be matching the mentees and mentors as well. So each participating will bring different competencies, background, learning styles and needs. We'll have a degree of self-matching. But the APRALO team or the committee that will look after the whole program will have a say in it. But mostly, we'll give more flexibility to the mentee and mentors to match on their requirements between the mentee and mentors.

Then, we have some examples of mentoring styles. But again, if there is a different way, it's most welcome. Traditional: individual mentee; mentor is an expert passing knowledge and results in enhanced performance of individual and organization. So these are just the types and examples of the way we are suggesting for the mentoring. Next, please.

So this is how we'll start building a relationship. Mentors and mentees need to learn more about each other and how best they can work together. So there should be some synergy between both in order for them to accept the six months of mentoring and guidance with this program. So there should be common interests, individual learning styles, potential problems to be discussed, goals based on objectives. And definitely, there should be an agreement on regular time, conferencing, and progress achievement. Next, please.

So then, on the guidance, the mentoring experience will be rewarding as long as mentors and mentees have clearly defined their objectives. So without the clear objectives, I don't think there will be a good result out of it. And then, we to have to turn up to appointments, conference sessions, and other arranged activities. So basically, what we are saying here is that all what we are doing should be all agreed between the mentor and the mentee. They have this understanding, respect to the time and the calls. And if there is any, I would say—

SATISH BABU:

Your time is up now.

ALI ALMESHAL: I'm almost done. Thanks, Satish. Next slide. And this is the last. And then, we'll be doing the evaluations. Did we achieve the leadership goals? Did we achieve our personal goals? Did we achieve learning about APRALO and specific ALAC and ICANN interests? I think, in summary, this is it. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Ali. I think you had a good presentation. It's quite thought-provoking. And I think we should reflect on this and think about the next steps by email. So thank you for this and we will go ahead, over the next few weeks, with the next steps. We now move on to the NomCom update, item number seven on the agenda. Amrita, you have roughly seven minutes.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thanks, Satish. I'll try to finish it up by five. I know we are hard-pressed with time. So once again, I'm back with the NomCom update. For people who are not aware, the nominating committee at ICANN actually works as an independent committee, with us, to select the ICANN leadership positions. And they function independent of the Board, the supporting organizations and advisory committees.

So in this year, the current positions which are available are the following. We have positions which are open for three ICANN Board positions. There are positions open for the At-Large community, one in Africa, one in Latin America and Caribbean, and the other for the Asia Pacific Region. There are two positions open for the GNSO Council. One

is for the Contracted Parties and one is for the Non-Contracted Parties. And one is for the ccNSO Council.

Now, what are the kind of people we are looking at? We are looking at people who have a bit of critical thinking, who are culturally aware of the different cultures of other places. We are looking at people who have fluency in English, knowledge of the internet ecosystem. For the Board positions, we are looking for people who have Board experience, a background preferably in legal, government, technology, business, or non-profit management. We are looking for diverse people. We are looking at leaders who represent a variety of cultures. We are also striving for gender balance and people coming from different professional backgrounds and geographies.

Now, why should anyone apply? Primarily, it is that if you want to influence global internet policies, if you want to impact the evolution of the internet, develop more professional skills, want to collaborate with diverse group of industry leaders, engage with the global community. So it is more of enhancement and giving to the community, which is important. Can we go to the next slide?

The next, please. You can keep scrolling. So these are the three ICANN Board positions which are vacant. We are looking for people from ... I personally would invite more people from Asia Pacific, and of course, women to apply for the positions because currently, the Board lacks, I would say, representation from APAC region. Currently, there's only one person from Japan. And obviously, we need people for the At-Large advisory committee for the three regions which I mentioned. So please

do apply. Please do encourage others whom you know to apply. If you need more information ... Next slide, please.

There are the two Generic Names Supporting Organization Council positions, which are available, which I mentioned. The next, the ccNSO Council position, which is one, currently. Yes. You can go to the next.

So the last date to apply is 18th of March. So I would urge you all to please spread the word across your community to capable people. There are capable people in our community. Please do share the information. And for more updates, you could visit the NomCom website or even write to the NomCom if you have any queries. And I'm always available. You can always ping me.

Thank you so much, Satish. I am done with my NomCom update. And I have kept it to less than five minutes. But if there is any question, I'm happy to take it.

And on a separate note, please, if your ALSes or you have done any activity in this month, please share the updates with me and ICANN staff by the 25th or 26th of this month so that we can update it in the newsletter. Let everyone know about what good things you are doing. Thank you so much. Satish, back to you.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you, Amrita. Thanks for completing it on time. So there are opportunities through the NomCom. So anyone interested, please go ahead and apply. So we have come to the last item in the agenda, which

is the AOB. Is there any question or any comment that anybody would like to raise? Dr. Gopal, I see your hand up. Is it an old hand?

GOPAL TADEPALLI: It's an old hand.

SATISH BABU: Okay. No problem. Liana, please go ahead.

LIANNA GALSTYAN: Thank you, Satish. Just wanted to share information of what ISOC Armenia Chapter is doing with the ISOC Accessibility Special Interest Group. That is a meeting with people with disabilities and to be a conversation with ISOC Armenia. So we'll do a webinar on 25th of February. I will quickly post the invitation and the link in the chat and invite people to come and join this.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Liana. Amrita, is it a new hand?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: New hand, Satish. Quickly, we had this session with our new speakers in February. Are we planning to have something of this kind in March? And if so, if we could finalize things a bit early because Liana and I were discussing that we posted things just yesterday. So if we had more time, we would be able to post it earlier. We would have got more

participants in the call today. And also, is there going to be a discussion what is it we are looking at?

SATISH BABU:

Yep. That's a good point. We are planning for guest speakers not just for March but for every meeting until we change to policy later on. So please make suggestions for guest speakers on topics that are relevant for us. We will send out the notices for the guest speakers a bit earlier from the next month onwards. So if you have any comments or any suggestions, please get back to us and we'll be happy to include them in the process.

So I think we have reached the end of the agenda and our time is also up. Thanks to everybody who's joined this call. It was a very informative call. And it's back to you, Yeşim, to close the call.

YEŞİM NAZLAR:

Thank you very much, Satish. And thank you all for joining today's meeting. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]