
GISELLA GRUBER:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Welcome to the AFRALO monthly call of March on Wednesday the 3rd of March at 18:30 UTC.

On the English channel, we have Paul Muchene, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Seun Ojedeji, Chokri Ben Romdhane, Isaac Maposa, Barrack Otieno, Sarah Kiden, Aziz Hilali, Dave Kissoondoyal.

On the French channel, we have Gabriel Bombambo, Olévié Kouami, Bamba Vassinou, Etienne Tshishimbi.

From staff today we have Heidi Ullrich, Bob Ochieng, Silvia Vivanco, Yaovi Atohoun, and myself, Gisella Gruber.

Apologies noted from León Felipe-Sanchez. We still have a couple of people we are trying to dial out to and they will be added to the attendance as soon as they join the call.

If I could kindly remind you today to please state your names when speaking, not only for transcription purposes but also to allow the interpreters to identify you on the other language channel.

Our interpreters today on the French channel are Isabelle and Jacques.

With no further ado, I will hand the call over to Seun Ojedeji. Seun, over to you. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks a lot, Gisella. Hello everyone. Welcome again to our monthly call. I trust you're all doing fine and staying safe. Good morning, good

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.

afternoon, good evening. For us in this part of the region, I would say, unless some of us are able to get the new visa which is the vaccine out of the continent, I think for most of us it's good evening. And of course, for staff from various parts of the world, good morning, good afternoon to you all.

Here is the monthly call again, and we'll move straight to the matters of the day by first reviewing the agenda. So that's the agenda in front of us. Do we have any suggestion for modification, for review, any addition or subtraction? The floor is yours. Can I ask staff to scroll through the agenda to the end?

That is the last agenda item, the AOB. So, seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, consider the agenda approved as presented, so we move on to the next item on the agenda, which I believe would be staff on review of action items. Over to you, staff.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much. So we have one page that is now showing the action items continuously, so I will go to the February meeting action items.

The first one is the AFRALO newsletter editors to invite Matogoro to prepare a brief article on universal acceptance for the next AFRALO newsletter. I believe that is in progress. I have seen the schedule and the newsletter is supposed to be final by the end of April for early publication in early April.

Then Seun, Aziz, Abdeldjalil to prepare a fiscal year 21 RALO discretionary request for promotional items. So I think that's also in progress. We have received your request for some promotional items and staff is already working on that, so we can perhaps mark that as completed or ongoing. So that's all. Thank you. Over to you, Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks a lot, Silvia, for that update, and of course, yes, let's keep the action items open, especially the one on RALO discretionary requests for action items. Yes, we'll leave it open, and of course, the one from Matogoro.

What is delaying that of Matogoro, by the way? It would be good to know. Do we have Matogoro on the call? No. Okay, so I guess we need to follow up to confirm—if there's any newsletter member here who could confirm if Matogoro has sent in this brief article, that would be helpful, during the newsletter agenda item so we could actually consider this resolved. But otherwise, we'll follow up with Matogoro on this.

Thanks, once again, Silvia. Any reaction to the action items that have been read out? Okay. Seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, we'll move on to the next agenda item, and that will be the ICANN public comments.

We have a couple of public comments. I think basically, a number of them are the ones that we've also talked about during the last call, such as the additional reference label generation rulesets, the IANA naming function review, recommendation for IANA naming function contract amendment, the EPDP phase two policy recommendations up for

consideration, and then the SSR2 review team final report is also still open. This is a new one that just started today, to be precise, the initial report on the third ccNSO policy development process. That is also open for public comment, and the proposal for Korean root zone label generation rules is also open for public comments started from yesterday and will be ending by mid-April.

So those are the current public comments currently active and still accepting feedback. Feel free to look at this call for comments and if there's anyone you feel strongly that we should comment about, you can do so as an individual or as an ALS, but if you want us to also endorse your statement or to support it, please feel free to reach out to us or either directly to the leadership or the mailing list, then we'll be able to discuss and of course, support your statement accordingly.

All right. The At-Large policy resources URL still remains very useful for you. Please feel free to interact with them, especially the multi-stakeholder advice development graphic. You can find that useful. There used to be a repository project which was initiated, I wonder which one is the link to that which normally contains the various progress of policy-related activities. So feel free to interact with those various resources, sources as you find applicable.

All right. So having said that, a couple of comments. All right. So having said that, a couple of public comments have been responded to at ALAC level and there you have some of them. It looks like ALAC has been busy. They've got some comments right there and I can see Hadia from AFRALO is also one of the penholders for the one on EPDP 2 policy recommendation for Board consideration. So all those open public

comments, this is actually for entire At-Large, so feel free to add your comment on the Wiki on each of those public comments that ALAC is working on.

Having said that, I think I'll open the floor for comments, response or remarks on what has been discussed so far on this agenda item. Hadia, I see your hand up. You have the floor.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you, Seun. I'm not sure if it's okay to comment now in relation to this, but I would say that in relation to the EPDP phase two public comment, basically, the idea here is, do we want to support the SSAD and do we want to go forward with it? Do we want to recommend to the Board to adopt it or not?

And there are several reasons for which we could think about not adopting SSAD, as currently as it stands, it does not really provide any benefit to individual users or ordinary users of Internet, they will need to be accredited and then passed through the system to have a disclosure decided by the contracted parties, which is exactly what we have now.

However, having said so, having SSAD does not mean that the other path is not available. The other path will remain available. So that's basically the discussion, and please go ahead and put your thoughts on the Wiki page. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks a lot, Hadia. Thanks for that quick feedback on that particular public comment, and of course, on that note, we move on to reports. I'm not seeing any new hands, I'm not hearing any voice as well, and as usual, we kick off with our GSE—that's global stakeholder engagement—updates from the team. I'm sure Pierre is not on the call, but Yaovi and Bob, who wants to go first? You have the floor.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you, Seun. I hope you can hear me. So we have a few updates to share with you during this monthly call. The first information is that our team is planning an event we call Africa engagement forum. So it's a regional ICANN event. We are planning for the first week of May. So we hope to provide more details on the agenda and also the events by the end of this month. So that is a new regional activity we are planning to have in two months' time.

Also, for all the regional activities, we have an event happening in Brazzaville, and the fifth edition is happening at the end of April. So the name is Osiane, so it's an event where you have many stakeholders especially focused on business. So they have the support of the government and also the regulator in Congo, and the attendance is regional event, so ICANN is planning also to be there to have a workshop and also to contribute to other panels. So this is happening virtually this year because of COVID.

We want to also mention that ICANN-managed root server is something we are working on, and especially we started something with the AFRINIC some years ago and initially, there were four locations to be

provided with equipment support. Now we have been moving this year and we hope to move faster and to complete the deployment of this IMRS, what people call the L-root. So if you want more information on IMRS, you have more on ICANN website also, and any organization is free to decide to host an IMRS in [inaudible].

But the special program we are having with AFRINIC is to be able to provide the equipment to some organizations. So far, we have limited resources and we are trying to complete this phase of the program with AFRINIC.

So for general activities and engagement, our team is working with various stakeholders. Some are doing like training or seminars, so we have from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, [inaudible] and Gambia. So we are in touch with stakeholders in these various countries for various activities.

When we talk about IMRS also, we have some few issues, in [inaudible] for example where the IMRS is hosted by [MTN] and we have also one in Tunis hosted by ATI in Tunis. So these two instances, we have seen a few issues with them and we are in touch with their partners there to have the issues solved as soon as possible.

So to close, Pierre will be sharing with you some ideas, projects we plan to implement in the region, in Africa. So this probably will happen during the next AFRALO-AFRICANN meeting in ICANN 70. So these are the information the team would like to share with you as update. Thank you very much for listening. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thanks a lot, Yaovi, for that detailed update. Any comments or questions for Yaovi?

JABHERA MATOGORO: Yeah, maybe—hi team—I would like to ask the global stakeholder engagement team in Africa that they should try as much as possible to distribute their efforts rather than focusing on a few selected countries in Africa. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Seun, may I respond to that?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes, please. You have the floor.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you, Matogoro. So the update we are giving you is—[I think you] raised the same point before. There is no selected country at all. And Bob is on the call, so we are also having activities with Tanzania especially. So to confirm again that we are working for the whole Africa. So feel free anytime to reach out to us. So if I give the example of some country, this is where people reach out to us. So please, anytime you have something, reach out to us and then we are available to help all the continent. This is the way we are working.

So if we mention a country, maybe it's a focus on where some key activities are happening. But in general, we are covering the whole Africa. So, no preference. Thank you so much.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you, Yaovi. I hope that addresses the question from Matogoro. I thought I saw Chokri's hand, but it's down now, so I guess maybe the concern has been addressed. So we move on to the next report, which is from the technical engagement team. I'm not seeing Yazid. Do we have Yazid or Paul on the call?

PAUL MUCHENE: Paul is here.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Good. Paul, you have the floor. Welcome.

PAUL MUCHENE: Thank you, Seun. Welcome. I just wanted to give an update on what we've been doing in the continent regarding technical engagement. So in February, we had a series of trainings and webinars in NIRA, that is Nigeria ccTLD. In Sudan, we actually had presentations on DNS, DNS abuse and DNSSEC with the Sudan network operators group, and in Cameroon and Benin, Yazid did a series of webinars in Cameroon and in Benin, those are hands-on DNSSEC lab.

So at the same time also in February, we also had a chance to train engineers in the Benin, .bj and .ng registries on DNSSEC, and so far, it was successful.

The other thing that we also did together with our colleagues in the Africa GSE team, Bob Ochieng and Yaovi, is we had an outreach to the AfTLD regarding DAAR, and we had a webinar in which members of different country code TLD registries in the continent actually attended. We had at least attendance from around 35 participants, and we talked about DAAR and through this and part of the effort done by my colleagues, I'm happy to say that .ke has actually been onboarded to the DAAR project.

In March, we have upcoming activities in Morocco and Tunisia, and in those two countries, we are going to be covering DNSSEC, DNS abuse and also DNS operations. At the same time, we're going to continue to be advocating for DAAR and DNSSEC validation. So DNSSEC validation is actually of interest to ICANN Org in the sense that it also helps improve on the security and resilience of the DNS. So in this case, we are going to have a series of trainings with network operators and ISPs in the continent in the coming months ahead.

So that's my short update, and I'm happy to take any questions. Back to you, Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks a lot, Paul. Thanks for the update. Any comment, question to Paul? Okay. Not seeing any hand and not hearing any voice, thanks once

again, Paul for the useful updates on the technical activities in the region.

Recent and upcoming ALAC activities. Sarah, Dave, Abdulkarim. Who wants to go first?

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: Can I just start, and then Sarah and Abdulkarim can continue?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Please go ahead, Dave. You have the floor.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL: After the last AFRALO meeting, we have had two webinars from the ALAC. There was one, giving better presentation online, [forming habits] in the new reality. It was the At-Large capacity building webinar by Jonathan Zuck.

The second one was creating promotional videos in PowerPoint, a crash course, same, by Jonathan Zuck. And then after that, there had been some announcements, some information sharing. There has been the ICANN Board consultation with the GNSO council on the SSAD, which was held on the 22nd of February 2021.

There was the fiscal year 23 strategic outlook program trend identification sessions. The ICANN NomCom application period was open on the—the period is open and the deadline is 18th of March 2021 at 23:59 UTC.

The ICANN community excellence award nomination period is open, and then we have nominations to be submitted by the 29th of March 2021.

I think for this community excellence award nomination, I am proposing the nomination of a friend and mentor, Tijani Ben Jemaa for the ICANN community excellence award nomination from the AFRALO. This is a proposal that I'm putting on the table.

The ALAC has been working for the ICANN 70 planning. So we have had weekly meetings. And then the last one will be the information transparency initiative team invites community members to request for demonstration of upcoming improvements to the ICANN website during ICANN 70. And then the ICANN continues the pandemic Internet access reimbursement program, the same as ICANN 69. So the applications are due by Friday the 5th of March, meaning in two days, we have to apply for the pandemic Internet access reimbursement program. That's all from my side. If Sarah or Abdulkarim can add anything that I have missed.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. Any addition from the other ALAC members? Sarah, you have the floor.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you, Dave, for that comprehensive update. I think the only thing I would like to add is that we now have a new Zoom interpretation feature which I think is still not really fully implemented and we've not been using it in the ICANN community but will now start to use. So

during our calls, you'll have the option on Zoom to switch between English, French and I believe Spanish at the same time.

So the At-Large community was selected to be the first community to test this feature, and I think more information will be coming soon. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Great. That's good news, and thanks for the updates. I don't think Abdulkarim is on the call. All right, any reaction to the report that has been provided?

Okay, seeing no hands up—and of course, I note that Dave also mentioned the community excellence nomination and proposed Tijani to be nominated for that from AFRALO. I'd like to hear if there's any different opinion. Please, you can either say it now or you can also reach out to the leadership or to myself much later. Feel free to do so. We would also consider that suggestion at the leadership level, but it is noted.

Thanks a lot, and of course, that then moves us to the next item on the agenda, which is item number D, that is where we call Hadia, our NomCom madame.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, chair. So I have initially sent a presentation, a short one, but I don't see it linked. Doesn't matter. The significant update—

SEUN OJEDEJI: It's on the screen right now.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Okay. So the significant update that I would like to highlight is that the application period has been extended. So the closing date is now the 29th of March and not the 18th of March. So you have time, so please go ahead and apply.

So we are looking for leaders with critical thinking, cultural awareness, knowledge of the Internet ecosystem. For the Board, we need Board or executive experience but not for all the positions. and you will have the ability to influence the global Internet policy, impact the evolution of the Internet, develop your own professional skills and gain experience and collaborate with a diverse group from different regions and different experiences, and a group of industry leaders. You will have the opportunity to engage with a global community. Next slide, please.

I would mention one more thing, that we have received recommendations from the Board and from the community, from the ALAC, from the ccNSO and from the GNSO council in relation to what they're looking for. So I advise you all to go to the NomCom 2021 webpage and read those recommendations. You have the ICANN Board, the ALAC, the ccNSO and the GNSO. Read those recommendations before filling in the application, because this will help you provide what we are actually looking for. So yes, thank you so much, we have the slides.

We have three positions for three members for the ICANN Board of directors, and then we have three At-Large Advisory Committee

positions. One of them is for AFRALO, so this is a good opportunity for AFRALO members who would like to join the ALAC. We have two positions for the GNSO, one for the Contracted Party House and another for the Noncontracted Party House, and both positions are voting positions, and we have one position for the ccNSO council. Next slide, please.

So basically, the next slide says that the deadline to apply is the 29th of March. This has been extended, so there is time. So again, please take the time, visit the webpage, read the recommendations provided by the ICANN Board and by the advisory committees and supporting organizations before filling in the application so that you can provide the information that we are looking for. Good luck for all, and go ahead and apply. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Okay. Thank you very much. There you go. Please feel free to share this information with your ALS members and of course, individual members, share with your community and those that you think would be best suited for the various positions. Please encourage them to apply. Thanks, Hadia, for the update. Any question or comments to Hadia?

Seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, we move to the next item, which is a UA update from Abdalmonem, Malick or Abdulkarim. Do we have any of them on the call? I know Abdulkarim is not on the call. Do we have Abdalmonem? Seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, let's move to the next item, unaffiliated individual mobilization work party update. That is Sarah, Caleb, Patricia, Esther. Who wants to go first?

SARAH KIDEN:

I think Caleb and Esther are not on the call, so I'll give the update. It's a brief update. The report from the unaffiliated individual member work party is almost ready. The plan is to have a version ready for ALAC by the next ICANN meeting, which is this month, or immediately after the ICANN meeting.

So a copy of those will be sent to RALO for their comment, and this will be a good opportunity for us to give input into this report. I think it comes at a very good time because we are reviewing our rules for individual members. So please take a look at the current rules, and when the report comes out from the work party, also kindly take a look so that we can give our feedback as a RALO. That's about it. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. Any reaction to that? Okay, no reaction, no hands up, no comments made. Okay, so I think ICANN 70 registration update, [it finally is open.] Abdeldjalil has this tagged to his name. Abdeldjalil, you have the floor.

Okay, since I'm not hearing from Abdeldjalil, information there is just to remind us to update ourself that registration still remains open. Please be sure to register accordingly, and of course, note that for those who also want access to the Internet access support, registration is a prerequisite, so please be sure to register and also go through the process of applying for the support.

All right, let's move on to the next item, which is recent and upcoming AFRALO ALS activities. Any ALS or any individual member have anything to share in terms of their activities? Any upcoming or recent one? Feel free, you have the floor.

Okay, seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, then we'll move on to the next item on the agenda, item number five, which is AFRALO working group updates. Do we have Isaac on the call?

ISAAC MAPOSA: Yes, I am.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Isaac, you have the floor.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you, Seun. This is Isaac Maposa for the record. I am the co-chair of the AFRALO working group on the review of operating principles [2020] membership section. We managed to conduct a survey with our individual members so that we get some feedback to feed into the recommendation for the individual membership.

However, the survey responses were very low. I think out of 15 individual members, we managed to only get five responses. I'm not sure why the responses were that low. I think the outreach and engagement team has to do some work to actually see why people don't usually respond to some of the surveys which are sent out, why are there low responses.

We also held a meeting yesterday deliberating on the way forward with the working group work. So we decided that we'll go ahead with the responses we got from the surveys and feed into the working group recommendation with the working group members as we are also working on the document on the issues to do with individual membership.

However, we are also working on a report from the unaffiliated individual mobilization work party which will actually feed into our work, so we decided that we will give our recommendations after we get the report from ALAC on the current work which is being done which affects individual membership.

So I think that's all. If there are any comments or any suggestions.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks a lot, Isaac, and thanks for the update. One of the things that I think is important for the work party is that we need to start wrapping things up and we need to start moving to—getting the task completed, especially as the ALAC work party on individual membership report is now coming out, is going to be out very soon.

So, any reaction to Isaac? No hands up, no comments made, so thanks a lot. Okay, Bram, you have the floor.

BRAM FUDZULANI:

Thank you, Seun. I just wanted to maybe check with Isaac if there's anything that we can maybe do to work together with staff, increase the engagement of members in responding to the survey that was pushed.

I'm happy to engage offline. So maybe let's catch up and then see what we can do together and then get the community engaged in the survey. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you, Bram. [Sure, we can] catch up after the call.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thanks. Olévié, you have the floor.

INTERPRETER: Not hearing Olévié.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. I think we should move on while perhaps Olévié can try to reconnect or rejoin or something. Thanks. So we move on to the next item, which is—

REMMY NWEKE: Seun, my hand is up.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Remmy, you have the floor. Sorry.

REMMY NWEKE: Thank you. My question to Isaac and the colleagues is I don't know how long the survey [inaudible] extend it if possible, although from what you have said, the time seems to be running out. Then maybe also, the [inaudible] final report. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you, Remmy. Okay, on the first item, the survey was sent out, I think actually it was sent out twice and the time period which was given for people to respond was actually very long. That's why we decided to move on with the responses that we got. I think it was sent out last year, and we actually extended it out to earlier this year and we only got a few responses. And it was sent out from staff. I think if I heard right, that was your second item. It was sent out through staff. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thank you. I hope that addresses the question of Remmy. Otherwise, you may raise your hand again and follow up. But I note that Olévié has put his question in the chat. But it is in French, so I would ask somebody who understands what has been said to kindly say it in audio, please. Yes, Abdeldjalil, you have the floor.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you very much, Seun, and thank you, Olévié. He is asking, is Kris Seeburn from Mauritius a member of AFRALO? And if he is, then what is his title or his position in AFRALO?

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Okay. Kris Seeburn, I think, yeah, information reaching me is that he's one of the AFRALO members and has just written that he wants to resign from—I'm not sure resignation is the right word because he wasn't employed in the first place in AFRALO. But at least he wants to disengage from AFRALO in terms of his participation within AFRALO. So that's the feedback I have right now at the moment. I would need to check if he's an individual member or an ALS. My understanding is he's referring to ISOC Mauritius or something. So I will need to follow up on the e-mail to understand whether the ALS is actually delisting and we need to coordinate with him on whether just as an individual he's delisting his participation.

So that is the current update that we have. I don't know whether staff has anything to add to this. Please feel free to chime in. Dave, I see your hand is up.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL:

Yes. Kris Seeburn was in fact a member—ISOC chapter of Mauritius was a member of the AFRALO ALS, and then there have been some issues and this ISOC chapter has been unrecognized by ISOC. So currently, there is no ISOC chapter, but still, Kris Seeburn continued to participate. In fact, he participated on the mailing list and then sent his comments, but this is all that I recall. But in fact, he was not an individual member. He was a member through the ISOC chapter of Mauritius. This is what I recall.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Hi. I recommend that it's important that if the management or the AFRALO leader could follow up closely on the issue so that we understand. Maybe there might be other challenges behind the chapter rejuvenation so that we can see how we can have the active participation from their side, because I know ALAC has only a few members around those two countries out of 54 African countries, so you can see that if we are losing maybe an active member from the group, then it's not a plus for us. So I think I recommend the AFRALO leader to make a close follow-up on it so that we can understand if there are any other reasons that we can take onboard and see how we can intervene. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you, Matogoro. Sarah, you have the floor.

SARAH KIDEN: Thank you, Seun. So yesterday during the operating principles call, we had a discussion like this about how if your ALS goes into rejuvenation, if you have issues with your ALS. Personally, I don't think that should stop someone from participating in the ICANN community, but I think these are the kinds of discussions we should be having in the operating principles working group on how to engage further with people whose ALSes are no longer active in their countries. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thanks, Sarah. From what I hear, on the side of the AFRALO, Kris is the rep for ISOC Mauritius. That is what we have on record. And of

course, we need to follow up and see on what the e-mail is—when he says that he wants to resign, does it mean ISOC Mauritius, whether it's on rejuvenation or not, does it mean that ISOC Mauritius as an ALS does not want to remain within AFRALO? I think that's what we need to reach out—so I think action item is for—I'm not even sure we should put an action item to this because it's something that we'll still follow up on anyway and is not—okay, so I think let's just put it for the record and follow up. Put an action item for the leadership to follow up on the status of ISOC Mauritius as an ALS.

All right. seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, I think we can move on to next agenda item, which is outreach and engagement. So, we have Bram, Tijani, I hope either of them are on the call and can talk about the webinar series.

BRAM FUDZULANI:

Thank you. I will get started. Maybe, Tijani, you can come in with an update as well. But I just wanted to, for those of you that did not make it to our first webinar series, that was last week, we have started with one series so far. Just to give an update, the leadership of AFRALO thought it wise that under the circumstances that we are in, where the world is sort of closed with face-to-face engagement, we could still go on with engaging the community using the webinar series.

So these are series that have been organized. The next one will be announced in the next date for the April series, and then the arrangement is that July and the month of August will be free because this month, [we recommend you] to participate in their own local

activities, and then we will be focusing also on the ICANN 70 where the first webinar actually was looking at one of the topics that is going to be discussed during the ICANN 70. So I invite all of you who have not yet participated in the survey which was pushed to please respond, because then we use this information and your feedback to put together the next webinar series. But especially, thank you once again Tijani and Olivier for taking up the task of first webinar series, but also Hadia for coordinating the whole event. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thank you very much. I don't know whether Tijani has something to add. Okay, seeing no hands up—

JABHERA MATOGORO: Maybe as just an observation and comment is that despite the fact that it's kind of embracing the bottom-up of collecting topics from members, but the team needs to find a balance between both technical and nontechnical webinars. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thanks very much for that update, and of course, a special thanks to our speakers, Tijani and Olivier, because this happened at a reasonably short notice, and I thank them both for their availability, and of course, thanks to the moderator as well, Hadia. I think it was a good start in terms of the number of participants that attended the call, the webinars session, and I hope that one way or the other, it was useful for

the community. Thanks once again, and of course, we look forward to the next series.

All right. Any reaction, comments? Okay, Hadia, you have the floor.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you, Seun. It's just a quick comment that maybe the timing of the webinar was not optimum for AFRALO region, so it was a little bit late. And in spite of that, I do agree, Seun, that we actually had a very good number of attendees, but I think that maybe we could look into the timing of the webinar. I think it was too late for AFRALO. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Good point. Thanks. That is good feedback and I hope the co-chairs of the webinar series have taken note of that. I think it should be good to juggle things around and say what timing would actually cater for majority of the region members.

All right. seeing no hands up and hearing no voice, we move to the next agenda item, which is a joint meeting of AFRALO-AFRICANN ICANN 70. Abdeldjalil, you have the floor.

ABDELJALIL BACHAR BONG:

Thank you very much, Seun, for giving me the floor. Regarding our joint AFRALO-AFRICANN meeting, I think that Hadia worked with the entire team, with Sarah and the others. I think we're getting very much ready for it. During this week, we're going to have a call with the group, and

we'll have a final draft. It will be ready. I don't know if someone else wants to add something. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Is Abdeldjalil done? I'm not hearing him again.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Yes, I'm finished. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay, good. Thanks. So I think Abdeldjalil can just continue the rest of the agenda. I think you have the one on the pandemic Internet access reimbursement program. I think I already mentioned that, which is a program that allows those who'll be participating in the ICANN 70 to have access to [starting a month,] I think it's \$60 or thereabouts—up to \$60, not exactly, it can be less—to support people to be able to participate in the upcoming ICANN 70, especially when it comes to the cost of Internet connectivity.

So like I said earlier, this is a prerequisite, and the prerequisite is for you to have registered, and of course, there are also other requirements which you can also check on the website. Please, if you also want us to nominate you, there's also an option there which allows you to be nominated for this. Please feel free to reach out to us as well.

And before I continue, I think perhaps we should also mention—I'll ask staff to post the link on the chat. That is the call for topics for webinar. I think the co-chairs of the webinar series—[inaudible] call for topics is

still up, so people can still suggest topics that they would like to see for the subsequent webinars. I would like to ask staff to post the link to that in the chat for people to actually respond, those who have not already responded to that survey to do so. I'm not sure when it's going to close.

Okay, I can see the chat now that staff already posted it. Thanks, Silvia. I'm not sure when it's going to close, but please, the earlier you put in your own suggestion and topics, the better. It's very important. Please feel free to do so as soon as possible.

All right. By the way, the co-chairs, Tijani and Bram, is there a deadline for this call for topics?

BRAM FUDZULANI:

I think we had agreed with staff to extend for this week, and then next week, I think we can wrap it up.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks for that, and I hope [we've all heard] from the horse's mouth. Thanks a lot, Bram. A question Remmy just asked, what happens if one did not register for reimbursement now but participated? Would there be option to reimburse? No. From my understanding, you have to apply prior to the meeting. So unless perhaps staff wants to clarify that. Do we have Heidi or Silvia or Gisella that wants to respond to that question? In case I missed something. But from my understanding—or even if it is Yaovi, but my understanding is that you have to—

GISELLA GRUBER:

Seun?

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Yes, Gisella.

GISELLA GRUBER:

Apologies. Thank you, Seun. Yes. You are correct in saying that one does have to register. There is no reimbursement after the deadline, as in applications need to be received by the deadline. And to Remmy's question, the answer is no, there will not be reimbursement post-deadline, as in considered. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thanks, Gisella, for providing that clarification, and I hope Remmy got his answer. So let's move on to the next item on the agenda.

JABHERA MATOGORO:

Seun? Hello. Yes. [I may be asking for the team correcting] for webinars topics if they could put [a way after] submission of the topics if one can't see the results of all submitted topics so that they can be aware of what is going on, because we can submit a lot of topics but if there is no transparency, then the team can just pick up any—I know there is a good process in place, but to add transparency on user submission to be aware of what is taking place behind. Then after submission of the topics, the user could see the results of submitted topics and maybe ranking for the already submitted topics [so that they would be aware of

that.] I've just tried to submit the topics on that and [noted] if that improvement could be done. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thanks. Tijani or Bram, you want to take that?

BRAM FUDZULANI: Yes. Thank you. We will take a note of that and definitely, I think we will do a public announcement in terms of how many topics were submitted just so everyone can appreciate the submissions in their particular order. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thanks. So let's move on to the next agenda item when the screen is up, because the screen is not up at the moment.

GISELLA GRUBER: Seun, apologies, I dropped. The screen will be up momentarily. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. So on the next item is update on AFRALO newsletter. Remmy, you have the floor.

REMMY NWEKE: Hello. Good evening from Lagos. On behalf of the AFRALO newsletter team, I wish to thank those of us who have been able to send in

materials. We actually have a lot of [inaudible] now, but the materials are not [forthcoming,] including the [inaudible] as well as—

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Remmy, apologies for interrupting, but the interpreters cannot interpret you. I'm going to ask the operator to dial out to you if you'll bear with me for one moment, please.

REMMY NWEKE: Okay.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Hello Seun. Apologies. One moment while we try to connect Remmy for better audio.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. While we're trying to reach Remmy, let's maximize the time by doing item six, AFRALO membership matters. So maybe we can receive—

REMMY NWEKE: Hello. Can you hear me now?

SEUN OJEDEJI: There's a lot of background noise, Remmy.

REMMY NWEKE: Okay. Can you hear me now?

SEUN OJEDEJI: I think it's better now. Go ahead. You have the floor.

REMMY NWEKE: Okay. Thanks Mr. Chair. On behalf of the AFRALO newsletter team, we thank those who have been able to respond to our call for [inaudible] they have done or what they intend to do [inaudible] in this coming quarter.

Unfortunately, we have received very few materials from ALSes. So we urge all members of ALSes to look at their programs [inaudible] and share with us. [There's only material from Mali.] Unfortunately, the [inaudible] we tend to take one material at a time from ALS but we can also accommodate others. We are still looking forward to receiving the opening remarks from the chair and then the GSE group [inaudible] Yaovi and others there. [We expect to get] their reports this week so we can finalize on [what is not available] and then [know how to make up whatever we have] and let the [inaudible]. So if you know you have not submitted yours, please take a little time to [inaudible] we can share also with other members of the community within the AFRALO. [inaudible]. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: I think staff may need to track down the feedback we're getting. So thanks, Remmy, for the update. And if I recall, Matogoro was supposed to send—during the review of action items, Matogoro was supposed to

send ALS updates to the newsletter team. Matogoro, can you update on that? Have you sent it? Because we wanted to actually close the action item but you were not on the call so we couldn't affirm that.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Is this for the coming release or the past one? I'm not sure if I missed the previous one and will be happy to submit for sure from Tanzania Community Networks Alliance.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. It's for this current Q1, so if you have any ALS activity updates, please send it to Remy, the newsletter team, as soon as possible.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Sure. Will do that. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thanks. We're still getting feedback, staff. Thank you. Let's go back to item six now, AFRALO membership matters. That is where we'll call on Abdeldjalil. Abdeldjalil, you have the floor.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Thank you so much, Seun. So about the AFRALO membership matters, now we didn't receive any application, so we can say that there's no pending ALAC vote, there's no awaiting RALO feedback, so just nothing. Thank you so much.

SEUN OJEDEJI: I can't hear Abdeldjalil anymore. Can you hear me?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Hi Seun, yes, we can hear you. Abdeldjalil, were you done speaking?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Hello. Do you hear me now?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Yes.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Okay, so thank you so much. I just want to say that we didn't receive any application, so that's the update that I wanted to say. There's no pending ALAC vote, no awaiting RALO feedback, so we didn't receive any application from our region. So, thank you so much.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thanks, Abdeldjalil. That takes us to the usual final item, which is Any Other Business. This is where we'll ask if there's Any Other Business, any other matters that we want to raise. Please, the floor is yours. Isaac, go ahead.

ISAAC MAPOSA: I just wanted to highlight one thing. Sorry to take [inaudible]. We have a DNS forum scheduled tentatively for the 12th of April in Zimbabwe. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Good. So Zimbabwe is hosting this time. Is that the DNS forum by Barrack and [team,] or is it a different one?

ISAAC MAPOSA: No, this is a local DNS forum.

SEUN OJEDEJI: All right. Thanks for the information and please, when there's a public information on how to participate, please feel free to share it on the mailing list for some of us to also join remotely, if there's remote participation. All right, thanks—

REMMY NWEKE: Seun, Seun, [inaudible] also remind [inaudible] can also send us [inaudible] for inclusion in the newsletter.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Remmy, your audio is not clear. I'm finding it hard to hear you. I wonder whether it's just from my end.

REMMY NWEKE: Okay, I will type it out.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Yes. Just wanted to bring the attention on the recent public comment period for the SSR2 report so that at least we can have some input from the AFRALO side. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you, Matogoro, but I'm not sure, what input from the AFRALO side are you referring? Can you clarify?

JABHERA MATOGORO: Thank you. I just want to bring the attention, if there is any comments that we think could be important for the public comment, especially on the report that has been published by the ICANN Board on the SSR2 reports, because I was part of it and I would appreciate if we could also get any public comment from this AFRALO side. Just to bring it as an attention for the team. Thank you, chair.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thanks, Matogoro. We also talked about the SSR2 report earlier on on the agenda. So Matogoro, you were part of that group, so if you also feel that we should contribute to a statement to it, please, it would be very good if you could also initiate a drafting process of this so that we can also discuss and see what we can adopt to it.

Having said that, I think I should also mention that the meeting with the CEO, ICANN president which is a meeting that RALO chairs normally have with the president and CEO, Göran, and that meeting held, and one

question that was put up to the CEO from our region was about the Zoom accounts. And the feedback we got was that—the provision that has been made is available, however, there is still option for people to use the Zoom 45 minutes free version for their meetings, but we also requested that [whereas] there will be a possibility for RALOs to use their discretionary fund for a Zoom account. So that is an update on that particular one. Of course, other matters were also discussed, which includes the future of ICANN face-to-face meeting, and especially in the face of pandemic and how to ensure an inclusive multi-stakeholder ICANN face-to-face in future. The meeting was well attended. All the RALO leaders were in attendance, of course, and we had a good interaction with Göran.

All right, I think that's it from my side, and Abdulkarim, I see your hand up, you have the floor.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE:

Thank you very much, Seun. Apologies. I joined the meeting a bit late. I'm not sure if it has been mentioned earlier, I just wanted to mention the fact that the nomination period is still open for what used to be the Ethos award, which is now called the ICANN community excellence award. So if we know people that we think that deserve this award within the community, it's a good opportunity for us to nominate. Thank you.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

All right. Thank you, Abdulkarim. So having said that, let's see if there's Any Other Business. Seeing no hands up and hearing no voice—Remmy

was asking what is the focus of our discretionary funds now. We mentioned earlier that since we did not get a request for the use of a discretionary fund, we'll be using it for generation of the production of promotional materials which would be kept for us at the ICANN HQ so that we don't lose the discretionary fund. That is the essence of it. I hope that answers your question, Remmy.

I also saw in the chat that Olévié was saying the process to getting the \$60 Internet support is quite complicated. I think what we have this time around is an improvement to what was there in the previous meeting. I think there's always room for improvement. The feedback is taken, and of course, every opportunity that we have, we're also trying to mention it to the extent possible.

All right. Thanks a lot for everyone for joining this call. I think we're at the top of the hour, and I was hoping to give us a few minutes, but it looks like that wasn't possible. But it's a good session, by the way. Thanks, everyone, for your contribution. Thanks to the interpreters, thanks to staff, thanks to the technical staff, and of course, from me and the entire AFRALO leadership, it's bye for now.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]