
CLAUDIA RUIZ: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everyone. Welcome to the LACRALO Board Call on Tuesday April 6th 2021 at 23:00 UTC. On the call today we have, on the Spanish channel, Sergio Salinas Porto, Harold Arcos, Adrian Carballo, Carlos Aguirre, and Marcelo Rodriguez. We have apologies from Sindy Obed. From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Claudia Ruiz. I will be managing the call today.

Our interpreters today are David and Veronica on the Spanish channel, and Clair and Jacques on the French channel.

Before beginning I would like to remind you all to please state your name before taking the floor.

And with that, I would like to give the floor to Sergio.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Good afternoon and good evening, everyone. It's a pleasure to be here with you again. I believe that we have some friends missing today, the Board. But in any case, we're going to begin with this meeting.

I would like to kindly ask Harold to please read the agenda for today. And therefore, we will begin with this meeting.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Harold, I believe that you are muted. Claudia, could you please let us know whether Harold is muted.

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.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: I am checking with him, but I didn't receive any reply.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes. I see him on Zoom, but I don't think he can take the floor. Let's see if the operator can help us.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Okay. So, I'm going to replace Harold myself and I'm going to continue. As I said, as we have already seen, we have the attendance, the welcoming remarks, and then the agenda adoption. And we're going to have a brief evaluation of the ICANN70 Virtual General Assembly. Then we will have working [group] reports. We're going to have reports by the Communications, Multilingualism and IDNs, Capacity Building, and Domains and their relationship with Users Working Groups. And, of course, the Governance Working Group.

Then we're going to speak about the 5-year strategic plan. And if there is any other business that you would like to mention or to add, please let me know. You can speak now or else you can raise your hand once we get to this item of the agenda.

I see no hands up, so in that case we are going to adopt the agenda for today's meeting and we're going to begin with this meeting at once.

As you can see, we have a busy agenda for today's call. We are going to have our first monthly meeting. This is the first April meeting, and therefore we have some challenges ahead. This is something that we will have to discuss this month.

However, it is very important for us to do a quick assessment about the General Assembly—I mean all the activities that we held during ICANN70. There were four activities, so perhaps we should have a brief assessment just to see what we can approve because next year at this very same time, we're going to have our face-to-face meeting with similar characteristics.

There is going to be a networking activity, and that networking activity is going to be held jointly with NARALO. So, we are going to create a very good team together. We are going to work together, and this same team will work in the future.

So, please let's be open. Let's discuss. Please let me know your opinions about ICANN70 meeting, and particularly the things that we need to improve in our activities, and any other comment or feedback or anything that you would like to add regarding the activities that we have. So, please feel free to raise your hand and express yourself. Open your mic and take the floor, please.

Carlos, please go ahead.

CARLOS DIONISIO AGUIRRE: Thank you, Sergio. Just as a way of suggestion, up until we have all members joined, we can keep that assessment of ICANN70, and perhaps we can go to the ALAC members report. And else we can continue with the other reports because, unfortunately, at 9:00 pm I have another meeting and I will have to leave. So, perhaps we can continue with the working group reports. I see Marcelo, Adrian, and myself are here in this

meetings. So, perhaps we can continue with that item on the agenda and then we can go back to the previous one.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Sergio, you are muted.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Carlos, for the suggestion. And thank you, Silvia, for letting me know that I was muted.

We're going to try to have these meetings in one hour, 60 minutes. We would like to stick to this 60 minutes that we have for the meeting. It's okay, Carlos. José will join us in 20 minutes because he's driving home. Silvia is delivering classes. So, perhaps if Carlos Raúl is here, perhaps he could provide his report.

Is Carlos connected?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: No, he's not on the call.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: We have no ALAC member here. Okay, that's good. Let's continue. So, let's go to the working group reports, if you agree. So, let's keep all the items on the agenda, and let's go to item #6.

Marcelo, please. You have the floor. Go ahead.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ:

Hello, everyone. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. I am here, and I have just joined this meeting. When it comes to the Communications Working Group activities, let me report that we have been working with the working group members. We have been working in social media, our topic. This group was led by Lilian, and we have been working, taking into account the times available. And we were able to develop some activities during ICANN70.

I don't know if you were able to see the activities. These activities are going to be contained in the newsletter that we are going to publish soon. And that is a bit delayed.

We're working with other colleagues in order to have a good spreading, and the idea is to have information available regarding the Virtual General Assembly. And, of course, we are also focusing on the discussions and the work being done by Sylvia in the Universal Acceptance Working Group. And we are also emphasis this topic, trying to reach as many academic and technical institutions as possible in the region for them to be able to learn about these activities that we have available.

And within our Virtual General Assembly, we had a wide range of technical people available, and the idea is to deliver a course in the future for user.

These are the two activities we are working on, and we are also developing some strategies and group dynamics to be able to develop a group activity in LACRALO in the future in order to work with communications at an internal level.

This is my very brief report, and this is what we are doing so far. Do you have any comments or any questions?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Any questions? Any comments? I see no one is asking for the floor, so let's continue with the next report. Sylvia is not on the call. So Adrian, please go ahead.

ADRIAN CARBALLO: Hello, everyone. Thank you, Sergio, for giving me the floor. When it comes to the working group dynamic, please let me tell you that we [have been] working in developing some activities in order to finish the ICANN Academy in Spanish. We have been working on that.

We're also working on different topics and webinars. And there is one particular topic that I would like to mention here. And this something that we're trying to develop. This is DNS tech in the region. Because, as you know, this is a very important topic nowadays. And we see that there is plenty of information and demand regarding this topic.

As Marcelo said before, we are also working with Universal Acceptance. We're going to launch a course together with Sylvia and Marcelo in April for telecommunication companies. And there is another course that is going to be available at the end of May for end users. These are the tentative dates for those courses.

And we are also trying to create a webinar schedule for the rest of the year so that we may hold one webinar on a monthly basis. But, of

course, we will have to take the topics and check the topics for our next meeting.

So, this is what we have so far. And when it comes to Universal Acceptance, and as I said before, we are working. So, if you could help us with these topics and to spread the word, it would be much appreciated. So, this is all I have so far to tell you. Thank you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much, Adrian, for your comments. Carlos, I know that you're going to be brief, so please go ahead.

CARLOS DIONISIO AGUIRRE: I don't know if I'm going to be brief. However, let me say good evening, everyone. So, this working group—this is the WHOIS and GDPR Working Group—was created some time ago. I was the last member to join the working group, and I have just started working with the working group. During that period, we had the ICANN70 Virtual Meeting, and I saw plenty of activities regarding the topic. And I also saw that there was a call for women to discuss this particular topic.

And I was researching the ICANN web page about the topic, and after gathering some information, I was able to learn about the topic. I have plenty of experience and knowledge regarding personal data protection in my country. And I have plenty of knowledge regarding the General Data Protection Rights. This is something from the European Union.

However, I need to match all this information with other countries in Latin America, particularly. I need to relate all this material to the

WHOIS. So, the idea is to keep on gathering information, to read that information, and to be able to create shortly—perhaps in some weeks’ time—the first meeting with the members of the working group. And depending on their participation, perhaps we will try to see if we can have some proportion in order to get other members in order to start working on this very interesting topic which I believe is going to give us a lot of [other] activities.

So, this is what I am doing so far, what I am doing right now. I am just gathering information, so I would like to kindly ask ICANN staff to please send me the links to these topics so that I can create a sort of repository of information and in order to be able to provide information to the working group members for them to be able to read and for them to be able to work.

So, this is what I have so far, Sergio. And as I said before, we to have a meeting next week so as to be able to start working. This is what we have so far.

Sergio, I believe you are muted. We cannot really hear you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

I’m sorry. As I said before on the phone, I’m going to support you in the process of talking to each of the members in each of the working groups to see whether we can actually obtain a commitment to work for a certain number of hours each week. And this is part of the work we are going to do now with José Arce.

We will try to have a certain number of people give a certain number of hours each month or each week to try to tape into these number of hours so that we can get quality work. So, I'm at your disposal. I'm sure Harold will be, as well.

And so then, we're going to leave out Augusto Ho. And now we have no secretary. So, the commitment is a commitment from the there of us to be there.

Aside from that, I think we need to hunt for some talent. We even need to search for people outside LACRALO. So, there are 11 observers who are not taking part in anything, and they are individual users. So, we need to add them there. I have provided you with a link for individual users.

And now, going back to my working group report. As you know, the Governance Working Group has been busy working in a number of issues, and we have obtained good results. But now we are facing a greater challenge.

This simply has shown that we have made it clear ... We know very clearly what is going on in the region. We have a number of 69 organizations. Theoretically, 61 of those are operating, but actually we have between 25 to 30 active organizations in the region. So, there are a few things that the Governance Working Group needs to do.

These are three things. The first one is to deal with those 11 individual members, try to wake up those ALSes so that they can start working in the region more actively. We need to engage them with some of the

issues that we are working with in the region, and also engage them in the ALAC working groups if we believe that this leap is necessary.

But I think the first thing we need to do is have them understand the logic of LACRALO to show them why they are participating in the region and why it is that they need to bring the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean to ALAC.

Those of us who have been here for some longer time, we know that what's important now is to work by thinking about the region. And then, we need to think about ALAC. But first, we need to work in the region so that we can progress, then, to ALAC.

So, the first item is individual users. The second item is working in metrics. Discussing metrics is a very thorny issue because this is something that was pushed by a former president in the region. We approved that work, but then we realized that ...

Well, I don't really understand why it is that we approved it, but we did. And then we realized that this is not only a very complex document. It is very difficult to put those metrics into practice because it would imply a work to persecute ALSes, to then determine if someone attended or not and in what capacity. This is actually a bit crazy.

But this metric document is also a document that rejects people. What the assembly shows is that out of 69 organizations—I believe, Silvia, maybe you have the average—but I think we haven't really exceeded 25 organizations.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

There were approximately 27 ALSes.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Actually, one-third. So, only one-third of the organizations participated in our General Assembly. And there are a few things we need to adjust. We need to work on those that were not present to understand why is it that they did not attend. Probably the Governance Working Group will have to deal with this. We will need to interview, probably, these organizations.

And secondly, we need to ask them if they want to continue being there because with this number, it is very difficult for us to reach quorum. I'm not really sure if we did reach the quorum we needed for the assembly. We needed to wait some 20 minutes to work with those of us who actually present there because, otherwise, the assembly would have been void.

So, these things that are happening to us right now are actually very complex. And this is something we will need to address in a short time to be able to progress and have a healthier region, even from the point of view of figures.

There was a time in the history of LACRALO where what we wanted was to have a bigger number because, probably, we understood that that was success, and so we started to add more and more. Instead of having quality, we wanted quantity. And we did get quantity, but we couldn't really continue with it.

We'll try and see if we can engage those who are not engaged. Those who want to continue to be there, if they say, "Well, I'm [inaudible] with you, but I don't understand it. I don't like this. I don't want to be there. I thought it was something different. Well, all of these can happen. So, if this happens, then we need to see what the process is like. I'm not really sure what that process is like.

But this is not a good thing for numbers. If you have 69 and you end up have 30, this is not good. So, I prefer to see this happen. That within the framework of being sincere in the region, we will say, "This is what we are. We will work this way." And there will be hope that LACRALO will work with those 69 ALSes.

If you want to calculate how many people are participating in ALAC or in some of the issues associated to the ICANN world, then there would be a lot of people. But if we have a look at how many ALSes there are, these are actually very few. So, out of the active members of the active ALSes, there are a lot of people working from outside the region.

Our proposal, and we wanted to know if you will agree with this, is to progress in strengthening the individual members so that they can have a normal status. This is within the framework of our [policy and] procedure and our rules. And we need for them to have the possibility to vote as well.

And then we also need to work in the metrics. This is the primary process to then start working in being more sincere in the region.

So, now I open the Q&A session. If you want to make questions or ask comments, go ahead. Do you want to speak? Are you willing to speak?

1, 2, 3. Okay. All right. So, you've lost the wonderful opportunity to have me shut up.

We will not have an ALAC member's summary today, so we're going to go directly into the ICANN70 meeting. Do you want to say something about that? Harold? Adrian? Carlos? Marcelo?

CARLOS DIONISIO AGUIRRE: I have nothing to say. Sometimes silence is better than saying nonsense.

[SERGIO SALINAS PORTO]: Adrian, please go ahead.

ADRIAN CARBALLO: We are still undergoing this period of virtual meetings, so we can't really get used to this but we need to be strong and try to maintain communication in the best way possible and to continue with our goals.

SILVIA VIVANCO: I just wanted to add some comments. As you said, attendance perhaps in idea circumstances would be better, and this is not an ideal time. But then under there pandemic times, from our point of view, we could even say it's not that bad considering the circumstances that limit participation so much because of so many obligations members have in general in the community.

I also want to congratulate you because those who participated, what we saw, there was significant interest. There was an important

commitment as well. I found that the capacity building session was very interesting. This was a capacity building for webinars with the help of David Plumb. There were breakout rooms, and those rooms were interactive. It seems this did work very nicely.

There were also some working groups working on Universal Acceptance. And people felt it was something that was really helpful for them.

Then another thing that was actually very welcome by all of ICANN was the virtual social meeting. We have received many, many comments, not only from our colleagues in ICANN, but also people from the community in general, Board members. Because LACRALO really did show camaraderie and good human qualities and the warmth of LACRALO. This was really a great success, and I have also seen many comments on social media at the time that the event was happening.

So, I want to thank Marcelo and everyone else working on the social media campaign. That was very nice. It was wonderful, really. People congratulated us all the time. After a few days, we still received congratulations that are your congratulations, not us. This was congratulations for the LACRALO community, so it is something I wanted to mention.

I hope you should go on, you should progress. There's still a long way to go. The General Assembly, in my view was very good in many senses. I think it was a great success. So, congratulations to you all.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Silvia, it was wonderful, by the way.

SILVIA VIVANCO: And let me say that under the new Rules of Procedures and Operating Principles—they are quite robust—this was the first Virtual General Assembly with all these legal procedures in effect. So, it was a sort of test for these procedures because they took a lot of [extra] effort. So, congratulations on that as well.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Silvia. And I believe that there was only one LACRALO member who did not agree with the Rules of Procedures, but then I realized that that member had voted in the affirmative way. Perhaps he voted something that he didn't read. However, everything went off well, and this gave us the opportunity to be more flexible when it comes to quorum. And we were able to avoid any complicated situation, so it was really interesting.

Now we're going back to the final item of the agenda, and this is the five-year strategic plan. We started something that was left in the middle, and we have to resume that activity. But for that, we need people. We need the effort and we need the work of you all. And we're going to need the help and the effort of the working group members.

When we started with the strategic plan, we realized that it was a really good idea. The process was really good, and we need to have members ... Many of us have different opinions. When we have Alejandro, for example, speaking, we may not agree with him, but sometimes I believe that he's right with what he says. Sometimes we agree with somebody, and sometimes we do not agree.

But in any case, Alejandro particularly had a great function, and I believe that we have to keep on working. We need to have more people on board. This strategic plan has to be resume, and we have to do it all together. And this is not just limited to these working groups.

So, one of the activities that we have ahead in our own working groups is to ask people to participate and to guarantee that members in our working groups participate in the strategic plan meetings. And this will imply two things. They will have to understand the place, or where they're standing, and the direction that LACRALO should take.

But in any case, we need to discuss the topic all together, and we need to come to an agreement regarding several things. So, after having said this, I believe that we need to move forward in the development of these topics. I believe that each of us will need to work in each working group so that we can contribute to this topic. It is of vital importance for us to finish with our 5-year strategic plan within the next 60 days, and this strategic plan should be [posed for voting].

And it is also very important that during this 60-day period, we need to involve everything. And we need people to understand that this strategic plan was created by all of us. It is not just the fact of having people sitting around a table or people sitting and listening to our conversations. What we do need is people getting involved.

This is something that I'm going to coordinate with Claudia later on, and with Silvia as well, but I believe that we will need to work in the same way we did when we had the coaching meeting. We're going to work in

breakout rooms, and we will be developing the same topics in each of these rooms.

So, Claudia, I don't know if that is possible. I know that I had the opportunity to work in that way [inaudible]. I hope this is not that complicated for you.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Sergio, we can do that. We can have breakout rooms. The only issue that we have here is with interpretation because we will have interpretation available in the main room. And therefore, those breaking out rooms will not have interpretation. So, those requiring interpretation will have to be in the main room.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Okay. That's a good option because we can have, for example... If in any breakout room, we need French and we need English. So, if we have English and French speakers, they would have to be in the same room. And for the rest, they are going to speak in Spanish. So, perhaps we can have one room with English and French speaking participants, and then we can have participants in another room. If you agree with that, unless there is any other option that you would like to present ...

I would like to speak with Alejandro. He sent me an e-mail before ICANN70. I have to check that e-mail. And perhaps we can move forward and we can keep on working with the thought analysis that was being performed by Alejandro. For example, this is something for companies, but we can apply that thought analysis to our case because we have

challenges, we have opportunities, and we have weaknesses as well. So, based on that, we will need to work.

And thanks, Marcelo, for reminding me of some words. And so, we're going to work with Alejandro. We are going to work ...

CARLOS DIONISIO AGUIRRE: Sergio, you're getting old. That's why you are forgetting words.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: So, we're going to work with Alejandro together. We will arrange a meeting so that we can resume our work. But, you know, I need to have many people involved in the region.

I believe that we're going to hold some monthly meetings and some weekly meetings. I believe that perhaps we can have four meetings: two meetings during the first month and two other meetings during the second month. And I believe that would be enough. But of course, this will be defined based on the amount of people and the work plan that we will create.

Is there anything that you would like to add? Any comments? You know, it is unbelievable, really, because I am always speaking. I am speaking here, and nobody is objecting or opposing what I say.

So, Carlos, welcome to this new world.

CARLOS DIONISIO AGUIRRE: Let me say something, Sergio. I go back to the region after ... In fact, I never left the region because I was always reading the mailing list and I was always receiving e-mails and checking those e-mails. However, I should say that in the past there was something that I didn't like and that thing changed completely.

So, I should say that nowadays, Sergio, the region is a mature region. Sergio, you are leading this, so I would like to congratulate you on that because things have to be sincere. And I was always honest, so that's why I am saying that you're doing a great job. So, congratulations on that.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Carlos, for your comment. And what you say is really valuable to me because we both know all the processes that we underwent and all the different situations that we had in the past.

We have plenty of time, and I believe that there are no other topics to address. No pending issues. Perhaps those of us who are at universities and those of us who are social fighters in our countries ... In this case, we have four Argentinians, but the IDN and multilingualism topics, particularly when it comes to Universal Acceptance, and this course being led by Sylvia that she started with our organizations with two other working groups. So, in that case, there is a joint effort.

I would say that it is really important for us to contribute with technicians. Those of us who have the opportunity to speak to companies and to speak to governments regarding Universal Acceptance realize that there is a sort of gap, a deep gap. For example, I tried to

contact some Canadian companies along these lines, but they all said that they didn't have technicians available. So, there is a sort of gap in the technical expertise to achieve that goal. And there are companies that do need this in order to be able to have Universal Acceptance available.

So, my suggestion would be that we are launching an outreach activity. We are always, or usually, holding activities for ourselves. We create a report for ourselves. And then we publish those reports and we applaud ourselves. But now we have the opportunity to add people from the outside world, and I believe that it is their report [inaudible] at universities, at our professional workspace. And we need to recruit people for this technical course.

I see that Marcelo changed his background, so that is a new background that he has.

But that course is really important. What you need, or what we need, Marcelo, Adrian, and Carlos, is to take this flyer and to circulate this flyer everywhere. We need to forward this information. We need to send this information via WhatsApp to all our contacts and let them know that this is a very good course with only five classes available. And with that, they will know what to do with Universal Acceptance in a company because in the case of Argentina, for example, in the government there is one aspect that is covered, particularly with Spanish because we have the ñ available and some other characters that aren't being used in the English language.

But we need to extend that to other languages such as Russian, Chinese, and Arabic. And let's see how this works and if we can have people ready to understand Universal Acceptance. So, I believe that is a good option and that those people that were trained will have a new source of [involvement].

We have some available minutes, but if there are no other comments, I will bring this meeting to an end. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Any comment? Anything else that you would like to say? Any other business?

Carlos is going to be on the other meeting on time. So, if there are no further comments or if there are no other remarks ... Adrian, anything to add?

ADRIAN CARBALLO: No, no. That's all for me.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: So, if that is the case, let me say good-bye to you all. We need to discuss these topics in another meeting, and we're also going to discuss the webinar topics. Adrian, do we have the topics? Or is there any webinar available?

ADRIAN CARBALLO: No, no. We're looking for the speakers, but I have no confirmation yet.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Okay. Let's try to organize a webinar. So, Silvia, what's the date for our next meeting?

SILVIA VIVANCO: We have a 90-minute meeting. Let me check the calendar. That would be on the 19th, and we will have a 90-minute session.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: So, it is probably that I will not participate in that meeting because I have another commitment at that time. However, Augusto Ho will be leading that session.

And before finishing, let me say that Augusto Ho ... This is a process where Augusto Ho may take over as the chair because we are not going [to live] in a traditional manner. In the past, we used to sit in a café and we used to discuss different topics. But that process is not going to be ready because we are not going to have the face-to-face meeting. So, Augusto, we will have to accompany him in that process.

And part of accompanying him means that he's going to become the leader soon. So perhaps there are some meetings, as it is the case on the 19th, that I'm going to be late—I'm going to join later—and Augusto Ho is going to be the chair.

And Carlos and Marcelo, the same goes for you because you're going to support Augusto because Augusto needs to learn about the process. He needs to learn the process how to discuss and what we did as a region. And of course, we have to be on [inaudible]. The agenda is always being created in a global manner, but we have the perspective of EURALO and

NARALO. So, we need to have an agenda to add to that meeting. So, in that case, you're going to work with Augusto. And perhaps you can discuss the things that you would like to add for the meeting.

So, let's think about ICANN71. And since you are three, perhaps you can provide your input.

So, without ado, I would like now to say good-bye to you all and thanks for joining.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]