

YESIM NAZLAR:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO monthly call taking place on Thursday 20th of May 2021 at 6:00 UTC.

On our call today on the English channel, we have Satish Babu, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Gopal Tadepalli, Aris Ignacio, Priyatosh Jana, Suhaidi Hassan, Pavan Budhrani, Maureen Hilyard, León Sanchez, Amrita Choudhury, Mohan Raidu, Ali AlMeshal, Hanan Khatib, Roberto Gaetano, and Justine Chew.

From staff's side, we have Gisella Gruber and myself, Yesim Nazlar present on today's call, and I'll also be doing call management for today's call.

Just to note that we currently don't have anyone on the Chinese channel.

We have received apologies from Syuzan Marukhyan.

Our Chinese interpreters will be Ray and Sandy for today's call.

Just a kind reminder before we get started to please state your name before speaking, 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. Thank you so much.

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.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you very much, Yesim. First of all, welcome to everybody who's joined this call, the APRALO monthly call for May 2021. Our region, of course, is going through some amount of disruption on account of COVID pandemic. In some countries of the region, it seems really bad and are currently under lockdown. But I hope all of us remain safe and that you have been vaccinated and that things will generally get better from now on [inaudible].

So with that, we will get into our agenda, and I'd like to especially welcome León who's with us, and also Roberto who's been kind enough to talk to us on an important topic, which is that of the unaffiliated individual member, of whom we have several in APRALO, and going forward, it is important that we ensure that they're able to perform as well as any ALS in terms of the ICANN policy agreement.

And I also have a minor problem with Zoom. I'm not able to hear sound. My sound is heard [to others,] but I'm not able to hear other sounds, so I'll briefly log out and log in again, but I'm always on my phone, as I am right now. This is for staff to note.

We will now move on to agenda item three, because we don't have anything in the pipeline as far as membership as of now. And this is the policy update, and over to Justine and Holly for the regular update.

JUSTINE CHEW:

I don't see Holly on the call. Okay, well, there isn't very much, in my opinion, to report on the ALAC policy update. I had to skip the CPWG meeting earlier today, because it was at an unearthly hour. So I'm not quite sure what happened there. But in any case, if we just go through,

by way of doing the list under item three, since the last month's call the ALAC has ratified the ALAC advice to the ICANN Board on the matter of subsequent procedures. That happened on the 16th of April and it was submitted to the Board already. It's been subsequently translated to the other five UN languages and made available. And I will speak to this a little bit more in item number six.

Moving on, later, in terms of upcoming public comment proceedings [inaudible], there were no public comments for decision. I did note that there was one, but it pertains to North America, so it's not really relevant to our region, I suppose. And that's being handled by the Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group.

In terms of current statements, we're still considering what to do with advice to the Board on the EPDP on temporary specifications pertaining to phase two—we're currently at 2A, but this particular one is phase two. So that's an ongoing thing on the agenda.

And the ALAC is currently ratifying a statement on the GNSO review of all rights protection mechanism in terms of its final report, its recommendations. This particular statement is going to go to the ICANN Board by way of a public comment process. Yeah, it should be ratified by end of today at the least, so no big issues there.

That's pretty much it. Back to you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Justine. Thanks for the update, and we will now go on to our next agenda item, which is the guest presentation. Now, just

so that anybody new in our community would like to know the background of this, in the last At-Large review, one of the major kind of breakthrough items was that we should enable individual members who are part of our community who are fairly new [inaudible] because earlier on, we were having the institutional members, so called ALSes only, but later on, all the RALOs have started admitting individual members who for various reasons were not able to come to local At-Large Structures.

So the At-Large review advised us that we should remove all impediments and ensure that the individual member should be able to perform as effectively as anybody else. And we had this unaffiliated individual member work party that Roberto was heading. Roberto, one sec, I'd like to check with León if he wants to leave early and he wishes to talk to us, in which case, León, you could speak to us for a few minutes. Would you like to speak now?

LEÓN SANCHEZ.

Thank you very much, Satish. Yes, and thank you for having me again as I try to attend as many RALO meetings as possible. and of course, APRALO is not the exception.

I just wanted to comment. You might already know, but the Board recently approved the fiscal year 22 financial plan and operating plan and budget, and there were many additional budget requests included in that financial and operating plan, and I believe there were quite a few from the At-Large community. So I am happy to of course share with you

that this plan has been approved by the Board, including of course these additional budget requests.

We also approved the GAC advice on ICANN 70 communique. We approved our resolution on the key rollover in the root zone pertaining sac 063, 073 and 102, and also, we approved a transfer to the reserve fund and creation of the SFICR. This is a new acronym, and you might want to know more. I am happy to share more details, but in essence, it's a fund that is being created for ongoing projects so that we can guarantee that multi-year projects can be funded adequately.

We also passed some resolutions that were in the consent agenda, and there were some administrative issues like for example the renewal of the Singapore office lease, the payment of some legal invoices, and the IANA naming function review final report. The SAC 045 SSAC advisory on invalid top-level domain queries and the root level of the domain name system, the SAC 062 advisory concerning the mitigation of name collision, and a couple of SSAC advices more.

And of course, we are also now working on designing our June workshop. As you know, the Board holds a workshop six times a year and, well, pre every ICANN meeting, we hold a workshop. Now our workshops have been virtual, as anyone else's meetings, and we'll be having an important session during this workshop in June, and this session will be about establishing the Board operational priorities for the fiscal year 22.

So just as a reminder, the Board establishes its operational priorities which are internal tasks that we develop in order to increase the

efficiency and how the Board achieves its responsibilities in regards to the five blocks that we have divided our responsibilities. I have briefed the community several times on how we are doing on carrying these operational priorities, and the exercise we're going to do now is to establish these priorities for fiscal year 22. So it will be interesting.

Of course, as we develop these operational priorities, I will keep you posted, I will inform you and I will update you on what's being cooked in the Board's kitchen. So, thank you, Satish, again, and I won't take more time from you. And always happy to be with you here.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, León, for the updates. Happy to have you here anytime in all meetings. But I understand your time zone is actually quite hostile for spending too much time with us. So thanks again, especially for the good news on the ABRs, which hi think will be interesting for us during the next year.

So [we now will] move on to Roberto for the next 20 minutes. We have Roberto speaking to us, and if there's time in the 20 minutes, he'll take one or two questions also. Over to you, Roberto. Please go ahead.

ROBERTO GAETANO:

Thank you. I would like to first spend a couple of minutes to describe how the work party was run, because there were a couple of, how can I say, procedural things that staff gave as advice to use and that have been found very successful, at least in my point of view.

So let's start with a short description of how the work party was run. We started, if I recall correctly, about the end of August. We had a slow start, because it was difficult to get a team that was enough representative of all the different regions and types of participants. We wanted to have representation from individual users, of course, but also from ALS representatives, and we wanted also to have a formal commitment by the RALO leadership so that the leadership was involved since the beginning and were not taken by surprise by some of the recommendations.

So it took a little bit of time to get the critical mass onboard, but in the meantime, we started doing some brainstorming just to figure out, to frame what the possible issues were. And in that—so the first suggestion, recommendation from staff was to, on the Wiki, open a page for every point that was interesting or even controversial so that we could have the discussion in one place and not use e-mail that was going to be then pretty complicated to make the synthesis.

So that's what we did, and you have, in the document that I you see on the screen, what is in okra yellow underlined, is the pointer to the work area of the work party where you can see this in detail.

So then finally, we started working, and we started attacking one by one all the issues. And by going through the main issues, I will at the same time describe what were the results and the decisions for the recommendation.

The first thing, we realized we had a terminology problem. And I think that for some people, it's still confusing now. We were talking about

unaffiliated individuals, what does it really mean, unaffiliated? People confuse between individual members and members of an ALS that act on an individual basis but that are also member of an ALS.

So we cleared a bit the terminology issue, and we decided for the term RALO individual users to identify individual users that participate in their own capacity, regardless of their participation in an ALS.

That brings us to the first and probably most important point of debate. That was whether somebody that is a member of an accredited ALS can be at the same time a member of its own as individual. That was a long discussion, and there were lots of argumentations and reasons brought, pro and con. And that is also the single item that was not solved unanimously.

So we have a majority quasi consensus, rough consensus on allowing an ALS member, unless we're talking about the leadership of the ALS, to be an individual member. But the report includes also a minority report, so to speak, that describes all the reasons for the people who were against this approach.

I think it's worth making a quick summary, although I invite everybody to read then the minority report that is part of the report to check what are the counterarguments, and I think that in the implementation of the individuals within RALO, we have to be very careful in making sure that some of the drawbacks that have been indicated in the minority report are not becoming an issue.

So basically, the main reason for allowing individual users, for allowing ALS members to be also individual users, is because in this way, they

could present a dissenting voice, a dissenting opinion in the discussions from the opinion of the ALS.

There are also some ALS that do not involve directly in the debate on issues that are subject to consideration for policy development that do not involve all the members, and so therefore, that gives the possibility to individuals that are particularly interested to join.

That gives also the possibility to people who are especially expert on a specific topic to join the discussion as RALO individual members when that topic becomes the object of a policy.

The concern is mainly the fact that this could add confusion between individual members and ALS members, but the major concern was that that could in some way undermine the concept that is the basic concept of At-Large, that is, we are based on At-Large structures. So the deployment involving more and more individual members should not change the foundation of the At-Large. That is still based on AtLarge Structures.

So that brought discussions that were related, for instance, to voting rights. So individual members have voting rights, but that voting rights, each RALO will decide how to apply these voting rights to individual members, but the recommendation is that this vote should in no way become significant in terms of what is the voting weight of the ALSes. In other words, each RALO should apply voting systems that will give the individuals the possibility to express their opinion and their vote but not be able to substantially change the vote of the ALS that is the real vote.

One example is adopted in EURALO, and that was one of the examples made, is that all individual members in aggregate will have the voting power of one ALS. So since every RALO will have several ALSes, that will in itself determine how—that in fact the voting power remains with the ALSes.

So, that said—yeah, we touched briefly upon the issue of, can an individual become a RALO individual member in different RALOs? And there are different opinions, but this has not been considered a real problem. So those were basically the main issues.

The report was then presented. One other thing that was important in terms of procedure is that we made wide use of straw polls that are to be consider somehow the equivalent in an online environment of the sense of the room in a physical meeting. So it's basically a show of hands that doesn't have value in terms of voting, but that was extremely useful to have a sense, to give to the chair the sense of the room and to see what ideas were valuable and which not.

Another thing to point out is that with the exception of the issue of allowing a RALO individual member to be also a member of an ALS, that had a non-negligible number of opponents, everything else was passed by full consensus in the work party. That is something that I'm very happy about, because that gives solidity to the recommendations.

The recommendation was then presented a little bit late. Originally, we thought we could finish by the end of January, but actually, we ended up in having the final report ready only in the beginning of March but still on time for a vote taken in the margins of the ICANN meeting in March.

And that's basically it. We also tried to look forward, because in the discussion, there were some topics that came up that were not really in the scope of the work party but were things to be considered for the good follow-up action. So we had them listed also in the report as follow-up action for further action and further discussion.

That's basically it. I would like to end thanking all the participants who have shown great participation and contribution, and staff was also great in coordinating things and with some suggestion that made our work really much easier than it would have been without those things.

And I will stop here, and if there are comments, I can answer them during the call and also, feel free to contact me if you have other comments, then offline after the call. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Roberto, for the very commendable performance of your work party as well as for the presentation her ern. Just for clarification before I open up for questions, the APRALO's [inaudible] in terms of voting is that all individual members collectively choose a representative—and I'm happy note that Hanan, who's the current representative on the call. So at this point, if there are any questions regarding any of the points that Roberto talked about, you can raise it. If nobody has a question, then I have a question—okay, I see somebody's hand go up. Yes, Justine. I was just about to mention Justine because she's an example of a particularly successful individual member that we have. But Justine, please go ahead.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Thank you, Satish. I hope I'm not stealing your question, but thank you for giving me the floor anyway. My question is—thank you, Roberto, for joining us today and giving us an update on the work, the individual members work party report. My question is that I think there are some questions, probably not only within this region but other regions as to—how shall I put it? The status of the report.

Being an ALAC member myself, I understand that ALAC has already endorsed the report. So what is the next step in terms of doing something with this report, moving into, say, implementation? Can you clarify whether the RALOs are now expected to take this report and implement the recommendations in some cases where there's a discretion to the RALO, then obviously, we can exercise our discretion, but in cases where it is a unanimous recommendation, then the RALO would have to adopt those recommendations. Could you just clarify that aspect a little bit please? Thank you.

ROBERTO GAETANO:

Yes. Well, I don't want to appear like punting the ball, but I personally believe that to decide the follow-up, besides what we have indicated in some of the notes in the report, it's not a task for the work party but is the ALAC leadership that has to decide how to follow up.

I have my personal ideas. I think that it will be good to have sort of an implementation, UIM implementation work party so that we can discuss how to proceed.

There is also the possibility for individual RALOs to take action on this on the basis of the report. I'm just giving an example about my RALO. I am

the spokesperson for the EURALO individual users, and one of the things that came up in the report was the fact that the applications were collected by staff and not by any—were centralized by staff. And also that every RALO individual member should have an SOI done.

So this is something that in EURALO works differently, and I have started a discussion within the EURALO individual members to change this and slowly go according to the recommendation. But the decision on how to proceed is really an ALAC decision. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Roberto. So we will await guidance from ALAC on the next steps. We were anyway considering that we have a review of our ROPs, rules of procedure going ahead. We were under the impression we were supposed to take it up [inaudible] by ourselves and work on it. But since you mentioned that ALAC has to formally tell us what to do, we may have to then wait for ALAC to come back to us on this.

So thanks again on behalf of all of us for talking to us and for making this presentation. It is very useful. And I am sure we will be working on this further, because we need to implement these recommendations. Cheryl, go ahead.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

I just want to follow up on Justine's question and what Roberto said. It's just [inaudible] all of these review things that go on in the organizational reviews. It's been endorsed by the AtLarge Advisory Committee, as has the output of the AtLarge Structures mobilization work party. And with

these two now endorsed documents, it behooves any RALO—and I think we're in good stead at this point, Satish, as you just noted, because we had held off on progress of our own rules of procedure review until the completion of these two pieces of work so that we could make whatever changes and local implementations that were necessary, if indeed many of them where, and there's just a few tweaks perhaps that we might need to look at.

But the actual implementation, planning, programming and management is certainly in the hands of the At-Large review implementation working group. And to that end, the ongoing reporting from the core set of leads which of course is under the auspices of our very own—and I mean owned in APRALO—chair, Maureen Hilyard, and a few other of us busybodies will be the ones that will be working directly with the RALOs, and more importantly, ensuring that the implementation aspects—including any bylaw changes as relevant and recommended—are pursued in that ongoing planning.

So that's where it sits. There is no holdup. There is no need to wait for anything else. We need to look at where we match, where we don't match, where we don't match, what we do to make it match, noting that there are a few points of specific discretion that are outlined in both documents, but in particular on the APRALO individual members going forward. And that RALO discretion needs to be then bought into being part of our rules of procedure. So I hope I'm really clear. No point in delaying, and who owns the job. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Cheryl. That is useful clarification. So we understand the situation currently. And we will of course be working on our ROP review, reviving it now.

Looking at the time, we are a bit short so we are going to go faster now, and it's over to Maureen, agenda item five, ALAC updates. It's over to Maureen for an update on ICANN 71.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Satish. I'll try to be very quick. Thank you so much, Yesim. Just to give you an update on what we're doing at ICANN 71. And as in other meetings that I've attended and we've been talking about it. What I am doing is encouraging people to come to the ICANN 71 planning session. We need to hear your voices, and especially as we're in the process now of developing the—well, probably not so much the plenary because that's sort of a cross-community session and we are contributing to those sessions, but especially in the policy sessions which are our work with our topics, just to get some suggestions—so to Jonna and to Hadia who are actually organizing two each of those policy sessions at ICANN 71.

So these are the topics that we are going to be covering. And remembering too that in the intersessional week, we're going to be having the introduction to At-Large at ICANN 71, which is an introduction to what we're going to be doing and presented by the people who are going to be doing the presentations at ICANN 71 on our behalf, and I believe there's going to be a EURALO session and there's

also going to be an outreach session during that week, the week before conference.

So again, I'm just impressing on you, please come along to the ICANN 71 meetings and join the conversations. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Maureen, for the update. So the prep week, I think, starts in the first week of June and we're having a UA presentation also during the prep week. We are now moving to several updates, and the first set of updates is on the APRALO policy forum, there are two updates from Justine on the very interesting work that has been going on in the APRALO policy forum, which largely means Justine. Over to you, Justine.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Thank you, Satish. Yesim, can you click on the graphic in the agenda item, please, rather than going to policy—this is the workspace, by the way, for the APRALO policy forum so you can review that in your own time to see what's going on.

I wanted to address this issue particular to the ALAC advice that I reported on earlier, which is the ALAC advice on subsequent procedures. As I said, that particular advice has gone to the Board, and the Board is obviously doing its thing, looking through it now. But at one of the CPWG calls earlier—I don't remember when it was—the cochair of CPWG, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, did suggest that with the current public comment process for this particular topic on subsequent procedures

which is [called] by the Board, that each RALO may want to consider submitting their own statement, perhaps based on the ALAC advice or perhaps based on its own discretion, really.

So what we did in the APRALO policy forum is—and bearing in mind that the APRALO policy forum is kind of supposed to act like a CPWG but for the particular region that we’re in, APRALO, so that the policy forum folks can actually consider policy issues and make recommendations to the RALO for any action to be taken in terms of policy issues. So similar to what the CPWG does in terms of deliberating on policy issues and then make recommendations to ALAC for statements or advice and so forth. Okay, so the model of the APRALO policy forum is actually similar to CPWG.

Anyway, back to this question. What we did was or what I did was taking on Olivier’s comment, I conducted a straw poll with the APRALO policy forum members, and there are 28 of us on last count. And as you can see, the straw poll drew only four respondents out of a possible 27, of course excluding myself. And for whatever reason—I’m not going to delve into the poor response, I don’t think that’s very useful at this juncture, but I do want to thank the four people who responded and they are Satish, Maureen, Cheryl and Priyatosh, because we think that this is an important issue that perhaps a RALO should consider more pertinently.

And just to highlight a couple of things, that in terms of the four respondents that participated in the straw poll, all four said yes, we should have an APRALO statement on subsequent procedures, and they

also mention certain topics that should be emphasized if an APRALO statement were to take place or to happen.

But because it's four out of 27, it's not really a good number to present a recommendation to the RALO. So what I'm suggesting is that we ask the RALO members. And I'm taking the opportunity to ask the RALO members here, persons at the call, if there should be an APRALO statement on subsequent procedures.

And having thought about what the four respondents provided input on, as you can see on the right side of this infographic where it says let's ask RALO members, and bearing in mind that if you see the distribution of the 1930-odd applications that were received in the 2012 round, you see that there were 303 from Asia Pacific, and if you include that together with the ones from South America and Africa and let's loosely call this the global south region, that only represents about—I think it's less than 18% of the total number of applications. So just bear that in mind.

And from the input that I received in the four respondents, what I'm suggesting is that the RALO members consider having or initiating or developing an APRALO statement on subsequent procedures, and they should do this by way of as listed on the right-hand side, a small team of drafters conscripted to prepare such a statement, and the realm of the statement would be, number one, to endorse the ratified ALAC advice of 16 April, and bearing in mind that two out of the four respondents for the straw poll said that we should really talk about all the 12 areas that the ALAC emphasizes on its advice.

But in particular also, based on the feedback on the other two respondents, in particular we should be emphasizing aspects of the subsequent procedures policy area and PDP that pertain very much to our region in terms of like the diversity in language, the need for more IDN, universal acceptance adoption to really increase the access of individual end users in our region to the Internet and to the domain name space.

So therefore, there was a particular emphasis that was suggested to be placed on a statement that says to facilitate increased adoption of UA and IDNs. Also, because of the small number of applications in the last round from the global south, and also At-Large's focus on increasing community and niche TLD applicants, there should be emphasis also on supporting the applicant support program and the community priority evaluation as well as ancillary ban on private auctions.

And lastly, there should be something to say that we should advocate for the ALAC to have automatic standing to file objections. That's one of the topics that was covered in the ALAC advice. So these are the things that were suggested to be emphasized in an APRALO statement, and the remainder of the process is that once this particular statement is drafted, we would be looking to circulate it to the AP Discuss mailing list by 26th of May for comment, and I'm suggesting also that the APRALO leadership team then be empowered to finalize and submit a statement prior to the 1st of June deadline. So we're looking at about a ten-day period to get all this done. And I'm really asking the members here on the call, do we think this is a good idea? Do you want to support, do you object to this recommendation that is being tabled to you for your consideration?

Okay, so I'm going to stop here and hopefully, we have some time for questions.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Justine. Do you think we should indicate that we support by the green tick? How shall we get the temperature of the room?

JUSTINE CHEW: Well, the way I pose the question is, do you object? So if you object, then I would say please speak up. If you don't object, then we shall proceed with drafting a particular statement.

SATISH BABU: Right. Thanks, Justine, for this. This is quite interesting work, and so far, the response has been poor, but we still have a chance, opportunity when the draft comes out, we have an opportunity to comment on it. But currently, is there anyone here on the call who objects to APRALO doing this statement? If so, please raise your hand and speak. I don't see any hands, so Justine, the answer is yes, you can go ahead with the steps that you've outlined.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Thank you for that. It's a question of really for the RALO to do something about, and I pose this to the meeting today out of abundance of caution. I didn't want the poor response from the straw poll to impede any good work that the RALO can come up with.

And also, in terms of the small team of drafters, if there's anyone who wants to be part of the drafting team, please, can you let myself and/or the staff know? And then we'll include you in the work that we're going to go with in the next ten days. T y.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Justine. I see Maureen's statement of support also on the chat. So I think especially with the newcomers, this is an excellent opportunity to kind of get acquainted with the very core of ICANN's work, which is the new gTLDs, one of the very core items, and also the process of developing policy, the whole drafting process is also something that we must know. So this is an excellent opportunity for anyone who'd like to really learn, both the substantive issue as well as the process that we normally adopt.

So with that, we will move on to the next agenda item. We have to go a little bit fast. So this is a mentoring program. Ali, Lianna, who's going to present? Please make it brief, two minutes.

ALI ALMESHAL:

Sure. Thanks, Satish. Lianna, if you'll allow me, I will just quickly go through this. First of all, I would like to thank Lianna for her help and support in finalizing this. We have been into this process for a good amount of times, adjusting, changing, and finally, the announcement is out yesterday. And thanks to the staff for helping and doing this.

The mentorship/mentee volunteer time is open until 31st of May, so I would really appreciate and encourage whoever is looking to benefit

from this program to register. There's a document link that you can go. It's a very simple and easy step to record the information.

And after the end of this month, with the coordination of the leadership teams, even before that, we'll be setting up the mentors as well, with definite help and support from Cheryl to start doing all of this as we have done it the first time.

So as of today, I'm following up on whoever has registered into the application. So far, there are three applications since it's been announced yesterday, so looking to have a good number that reflect the interest of the community in our region to participate in this program.

So the floor is back to you, Satish, and that's a brief and straightforward statement.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Ali, for the announcement. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes. Lianna, Ali and the staff of course have been putting in a lot of work. So I'd like to appreciate all the work that's been done. This is also an opportunity for people to kind of get into the core aspects of the APRALO by joining the mentoring program, and I'd request staff to send out a reminder sometime before the deadline so that our community gets a last kind of notice.

So the next item is we had started a small group to work on how to enhance our APRALO meetings. We have the 60-minute per month meetings, and with the guest speakers coming in—like Roberto was here

today with us—sometimes we get into a squeeze towards the end of the meeting, as we are experiencing right now.

So this group has started discussions one meeting, and we are planning a few more meetings, once every month in order to look at different options, such as enhancing the time to, say, 90 minutes, or having a separate session for special topics, etc. So we are looking at a bunch of options, and as a group, we'll come back to this community meeting to make the presentation sometime later. This is just information for everyone.

The next is another important item, this is an update on the 2021 APRALO elections, and it's over to Heidi.

GISELLA GRUBER: Hello Satish.

SATISH BABU: Yes, Gisella.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you very much. As Heidi is not on the call, I'll [inaudible].

YESIM NAZLAR: Gisella, sorry to interrupt but you sound very far away. Would it be possible for you to try your Zoom line?

GISELLA GRUBER: Is this better, Yesim?

YESIM NAZLAR: Yes, super clear. Thanks so much.

GISELLA GRUBER: Thank you very much. Apologies for that. With regards to the elections, there's not much of an update, but just to say that the deadline for the nominations is at the 21st of May, which happens to be tomorrow. So if there are any more nominations to be made, please put these in, and we have the timeline here up on the screen for those of you who are in Zoom, and also, it is on the main elections page which is linked to the APRALO Wiki portal. And we will be going through—next step will be the deadline for nomination acceptance, which is the 28th of May, and staff will be following up with all those who have been nominated to make sure that we do receive all the relevant documentation for their nominations.

And then if we do need a call with the candidates, if it is desired by APRALO, we will do so the week between the 31st of May and the 4th of June, and we will then have the elections and the newly elected members will then take place at the end of the AGM 2021, which will be at the end of ICANN 72. So I hope that covers everything. And if you do have any questions, please do ask.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Gisella. So I think one point needs to be mentioned, that although we'll be having an election to the delegate to the NomCom,

there is a note attached to that particular item, the final decision on this respective of whether we decide to do an election or not will be ALAC's and not ours. So it is an important point to note. Okay. Are there any questions or clarifications vis-à-vis the elections?

Not seeing any hands, we will go ahead and we next have the NomCom update from Amrita. Over to you, Amrita.

YESIM NAZLAR: Satish, we have Cheryl's hand up.

SATISH BABU: Oh, sorry. Cheryl, please go ahead.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Satish. Sorry, it was just regarding elections. I just wondered if you care to share from the leadership team's perspective why the decision has been made—not arguing about the decision but simply hoping everyone can understand it—to have what would be a by-election for our other vice chair on the resignation of Nadira separate to this current election cycle. I heard at one of the many meetings I've attended in the last 24 hours that the APRALO leadership team had decided that they would deal with that as a separate matter after this set closed, and I just wonder what the rationale of that was. If you don't have time to deal with it now, I'd appreciate [it being dealt with through the list.] Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Cheryl. It is an important point. And I was under the impression that I had sent out a mail on this explaining what we're trying to do any why. I'll go and check my e-mail outbox whether it is stuck somewhere. But the reason is that our ROPs are very clear about how to meet an interim vacancy in the leadership team. The ROP says that we have to do it in an extraordinary meeting of the APRALO, which is probably single purpose, but in the past, we have also done it as a part of the regular meeting also. [inaudible]. So we have to have an election/selection process in our meeting of the community and not by-election, so we decided that we should first finish off this round of current elections and then look at that problem. So that's the reason, but I'll go back and check my e-mail if that mail has not gone out. I was under the impression I had sent it out last week. Cheryl, you have something more on this?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

The reference to the rules of procedure went out, and that's fine. I for one wonder why segregating such a meeting-based within rules activity away from the timing of the cycle is necessary. That's all. It's fine if that's the choice. I'm not suggesting we don't go out of the rules. It was the timing. That's all.

SATISH BABU:

Right. The reason is that the election process is already on and we didn't want to kind of interrupt that with an added wrinkle, so we said, okay, what has been started should continue to its logical conclusion, and then we take up the other issue. So there was a discussion in the

leadership team and that's what the consensus was. Right. Over to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Satish. At this point of time from NomCom, what we can see is we are doing the deep dive on the selected candidates of the first round. We hope to conclude it by the end of the month and we would be starting our discussions on each of the candidates once again from June so that we can come up with a more ... the next seed list from which the final interviews would happen. So that's on NomCom for this point, but I would request each of you, in case your ALSes are doing something or you feel that there is something you would want to be added in the newsletter, please do share. And preferably by the 25th or 26th of the month so that we can have the newsletter out earlier. And please do share it within your ALSes also so that we have more participation and more people coming to know what we have been doing as a RALO. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Amrita. Even noting that we have two minutes beyond our deadline, we see that the NomCom delegates election is happening now, and I'd like to, at this point, thank Amrita for her work as the APRALO NomCom delegate for the last two years, and also for the newsletter that she has been kind of—her untiring efforts in running the newsletter on time. It is a very major documentation of our activities. It is not just a newsletter, it's also—in fact, Maureen is [inaudible] compiling annual versions with all the monthly newsletters put together. So it is indeed

part of our documentation as well, and on behalf of all of us, I'd like to appreciate the work that Amrita's been doing for both these tasks that she's been given the responsibility of.

And with that, we are three minutes over time. Apologies for that. I hope there are no other burning questions. So on behalf of all of us, thank you for joining this meeting, and the proposal of Justine to kind of send out a draft is very important for us, also the mentoring program is another very important activity for us, so please be engaged. Thanks very much, and back to you, Yesim, to close the meeting.

YESIM 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.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]