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CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO Monthly Teleconference Call on Thursday, the 15th of July, 2021, at 6:00 UTC. On the call today, we have Satish Babu, Amrita Choudhury, Aris Ignacio, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Pavan Bedhrani, Lianna Galstyan, Maureen Hilyard, [inaudible] Rahman, and Suhaidi Hassan, and Priyatosh Jana. We have received apologies from Gisella Gruber from staff. Justine Chew is a tentative apology and Ali Almeshal. From staff today, we have Heidi Ullrich and myself, Claudia Ruiz, on call management. Our Chinese interpreters for today are Jessie and Ray.

And before we begin, I would like to remind everyone to please state their name before speaking for the transcription purposes and so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channels. Thank you very much. And with this, I turn the call over to you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you, Claudia. Welcome to everybody to our July monthly call. We will get started with the agenda. In this call, we don't have a guest speaker because we have a couple of topics which are fairly elaborate so we want to do them justice. In the next call, we'll have Jia Rong talk to us about the ICANN plan for the coming year.

So we have a newly-certified ALS. This is the Legal Hackers Ankara. Now, Legal Hackers, actually, the group, that's a global community. And the word "legal" here, it's not in contrast with illegal hackers but they hack on legal subjects. They are lawyers, basically. And they are situated in the intersection of law and technology. And they actually innovate on

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law. That's why they're called Legal Hackers. Since they're a global community, we also consulted other RALOs to see whether they had any connections with their local units and we were told that none of them have met them before. So we are the first to admit one from this community.

We also have two unaffiliated individual members who have come in new, Le Yang from China and Shehab Karman from Yemen. We'd like to welcome the new ALS and also the two individual members to our community. I don't see them on the call but if they are here, I would like to welcome them in person.

And with that, I don't see Holly on the call and Justine is also an apology. And Maureen has to leave early, she said. So, Cheryl, do you want to go for the next agenda item, which is the policy roundup?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I can give it a go if you like, Satish.

SATISH BABU: That'd be great.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: If they are so kind as to change the—

SATISH BABU: Yeah. Please scroll down the agenda so we can take a look at the ... Oh. Before that, I have one pleasant ... Cheryl, one sec. I have the pleasant

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duty of welcoming the newly elected/selected vice-chair of APRALO. This is Amrita Choudhury. Amrita's not a stranger to us. She's been part of our leadership team and community for some time now and she's also been helping with ... Besides the NomCom, she's been helping with the newsletter also, which is an important documentation instrument for us. So I'd like to, on behalf of all of us, welcome Amrita to this new role. And I'd like to ask her to speak for a couple of minutes on what she plans to do. So over to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thanks, Satish, and thank you, everyone, for the faith you've had in me. Satish, you've put me in a tight spot as to what I will be doing because, obviously, things will be done based on what the plan of APRALO is. But obviously, I plan to focus more on having more engagement from the community. Perhaps there are certain working groups where some work needs to be done—perhaps working on those and whatever comments come in from the community, as well as the leadership. Happy to help anyone, anywhere. And the newsletter, of course. That continues. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Amrita. I think one area where you can straight away help us in ensuring that we have more participants to our meetings. Today, we have only 17 participants. So yeah. This goes for all of us but I'm sure you can also help in this.

So now we move over to Cheryl for the policy. I'm told that Holly is going to join. I'm not sure when she's joining so until she comes, definitely,

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Cheryl, you can start this update. Over to you, Cheryl, and thank you for stepping in.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

That's all right. Makes some use of spending all this time in CPWG meetings and policy activities, I suppose. Okay. You can see in front of you the recently-ratified ALAC advice pieces. The one in particular I think that some of us might be particularly interested in keeping an eye on is whatever is coming next in terms of registrant protections with DNS abuse mitigation. And there is an upcoming webinar, I believe. Perhaps the staff could hunt those details out and put it in chat for anyone in the region who has an interest and desire to look into that. That might be quite useful.

In terms of the two pieces of proposed or possible public comments that the ALAC may wish to give advice on, the CPWG, in their most recent meeting, as is not unusual with Script Root Zone Label Generation Rule work, they are intending to pass that on to the small group, which works with IDNs. So, Satish, if it's not already over in your group, it will be soon.

But we do note that it is not usual. It is, in fact, unusual, for the At-Large Advisory Committee to make comments on but they will be running that question of should they comment or not through the IDN Working Group. So if there's anything that you're all aware of and that we should be, that the CPWG can then work with members of the IDN Working Group to sort out what might need to be drafted and said. So that's heading your way, Satish and co.

If you just scroll down slightly now, the renewal of the AERO Registry Agreement. Justine has not had time, as of the most recent CPWG meeting, to review that. However, this is another one of those that the lens, or the focus, will be is there anything in this new ...? And this is a legacy TLD. This is one that's been around for a very long time. Is there anything in the new renewal process for the Registry Agreement of .AERO that has a possible interest or effect on end users?

So that's the testing that will be done there to assess whether or not there is anything in it. And it's quite likely that there won't be, is my reading. But Justine will be helping us make that decision as to whether or not they'll do anything or not. My guess will be not but we'll wait and see. And we've got a little tiny bit of time to do that.

We also spent a good amount of time ... And I'd encourage anybody who's interested in the process of what's known as the SSAD and the result of what's going on in the current part—the Phase 2A part on the [inaudible] policy development process—the gTLD registration data. [Inaudible] my camera because my Internet is unstable but my audio is now telling me it's unstable. Let me know if I'm not audible. There was excellent revision and review done in today's CPWG meeting and I would strongly recommend any At-Large Structure or Individual interested in that to have a look at the recording of that.

The other thing, of course ... And thank you very much to staff for putting up the actual documentation. The Phase 2A is a work in progress, although it does need to have some input soon from the CPWG and then to go towards the ALAC. The Board advice on EPDP 2 has a very close end date. I'm sorry. The other one has a close end date.

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That's the one. Phase 2 is the one that has a slightly unknown ending but is one that Hadia and Alan would appreciate input on. And because it talks about legal and natural persons and how information can be sought by all sorts of people and entities, it's one that some of you might be interested in.

With that, I'm going to stop now and say that's pretty much all that's going on—at least by my fingers on the pulse. Thanks, Satish. Back to you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Cheryl. And thanks for the heads up on the LGR. So yeah. EPDP 2A and Phase 2 both have important topics now. We now move over to ALAC updates. Maureen, over to you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Sorry. Couldn't unmute myself. But thank you, Satish, and welcome, everyone. Thank you so much to Cheryl for taking over, ably as she does, for the policy sessions.

Just very quickly from me, I'd just like to mention that from ALAC, there are two PDPs. One's an EPDP. And that's the EPDP on IDNs, which we've got two people from our region who are members—the actual participants who will take on our [inaudible] at those sessions. A special policy development group working on IDNs—of course, that's Lianna and Satish. And we also have Justine and I think we've got Abdulkarim. And who's the other one?

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SATISH BABU:

And Gopal.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Oh! Gopal. I knew it was someone from our team. Okay. So it's a really good team for APRALO representation. We also have Siva, who's on the Transfer Policy PDP, which is another very important group that's actually reporting to the CPWG on a weekly basis. So it's really great to see that the APRALO members are stepping up and filling some very valuable slots for us.

Just wanted to mention that the most recent activity for us was the recent Board/ALAC meeting that we had. We have the meetings with the Board outside of the ICANN meetings. They used to be always ... But virtually, since we've actually started virtual meetings, they had maintained the Board meeting within the ICANN meeting context.

I just thought that was very contrived. We were very, very busy in those ICANN meetings with our own sessions and things like that and when it came to the Board meeting, we were just filling in a gap. So I thought it would be better if we—after discussion with my colleagues—if we had the meeting outside of the ICANN meeting so that we could actually be able to relax but also that we'd have more time to think about it and now have to worry about ICANN meeting stuff at the same time.

So last week, we had our ALAC/Board meeting and it was excellent. There were two issues that the Board wanted to speak to us about. One was the way in which the ALAC presents its advice to the Board. We've been pretty regular with some of our advice to the Board, actually. It's not just providing a statement and comments on policy issues and giving

them back to the GNSO or whoever. They've actually asked us to make comments on that policy issue.

But the ALAC advice is something that's outside of those comments, where we provide advice that's on top of what might—focusing on particular aspects of a particular happening—comment-like situation in which we have to provide some feedback. So there was the, “Tell us what would be a much more effective way of the ALAC providing that advice?” We actually had a discussion about that and we're coming to some kind of conclusion. And there may be some sort of templates that we may need to follow, which will be very helpful.

The second issue that they wanted to talk to us about was the Subsequent Procedures. And of course, Justine very ably posed some good questions to the Board, based on the advice that we had given from the ALAC to the Board. It was good to get their feedback on those issues.

And then, following that, we were actually able to present something that was important to us. This was during ATRT3, one of the things that had come up was an holistic review of ICANN. And there were some lead people who discussed to At-Large perspective. It was Holly and then Greg Shatan talking about the multistakeholder model.

And then Sebastien actually posed the questions that the we wanted to Board to respond to. One was to do with the Board's implication that they were going to propose a pilot. And what Sebastien was asking was we wanted a little bit more information on what the pilot might be, and that that might be just looking at a small section of ICANN, whereas a

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holistic review would be looking at a bigger picture. So the Board is still considering what they mean by a pilot so we'll probably hear more about that very shortly.

So it doesn't take very long when we're working with the Board. Quickly, the hour's all over. So what we're proposing is that people might have had some questions. We're going to check the chat to see if people actually did have questions of the Board that they wanted to ask. And we've got Leon coming—Leon Sanchez, who is our Board member, who normally does a short slot in our ALAC meetings. In the next meeting, which is on the 26th of July, we're giving Leon a bit more time in case anyone from ALAC has some additional questions that they might want to propose to the Board. We're giving them that opportunity to do so in the ALAC meeting.

So apart from all that, I think the only other thing is, of course, ICANN72. That's starting up already. The ALAC we [inaudible] over one ICANN meeting and we're always starting to look at the next one. And because it's the AGM, it's a biggie. We do have to start early and start looking at what we're going to have as sessions—At-Large sessions and also making proposals, if there's any from the At-Large about what we might discuss cross-community-wise for the plenaries.

So if you've got any ideas, please come along to our ICANN72 planning session meetings, which we'll be putting out. I have no idea when it's going to happen but it will be very, very shortly. Gisella will let us know and I'm really looking forward to seeing some APRALO people at meetings.

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Thank you. I'm sorry, Satish. I've probably gone over my 10 minutes. I hope that was okay.

SATISH BABU:

No problems, Maureen. Thank you very much. The next agenda item, number six, are several updates. I will start with the Register of Skills and Interests, Project RoSI, and then move on to the APRALO Webinar. So can you click on the left, blue link, please, on the Regional Register of Skills? Below. The one below. Yeah. We've started that now. Yeah. Thanks.

So this is a bit of work that we had. It has evolved from the survey that we did. And the goals of this particular project is that we try to create a kind of think tank on policy from a community. So there are two aspects to this. The first aspect is to create, or by consensus arrive at, a list of topics within ICANN's remit. This has actually gone on to become a very interesting infographic, which I'll show you in the next link. And for the first time, I am seeing the complexity of ICANN as a whole.

A small group has been working. The group members are there below in the project team and work scope. And the plan of action is that we are continuing to work on this. Justine has proposed driving it because it's an APRALO Policy Forum initiative. [Inaudible], including those like Cheryl, who have actually significantly contributed, Maureen, and generally, several other people who have also contributed from the group.

So it has come to a pretty big document now. But what they're trying to do is to prioritize the kind of skills that we require, identify ALSes, and

ALS members, and individual members. For the first time, we're trying to reach out to the members of our ALSes. Normally, we have representatives of ALSes or leaders of ALSes joining our programs. This time, we would like to go beyond and we would like to involve the ALS members themselves. We're not, at this point, very sure how we can do this but that's the idea.

So we're looking for people in those three groups with those skills that we have identified. And that's where we're trying to build a pool of experts who can be engaged with our policy development work. And also, these experts would serve as mentors for the rest of the community. So we have the Mentorship Program. That's more like leadership development. But these are more, let's say, political kind of skills.

So I'm stopping with this document. Can you go back to the agenda and then click on the discussions link, right next to this one. No. Not that. Below or to the right, discussions. No, to the right. Yes. Exactly. Thank you very much. Please scroll down. There's an infographic right below. Yes. That's the one. Can you go through [inaudible] or zoom in slightly.

So this is an output of what we have been working on as a group. This idea is to put down everything that we think are important in the domain of ICANN. Now, we have the ICANN, which the remit is, of course, the numbers, names, and protocols, mostly centered around DNS.

You also have the gray rectangle, which represents the broader Internet governance, which also has several things which are not directly

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connected with ICANN's remit. But in the past, our community has expressed interest in some of these things. For example, previous surveys, they have done things like [inaudible] Internet access and the digital divide, IoT, blockchain, decentralized alternatives to DNS, the UN processes, extraterritoriality of legislation, geotechnical problems. These are actually outside ICANN's remit but we will just put them there so that we put everything into this infographic.

And then, the ICANN areas are divided into three basic ... Now, the entire thing is from the end-user perspective, and specifically from our APRALO perspective. So I'm sure it can be improved but this is where we see that of now.

So we have three buckets here—the non-technical, the semi-technical, and the technical. The non-technical are things like public interest, and the improvement of the ICANN model, and so on. The semi-technical are legal/regulatory issues, intellectual property, trademark, service mark, geographical indication, and dispute resolution. These are all semi-technical areas. And then the pure technology areas, I think it DoT, DoH, DoQ—that's DNS-over-QUIC, which is a Google protocol—and DoH3. So these are the other technical things that we have to think about.

Then within APRALO interests, we have three broad buckets again. We have operations, policy, and member engagement—our community building and so on. And the Venn diagram is actually interesting because it shows the ... This is actually too small to put everything inside. For instance, in the intersection of the common two or the three circles are

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things like public interest—the global public interest—which is at the back of many things that we do.

But I'm not going to get into details of this but we have tried to situate everything that we're talking about into this Venn diagram so we can see the color-coded things. The policy is blue. So there are a large number of these areas.

So when we look at the overall picture, it looks fairly complex. And I think the senior people here will be able to help us improve this if there's something not mentioned there. Most of the senior people are already involved with it. But I find value in this because it puts everything in one place. So maybe we can continue to work on this. It's a side effect—a byproduct of the whole roster thing.

If we examine this document, it is a very large document with, now so many things—so many nuances coming out. So the [inaudible] has not been started. We have not started on it yet. But looking at the amount of work, it's going to be complicated.

So this is what I wanted to share. Does anybody have any observations, comments, questions, on either the Venn diagram or what we're trying to do with the roster? I don't see any hands up but if there is any comment, please feel free to make it. So our community will hear more about this and we will inform you as to what the next steps are when the [inaudible] comes out. Thank you and we'll go to the next agenda item. Thank you, Gopal.

There is a question from Idil Kula. Please go ahead. If you can speak, please unmute and speak.

IDIL KULA: Hello, Satish. Can you hear my voice?

SATISH BABU: Yes. Please go ahead.

IDIL KULA: Yes. Thank you. Actually, mine is not a question but a suggestion with regards to the diagram. It's very good to see a diagram and we [are lucky] to have designed something. But I would like to suggest maybe we can also benefit from some kind of [inaudible] or some kind of flowchart with regards to these paths, Satish, in that diagram. But it is a suggestion, of course. But this [still requires work].

SATISH BABU: Great. Thanks for that. We understand, of course. The problem is ICANN sometimes can only simplified [to a point]. But we will [have revisions] and maybe we can [inaudible] better or attach a glossary to his so that people can understand the [ultimate group of obligations]. There's so many [obligations] when we look at ICANN in general. But thanks for the feedback. We will discuss this and see how we can further enhance the infographic.

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IDIL KULA: Yes. Of course. You can build up our infographic [and then capture] in order to see more clearly and [properly], maybe. I'll get in touch with regard to this issue.

SATISH BABU: Sure. Yeah. Please join us. Please join our group. You're most welcome to join this group and work together with all of us.

IDIL KULA: Yes. I should [mention] it. This is my first APRALO participation. Sorry for not being present in the previous one. I'm Idil from Ankara, Turkey. I am a master of science student in software development and in software management in [inaudible]. Thanks a lot. I am very pleased to hear you.

SATISH BABU: Right. Please come join us. [inaudible] is very welcome. So thanks for that feedback. We now move on to the next agenda item, which is other interesting developments. So can we click on the invitation link, please, on the right-hand side? APRALO Webinar on International Domain Names—the right-hand side, the link called "invitation." Yeah. The extreme right, after the 90 minutes. There's a link called "invitation." Ah, yes. That's the one. Thank you.

So here is the invitation to our webinar. This webinar is actually kind of strategic because it comes at the time when we have a new EPDP on IDNs. Can you scroll down, please, just to show the organizers? This is organized by the APRALO Policy Forum again, in association with the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group. So we have basically two

speakers and two organizers but Justine is also going to speak about the link between the EPDP and the new EPDP on IDNs.

The topic that we're trying to cover is basically the landscape of IDNs—the big picture. We realized that one of the reasons why we are trying to organize this is because IDNs are very important for our region. And perhaps, among all the five regions, the Asia Pacific is the largest and it's also the most diverse, linguistically and culturally. So the internationalized domain names, this basically forms the foundation for the universal access and the multilingual Internet. It is of importance to our region, which is the reason why we are well-represented, as Maureen pointed out, in the EPDP team as well.

Then, we'll talk about—technically, about the introduction of IDNs to the root zone and how we manage them. The biggest problem with IDNs is the IDN variant handling. IDNs have this problem of variants. This is not there in the Latin script, generally speaking. And variants, sometimes the number of the variants can be very large. So it actually brings in a number of complexities on managing them on the root zone. So we'll try to highlight some of the issues with variant handling and policy recommendations for the next round.

So far, the ALAC position has been that we have to sort out these IDNs before the next round, just like we talk about DNS abuse. That is what we addressed before we think of the next round. So this is the reason why the EPDP has come up now, as an EPDP, as an expedited policy development process, is because it has got to be finished before—and some key questions have to be answered so that the Subsequent Procedures can be then completed based on the EPDP's output.

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So this particular event we are organizing ... Can you scroll up, please, to the title line? Yeah. So 27 July at 8:00 UTC. Registration is required. So there are more details on what we're trying to talk about in the actual link in the agenda. Yeah. So that's it on the agenda item. Are there any comments or questions? Yeah. So, people from ALSes, if you have people who may be interested in this, please pass on these links to everybody in the ALS so that they can also join. So thanks. Can we go back to the agenda, please?

Right. So we now go on to the second item under agenda item number six, which is the APRALO Mentoring Program, which is led by Lianna and Ali. Lianna, over to you for an update on this.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thank you, Satish. I see so many good things happening in our APRALO and in ICANN at all. Just a quick comment on this webinar on IDNs. They're encouraging people to extend the invitation to the ALS members that are joining there.

As for the APRALO Mentorship program, this is a very exciting program that we're running. I would like to thank all those people who applied. We have received a selection of seven candidates for mentees. This is, indeed, going to be a long membership program. The deadline would be the end of next year, 2022. And now, at this moment, we are in the process of matching mentors and mentees. And we want to design that, based on the skill set and the interests overall that our participant mentees put in their application.

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The objective of this program is to help them to develop the leadership skills and to give them a great idea of ICANN and develop the policy to support and to help them be engaged in ICANN and At-Large policy development. So that will be the objective.

And now, we're looking for new mentors to match the mentees, as I said. And very soon we will come up with a result and with a design of the whole program. And of course, we will have the update for our members. So just stay tuned. Thank you and back to you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Lianna, for the update on the mentoring program. It is very important for us that we make ready the next generation of leaders and this program tries to do that. So now, I have a couple of announcements on the work that has been going on. But before that, we do have some time left so if anybody wants to make any personal comments, you're welcome to do it.

There are a couple of items that are pending now from our site, which we had started and for various reasons, we did not proceed. One was the review of our rules and procedures, which was basically started because of the work of two committees or work parties. One was on the ALS mobilization and the other was on the Unaffiliated Individual Members Working Party. So we had both Alan and Roberto presenting their work to our monthly meetings.

Now, because we have a group to work on this, and now that we have the full complement of the leadership team with Amrita coming in, we have both our vice-chairs in place now. So we'll be starting with

resuming work on the ROP Review. The ROP, I'm not sure the current version, which year was it. Probably 2014 or something. So it is time that we updated it and so that's what we're going to do.

The second item that's pending is how to make ... There's a small group working on the topic of how to make APRALO meetings more effective. So that group has had just one meeting. This was a couple of months ago. And then last month, we had the ICANN meeting so there was no time for it. Lianna has volunteered to push it along so we will be having a call on that as well. Jia Rong, thank you for joining us. Jia Rong will be speaking to us at the next monthly meeting. Yeah. So these two are now being revised. So we will continue to work on them.

So that's it from my side on this and we will now move on to the next agenda item, which is a NomCom update from Amrita. Amrita, over to you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Satish. Apologies. There is some noise behind. I don't have much to update from NomCom, just that this week, from next week, 19th, we are starting the final reviews and interviews. So hopefully by the end—by 25th, 26th from our end—NomCom, we will share our updates to ICANN on who are the possible candidates. So that's all from me, from the NomCom part.

But for the newsletter, I would request each of you, in case you are doing anything or you want to add something for the newsletter, please do share it by 25th or 26th to ICANN staff and me so that we can have it in the newsletter. Let's highlight the good things and the great things,

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which many of the ALSes are doing but are not brought into notice. So that's all from me. Satish, we've got 20 minutes today for a change.

SATISH BABU:

Yeah. [inaudible]. So thanks, Amrita, for the update. I also see that Heidi is on the call despite the enormous time zone difficulties. So thanks, Heidi, for joining us. And Cheryl points out that NomCom will be very busy the couple of weeks—for the next couple of months, actually—with the final process happening there. Are there any questions or comments or do we close this meeting 20 minutes ahead of time?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Satish, perhaps in case anyone in the call wants to share some suggestions, comments, etc., that would be great.

SATISH BABU:

Yeah. The floor is open. We are not seeing any hands so I will give you back 20 minutes of your life. So thanks very much for joining this meeting. Like Cheryl is pointing out, the meeting was short but the contents were actually quite interesting. And the work continues, especially on that infographic, and the roster, and the other things that we have taken up. So thank you very much for joining and have a great rest of the week and rest of the day. Be safe. And back to you, Claudia, for closing the meeting.

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CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Thank you all for joining the call. This meeting is now adjourned. Please enjoy the rest of your day or night. Thank you.

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