
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good afternoon and good evening to you all. Welcome to the LACRALO monthly call on Monday, July 19 2021 at 23:00 UTC.

On the call today, on the Spanish channel, we have Augusto Ho, Vanda Scartezini, Alyne Andrade, Antonio Medina Gomez, Carlos Aguirre, Dennis Tan, [inaudible], Hanna Frank, Harold Arcos, León Sanchez, Lito Ibarra, Olga Cavalli, Raitme Citterio, and Sylvia Herlein Leite.

On the english channel, we have Claire Craig and in French, we have Sindy Obed.

We have received apologies from Sergio Salinas Porto and Lilian Ivette De Luque.

On behalf of the staff, we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management today.

And also, Adrian Carballo is in the Spanish channel.

Our interpreters today are Claudia and Paula on the Spanish channel, Esperanza and Bettina on Portuguese and Claire and Jacques in French.

Before starting, a kind reminder to please say your name before taking the floor for the transcription and also for interpreters to identify you in the correct channel.

Without further ado, I'm going to give the floor to Augusto.

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.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you. Today, I have to stand in for Sergio. Sergio is going through some personal difficulties so he asked me to take over, so I'm pleased to lead this meeting today. I want to thank you for taking the time to join this monthly call. Today, it is July the 19th. And I'm going to ask Harold to go over the agenda for adoption. Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Augusto. Today, we have the coordination of the capacity building working group. We have a guest speaker today, Dennis Tan Tanaka from Verisign. He's going to give us a webinar on IDN fundamentals. Later on, we're going to listen to the working group directors, the first working group on WHOIS and GDPR. Later on, the working group on multilingualism and IDNs, and then the working group on communications. We will have comments from our ALAC members, Sylvia Herlein and Sindy Obed, and then regional updates that will be shared by different participants. If you would like to add any topics—

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Could you speak up, Harold? Because interpreters cannot hear you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: If you can speak up, please. Or perhaps you can get closer to the mic.

HAROLD ARCOS: Is it better now?

SILVIA VIVANCO:

I think so.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Well, I think you have heard me going through the agenda.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Yes, we could hear you, so you may continue.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Okay, so later on, we will have the comments by the ALAC members, and if you would like to add any other topics to the agenda, you can do that now. You can raise your hand or you can post it in the chat. Otherwise, we consider the agenda adopted. Later on, you can raise any other points if you want. Augusto, I'll give you back the floor.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Harold. I understand that the agenda is adopted. When we go into the agenda item on the updates of the directors, I will ask for your help. Now I'm going to give the floor to Sylvia Herlein because she's going to introduce today's guest. Sylvia, go ahead, please.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Hello. Thank you. Good afternoon, good evening to you all. What can I tell you about Dennis Tan? He's a friend of LACRALO and he's always helping us in all our projects. I need to provide a summary of his long CV. He's a resident expert on IDNs and also an expert on universal

acceptance. He's well known to the ICANN family because he has participated in different working groups.

He promotes the use and development of IDNs and universal acceptance. He was recently the vice chair of the universal acceptance group and he also led some other groups during that same period.

Over the latest months, he assessed the level of universal acceptance adoption in different areas and also, he led the working group that worked on the definition of the goals of the next IDN EPDP. That is why it's so important for the IDN working group in LACRALO to be present today. We really want to contribute to that EPDP.

INTERPRETER:

The interpreters apologize, we are having interference with the original audio.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

So that working group, that EPDP is going to work on the different root zone label generation rules. So we are going to talk about the different IDN labels and how that may affect the contracted parties. So without further ado, and just to talk about variants and IDNs, I would like to give the floor to LACRALO's friend, Dennis Tan. Thank you.

DENNIS TAN TANAKA:

Thank you, Sylvia, for this introduction and thank you for inviting me. I think I have 40 minutes to go through the IDN fundamentals, the internationalized domain names, and I would like to highlight some

aspects that have to do, as you said, Sylvia, with the next EPDP on IDNs I will provide you an overview of what that EPDP is about and why I think that LACRALO should participate in that process.

So let me go over a few slides that were prepared by ICANN. We're going to go through different aspects. So if you have any questions, just interrupt me. Some of these topics may be quite complex, so interrupt me if you have any questions.

Let's move on to the first slide, please. These slides are generic slides that have already been used for other training sessions. LACRALO has already used them. And although we are trying to cover basic aspects that need to be used to lay the foundations for more advanced courses, they are also key aspects. If you need me to slow down, just let me know. If you have any questions, just interrupt me, because we need to go through all these aspects.

So I would like to probe the audience to see how much you know about IDNs. Perhaps you can just raise your hand or show me your thumbs up. Who of you knows what Unicode IDNs are? Just show me with your thumbs up. I see a hand there by Harold, a check mark by Vanda. So I would say that we have a 50-50 ratio here. I'm going to use different terms and this gives me an idea of how much explanation I have to give you. We can spend hours talking about these topics, and I'm trying to bring this down to 30 minutes. So let's move on to the next slide, please.

In order to talk about internationalized domain names, IDNs, we need to know some other aspects first. The first one is the Unicode concept. And before speaking about Unicode, we need to speak about ASCII. I think

that everyone knows what ASCII means. ASCII, the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, and that is the standard that is used in the DNS. It has been used for years. Since the creation of the Internet, domain names have been limited to ASCII, letters from A to Z with a dash in-between and numbers from zero to nine.

As the Internet expanded, it reached countries and regions where the ASCII standard or the English language was not the primary script in those areas. Chinese, Russian, Japanese used a different script.

So the desire emerged to open the Internet to other scripts. Unicode is the standard that codes all these scripts. We have the Latin script, the Han script for Chinese, some Japanese characters, and we also have the same for Korean and for many other scripts.

So Unicode enables us to open up the spectrum of domain names because we have all these other scripts. I don't want to confuse you with all the terminology, but Unicode uses each character as a codepoint. I can only translate codepoints as characters, I cannot find any other translation. I don't want to call it a letter because not all scripts use letters, but just to give you an idea, it would be like the letters of the script. So each letter has a code assigned to it. Letter A as we know it is identified with code 0061. That is the code that the computer understands.

And each character in Unicode has an assigned code that uses hexadecimal notation. For example, U+0061. And the format used on the Internet is called UTF-8. This means Unicode Transformation Format, 8 bits. And the only message that I want to leave you with is that this is

the format that is used in order to transmit data on the Internet, because it is faster and lighter, and it is the de facto standard. Next slide, please.

So this is Unicode, the coding system for all different scripts. We have already seen this. These are just some more examples of letters that you have in Unicode and what I want you to remember from this slide is that in order to write a letter as we know it, in English or in Portuguese where we have the tilde or the diacritical mark or have some mark above or underneath the letter, you may use a key combination on the keyboard, you may have the E with the tilde or the cedilla, or sometimes we have a foreign language keyboard and we need to use a key combination in order to have the letter.

When I was studying in college in the 1990s, I had to type the letter and then the tilde and then the processor would combine those two. But now you need to type the letter and then the decoration, as we can call it, or the diacritical mark or the tilde.

So to make things simple, usually, this conversion between the code and the letters takes place automatically so we don't have to worry about that. So that is Unicode. You already know the origin of Unicode. So since Unicode allows to encode all the scripts, it is a technology that enables users to type in text of domain names in their preferred language. Do we have a question? I don't think so. Okay, so let's move on.

What do we mean by internationalized domain names or IDNs? Basically, this is a protocol that allows the DNS to understand the

Unicode system. So the DNS only understands ASCII language. Therefore, it was necessary to develop a protocol that would be above ASCII in order to enable users like us, Internet users, registrants to register domain names in their preferred script.

And there is a conversion that takes place between ASCII and Unicode. Here we have an example. Example.ca, you see the A with the diacritical mark. For the DNS, that example with that diacritical mark turns into a domain name that can only be written in ASCII code, and this can be done only through the Punycode algorithm. You don't need to know all the details about the algorithm, you just need to know that the Punycode algorithm converts the domain name in Unicode into ASCII so that the DNS can understand it.

And this is something that is not visible for the users. It's not that the user has to do that manually. That is done by the browser or by the email system. But then universal acceptance comes into the scene. But perhaps that is a topic for a different webinar. There are certain tools, certain procedures that do not take place automatically, so that causes problem to the users. So that has to do with universal acceptance. Next slide, please.

And this is what I was explaining to you about to Punycode algorithm. The user goes into a browser and types in the domain name with their preferred script. In this case, this is invented but it could be done in Portuguese, in Spanish with the eñe, it can be a Chinese or Russian script, so the browser should be able to take that domain name in Unicode and use the Punycode algorithm in order to convert that into ASCII so that the DNS can understand that domain name.

And that is what [inaudible] need to remember from this slide. And all this should happen transparently for the user. So the user should not worry about that. But the problem occurs when this is not automatically done, when the systems or the processes do not understand the different script, so you get a message saying that the domain name is nonexistent or you have an invalid e-mail address. Next slide, please.

So, going into more details, what is the protocol that enabled all this? And now we're going to make some history here. So for IDN, there were several projects. [The two] here were generated by the IETF, the Internet Engineering Task Force, and there are two protocols. They're known as IDNA 2003 and IDNA 2008.

Currently, the prevailing protocol so the 2008 version. Some applications though still working with the 2003 protocol and there are some problems, but as I said before, we can discuss it a bit further in some other occasion. But what you need to know is that the protocol that will define how to work with IDNs today is what is collectively known as IDNA 2008.

This is a series of documents that are collectively called IDNA 2008, issued by IETF. I want to point out something else. I was mentioning that the protocol defines the conversion from a label with a Unicode domain to an ASCII only label. And this is reversible. So I may go from Unicode to ASCII when I have to query something to the DNS, and the answer from the DNS using the same app will translate the ASCII answer to Unicode, so that the final user will have it as he or she wants on the screen.

The next slide, because we have discussed these two standards. And please remember, for the final test, that the standard is the 2008 version.

So we know where internationalized domain names come from, the standards. The [inaudible] elements that are key for the DNS are Unicode on one side and the protocol of IETF, IDNA 2008, on the other hand. So these are the two topics or issues to be borne in mind.

What do we use a domain name for? We use it for websites, of course. We may use it for blogs, for the website of my institution, from ICANN, my company, and we also use domain names when writing e-mails. These e-mails traditionally were only accepted ASCII or [DNA and DNA included] the e-mail addresses with internationalized domain names after the “at” sign, but there was a need for the whole of the e-mail to be internationalized.

So another protocol was created to enable this technology so that the whole of the e-mail address, the user and the domain name may be internationalized. And this is known with the English acronym EAI, email address internationalization. And I have shared some examples. It’s not just the username that you may use there, the script you want to use.

I’m going to speak about technology, because one thing is the technology, the protocol, the certifying standards and are not mandatory for the applications to adopt. Large applications or large developers of technology, for instance Microsoft, Google or Apple or Oracle in general will use certain standards so as to have this interoperability between different platforms. And this is how electronic

mails may go from one platform to the other regardless of the place where they are sent from.

And the same happens with internationalized e-mails. We have the standards, but the developers of technologies should adopt these standards so as to work in an interoperable environment. It doesn't matter where an e-mail is coming from, it may reach the other name. So this is what happens with electronic mails to allow the internationalized e-mail addresses to work, that I, Dennis Tan, may send an e-mail with my e-mail address internationalized to Sylvia Herlein. Of course, she should have the e-mail address internationalized, my server sending and her server receiving, and all servers in-between, all of them should be ready so as to carry the electronic message from point A to B.

This is why it is complex. As of today, the level of penetration of server or services supporting e-mail address internationalization is really low. When sending and receiving, we may say that large platforms as Gmail from Google, Outlook from Microsoft and Apple Mail from Apple, they may send and receive, but the problem is to create this e-mail address internationalized.

There's not many platforms doing so, and it is very difficult because as of today, an e-mail is just not something used to send an e-mail, because several platforms use it as the identity of a given user. So it's not just an e-mail address that's useful to receive your e-mail, but I use it to log into the home banking of a bank or to Google app. So e-mail is not just something used to send e-mail, but the e-mail address is now a way to identify the user. This is why the use of the e-mail address is much more complex. And to enable this internationalized system to be used. The

adoption of it is slower because it's more complex. So for instance in Google, I cannot use my name with some diacritical or tilde or I don't know, using another script like Cyrillic or Chinese. Next slide, please.

Now we will touch base on universal acceptance very briefly. Let me check time. How much time do I get? Antonio, Silvia, can you let me know, please?

ADRIAN CARBALLO: You're okay, Dennis. You may go ahead.

DENNIS TAN TANAKA: So what do we mean when we say universal acceptance? As I was saying, IDN and EAI introduce new technologies so that e-mail addresses may be written, as well as domain names, in the script you like. But you know that these domain names, e-mails do not exist in a vacuum. They're used by apps and the apps have to accept and process them, etc.

Universal acceptance is just like that. The domain names and e-mail addresses should be satisfactorily processed and accepted by this application. When we talk about universal acceptance, we may say that we may date back to the beginning of the 2000s when the new TLDs became operative. The TLDs after .com, .net, org and country codes of two characters. Then we have .museum, so there were more than three characters there.

So, what did software developers do? To validate domain name, they say that the extension has to be two and three characters. So you have a

TLD with four characters, the code was not working. And we are having problems at universal acceptance since then.

In 2001 onwards, now we have domain names at second level and top level and the applications only validated a domain name that was in ASCII. But that was not true, because we were using Unicode, another system, repertoire of extended characters. So the problems in universal acceptance were [added up.] Little by little, technology improved. The browsers now accept IDNs with no problems. And I'm talking about major brands. Day after day, I can see that new browsers appear on the market or apps, for instance the apps of our smartphone, they include some browsers and these browsers perhaps do not handle properly internationalized domain names, but Safari, Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, they certainly manage them. E-mail addresses is something like little by little, it's gaining ground in the universal acceptance, but very slowly. Next slide, please.

Well, this is just repeating what I was repeating, what's the problem with universal acceptance, old code, outdated code because developers set certain assumptions in the code and now there were new TLDs or second-level domains that were longer. The software they had developed did not validate this, and so the user because of the error message was frustrated. Next slide, please.

Another topic within universal acceptance is something that was more evident after the latest expansion, 2012-2013. I think there were over 1000 TLDs that little by little were entered into the root servers. Many developers so as to validate something—at that point in time, they had a fixed list of extension codes in their list, but now they have TLDs that

get in and out of the DNS root almost daily. So this is another problem of universal acceptance. Next slide, please.

And this is the list used by many, PSL, public suffix list. This is a crowdsourced tool, and there you have all the top-level domains that exist. It's not only top-level names but particularly when we talk about country codes, they use the third-level, and so they only allow a third-level for registrations. This list is used by software developers to validate acceptance.

Anyway, the list has to be updated and it is not up to date all the time. For instance, the committee of universal acceptance, UASG, they are recommending that they should better ping the DNS to know whether it exists or not instead of using this kind of list for validation.

And I think this is my last slide. So I know I went really fast, but I tried to cover the main aspects, and if you're willing, I may go on talking about this because there are lots to be said in this respect, but I wanted to you to have an overview of these major elements so that you may know and you may be aware of these topics. And if you like, I may give another discussion or another presentation of that in another ICANN face-to-face meeting, or you can send me an e-mail. So, Sylvia, back to you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Thank you, Dennis. I'm a suspicious person to think about that. It's very interesting to listen to what you say because some of us have knowledge in that respect, but certainly, you are an expert. And of course, if there is any question, you can send it to me, I will send it to Dennis. So, thank you very much for being with us. Now Augusto, you have the floor.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you very much, Sylvia. And t yes, Dennis, because you have shared your knowledge, your experience with our region. And those of us who are teachers can easily find those people that certainly know how to convey a message. As it was mentioned, many of us know something about some of the topics mentioned, but of course, we've got to expand that knowledge and confirm what we know. So, thank you very much, Dennis, for your excellent presentation.

So now, according to our agenda for today, we now should move into the working groups. So I will ask the chairs of each group. Carlos Aguirre, are you here so that you can speak about the GDPR group? Carlos, you have the floor.

CARLOS AGUIRRE:

Thank you very much, Augusto. So we're going to talk about WHOIS and GDPR. You know that the working times, the working periods at ICANN take long periods, more than one meeting. You can see it in Dennis's presentation. The processes are long and we experience the process of the new gTLD. It took several years. So this is not an exception to the rule.

When we speak about the relationship between WHOIS and GDPR is that WHOIS showed us or shows us the managers, the holders, the addresses of those holders and managers of domains. Once the General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR, was enacted in 2018 regarding data protection and data privacy, we had to adopt to that. ICANN

implemented temporary specification on the spot when the GDPR went into effect so as to adapt itself as to adapt itself to this new policy.

This temporary specification was ratified and these processes, as I said before, are not short processes. The GDPR process is divided into several phases. Phase one was implementation, phase two included the standardized system for access and disclosure, so how you're going to answer about a query on the name or e-mail address of a given registrant. And the second phase also includes some additional phases.

Now we are moving into the 2A phase. This [inaudible] some topics that were not included in GDPR. For instance, legal persons. They were not covered in GDPR. Also, now we have the pseudonymized e-mails. This is related to a constant evolution and development of topics being discussed based on the situations as they arise.

As I said, the situations arise, because two days ago, Spain and Portugal made a presentation to European Union about a new policy regarding electronic mail addresses with respect to GDPR. So the topic is not exhausted. Discussions will go on and there will be more discussions in next meeting and in the next month.

Another topic discussed in ICANN 71 by the GNSO was the one related to resources for these discussions, resources to discuss all these topics.

What we have to consider here is the accuracy of the domain names that go back to those that made the query. But of course, there should be security. So in this meeting, there were several discussions about the development [inaudible] regarding this answer to the queries so as to give more security to that data to better protect the data.

So being careful to check who is asking for data, who is making the query, a person that should have a legitimate interest to ask for that information. And all these issues are in a brief overview what has been discussed in the latest ICANN meeting.

The temporary specification was ratified. How to move into the phase 2A regarding legal persons that are not covered by GDPR, the pseudonymized e-mail addresses to register domain names and the need to have the resources so as to discuss all these topics.

This is a brief overview and update of what is the current situation regarding WHOIS GDPR. Additionally, we should also say that WHOIS, now that we have the RDAP protocol, there is also relation that goes on the side of these topics. And what Dennis has described about internationalized domain names, universal acceptance and at some point in time, I think that it should also be covered by GDPR.

I'm a lawyer, I'm not a technical person, so I think that in the future, there'll be some collision there and GDPR will have to be taken into account. So this is what I have to say for the time being, Augusto. But as I said, the topic is not exhausted. There would be much discussion. So in future meetings, it'll be discussed as well, and so we will have lots of work in this regard too. Thank you very much, Augusto.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Carlos. I offer my apologies because I hadn't realized that Alejandro Pisanty had raised his hand after Dennis's presentation. Perhaps he wants to active his mic and we can proceed to that question.

INTERPRETER: The interpreters apologize, we can't hear Alejandro Pisanty properly.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Alejandro, I apologize for interrupting. Our interpreters cannot hear you properly. Could you please get closer to the mic?

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Is it better now?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Yes, go ahead, please.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: So I repeat my question. The last slide of Dennis's presentation is extremely important, talking about collisions between domain names and also the names of files and programs. So that was very important.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you, Alejandro. I'm going to take a couple of minutes to thank Andrian Carballo and Harold Arcos for their efforts within the capacity building webinars. So I can't see the chat here. I don't know if there are any hands raised.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes, Lito Ibarra has his hand up.

LITO IBARRA:

Thank you, Harold and Augusto. I just wanted to make a comment following up on Alejandro's comment. The topic of domain name collisions is a topic that has been commissioned to the Security and Stability Advisory Committee and they have already reported the results for the first phase of that study, and the Board has entrusted them with second part of that study. And I'm sure that they will provide some information on this very important topic raised by Alejandro. Perhaps we won't have concrete results, but some hint about what may happen in a future round of new gTLDs. So this is a very important topic and the study is already underway.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY:

If I may, I would like to make a brief comment. I'm very happy, Lito, to hear what you have just said. The technical community is much more concerned than the commercial constituencies about top-level domain names because some people ignore the fact of domain name collisions. We are very much concerned about the consequences of these collisions that may end up leaving domain names inoperational, perhaps if they are older or they don't have enough support.

So I underline the importance of the work that is being done by this group. Hopefully LACRALO members will be able to engage with them in order to learn more about the importance of this topic. This is a problem that may affect users.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you, Alejandro. If we don't have any more questions about the presentation, we may move on to the next topic. Are there any hands raised? Could you please let me know? Because I can't see the participants list from here.

HAROLD ARCOS: No hands up.

AUGUSTO HO: So now we move on to Sylvia. She's going to give us an update on the IDN multilingualism working group.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Today, this is a very special day. As you have seen, we cannot separate IDNs from universal acceptance. That is why our working group has been working on both fronts. And I would like to especially thank Adrian Carballo who is the chair of the Capacity Building Working Group for suggesting having Dennis today with this webinar.

In terms of updates on our working group, I would like to say that we are organizing the promised course on universal acceptance for end users, and we are going to request your help. Although we are working together with the communications working group—they are going to help us disseminate information about this course.

As Dennis has shown today, the future of the Internet is here and now, and it is closely related to universal acceptance. Now we are working hard to organize these calls. We have already confirmed the speakers.

Dennis will be one of the instructors in that call and we will hold it in September. We are going to provide you with all kinds of advertising materials for you to help us disseminate this event. We are working on that. That would be all for now. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you, Sylvia, for your report. Now it's the communications working group's turn, and I think Marcelo Rodriguez is going to take the floor.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: Hello. Good evening. Thanks for giving me the floor. The webinar given by Dennis has been very interesting. And of course, all the activities we do are closely associated with universal acceptance. We have been carrying out different actions within LACRALO in this direction.

As far as communications are concerned, we are still insistent on having every participant in this meeting to send us their respective reports so the extent possible. We have different regions represented here, so we would like to receive your report and also to disseminate this message to their ALSes' representatives about all the activities that are being carried out in Latin America and Caribbean and the different work initiatives within LACRALO so that we can include all that information in our next newsletter.

It is important also to highlight that we are going to disseminate information about this universal acceptance course mentioned by Sylvia in the newsletter. And of course, if you are planning any activities for

August and September, just let us know so that we can include it in that newsletter.

Last month, we have an interview with Sergio Salinas Porto. I had already told you about this, and last meeting, we had a radio show, so we spent 30 minutes in that interview. So we would like to have also some other engagement with the LACRALO team.

We would also like to add all the interviews to the YouTube channel in order to develop some other outreach and dissemination activities with this group.

In the medium term, we are planning to have a wider variety of activities. Antonio Medina who is also a member of the group had made some suggestions in the past. So we are trying to put them in practice. So I would like to thank Harold for inviting me to take part in this group, and I also thank Augusto for inviting me to this LACRALO monthly meeting.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Marcelo. Now we are moving on to agenda item six. Sindy Obed and Sylvia Herlein are going to make some comments as ALAC members. Go ahead, Sylvia and Cindy.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

As you may know, the ALAC had a meeting with the Board and they discussed very important topics. I would like to comment on them in this meeting. You know that whenever we have face-to-face meetings within the ALAC, these meetings are usually very important, we take them very

seriously. I was unable to participate, but I am aware of what they discussed, so I wanted to share this with you.

Different topics were addressed. One of them had to do with the ALAC advice to the ICANN Board. So they discussed the best practices in terms of the advice format and the approach, all the feedback process to find the best way to establish this communication between the ALAC and the ICANN Board. They also talked about the ALAC advice to the Board on subsequent procedures.

And Justine Chew asked some specific questions at that meeting and whether the ALAC needs to provide more clarification on certain topics shared with the Board, how they can provide their advice better so that the Board can better implement the ALAC's advice, because we know that there are other groups that also provide advice to the Board.

In terms of timing, when the ALAC should expect to receive a reply from the ICANN Board? They also talked about the holistic review. There was a great discussion about this topic led by Sébastien Bachollet and other members. Here, they talked about the ATRT3 recommendations. They talked about the current experience of participants with online meetings.

Mention was made of the significant changes that took place last year, that this online experience has enabled the ICANN community to break up the silos that have always existed. Since we are working fully online now and we are having fewer face-to-face meetings, the different groups have engaged and interacted more in different discussions. And Holly Raiche said that now the groups are communicating better and

they are addressing the different ICANN topics, sharing different viewpoints.

They also said that the ALAC supports the ATRT3 recommendation to proceed with a holistic review, but the question was whether the structures that we have been using for the last 20 years are still useful or should be changed. 20 years ago, these structures were presented to the community. So with all the changes that have taken place, are these structures still feasible? Should there be any changes in order to allow ICANN to better meet its objectives? And of course, we also highlighted there the community's view on this.

So they talked about the multi-stakeholder model, and Sébastien Bachollet took some time to make a proposal to the Board vis-à-vis the holistic review. The Board has put forward a pilot review. So Sébastien asked the Board whether they could provide an explanation why they decided to proceed with a pilot review instead of having a first complete review, whether there could be a description of what the pilot review would entail.

So now we need to wait for the Board's reply. And he also asked whether the holistic review discussion could take place within the framework of the ATRT3. Basically, that is the summary of that meeting. It was a long meeting, but I think this is a good summary of that meeting. Thank you. Cindy?

SINDY OBED:

Hello. Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Thank you, Sylvia, for your update. In June, there was a vote that happened and on

July 15th, there was a protection for the registrars and mostly registrants, sorry, and ALAC did approve that protection for registrants. 13 voted yes for that protection of registrants and to fight against DNS abuse. This work was done by registrar group. And as you know, a lot was done on DNS abuse and we're trying to fight against botnets and spam and all those issues we do have with DNS abuse.

We do all agree it's one of our priorities. We have to work for the end users and be able to protect them from this abuse. There is a strong need today to protect the end users against DNS abuse. We do believe that registrars should do more to fight against DNS abuse. We need for the end users to be able to appeal sometimes when registrars do block domain names, sometimes we have false information and sometimes the registrar very quickly resolves the problem. So that's why we have this whitepaper that is very important on DNS abuse.

This whitepaper is telling you more about the protection of end users. There are appeals mechanisms that registrars can give to registrants. These appeals mechanisms should be part of all the processes for the DNS and all the registrars should be able to have this type of appeals system.

We have to be based on facts when we talk about DNS abuse. We have to support our registrars and end users. We sometimes have to use the courts and they have to be aware of those issues. So this whitepaper is informing everyone about those issues for registrars and registrants. So the ALAC made some comments on this whitepaper, and for instance, complaints and the group wants to explore more deeply this topic. We need to develop those comments and talk about the use of those

domain names, and we have to look at domains that bring a lot of abuse and make sure that we do not block or stop those domains when they're not coming up with DNS abuse. We need to know more, we need to do more, and we need to present a lot of examples of DNS abuse.

So those are the comments on ALAC. This is our work to protect the end users and adopt a report that has been prepared. Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you very much, Sindy Obed and Sylvia Herlein. With respect to item seven, the regional update, we have requested Harold Arcos to speak because there's some interesting topics to be discussed. So Harold, please, you have the floor.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Augusto. First of all, I would like to thank all of you for taking time so as to share this [time with us] and the regional report. I would like to speak about some of the things that have been discussed. Thank you very much, Sylvia and Sindy for your updates.

Specifically, the operations group, we have been discussing about the strategic objectives for fiscal year 2021-2025. You know that we have started with FY2022. And if you remember, last year we have proposed certain ideas regarding how to address the objectives so as to be in sync with ICANN's objectives and in this way strengthen the work of our agents in the region. We know that some of these topics are key for this strategy.

So I will share with you these slides. There are also links to these slides in the agenda. And in these strategic objectives, you can see the strengthening of the domain name system, the security of the DNS root server system. You know that we are not mentioning it as DNS abuse but security of DNS. So from our region, we have proposed to generate ambassadors to the DNS security. This is of course related to the concerns of the technical community. It was mentioned by Alejandro Pisanty a few moments ago.

He talked about this topic and some others that overlap certainly and are related to the security of the DNS [and the aftermath.] Another strategic objective of course is to define the effectiveness of the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance. This is also in line with the proposals made in the last meeting of ALAC and the Board regarding this review mentioned on ATRT, as Sylvia mentioned, how to improve our model, to discuss whether there should be some change as part of the holistic review.

Another strategic objective is all ALS should bear in mind day after day and put it on a working table because another strategic objective is to coordinate all issues related to geopolitical topics and the impact of ICANN's mission so as to secure an interoperable Internet at a global level.

Day after day, we have been repeating this. I think that it started in Kobe and also, we mentioned it in Barcelona that there is some value in the geopolitical issues. And when we talk about a global Internet ecosystem, ICANN should have an active role. This is important for us, but it is also a request [or something that asks us] for cooperation, at national level

and at regional level with everything that we may promote and encourage from our position so as to have this part of communication with all our agents.

Of course, we have to discuss about the financial sustainability in the long term for ICANN. This seems something internal to the [corporation and something regarding their operations,] but of course, we should follow the discussions. We have participated in the finance, budget and operations working group. Some of the proposal of the region should be in sync with the budgets that are being discussed so as to be consistent and to be able to develop our regional projects.

And finally, the evolution of unique identifier system, cooperation with all relevant parties, with all stakeholders so as to serve the needs of the global Internet users. So this is what we wanted to share and to relate them to the activities we are doing at each region, fiscal year for the planning of our ALSes so that in the following months, before the general assembly, we should certainly relate these topics, and of course, the agenda of the following meetings will be open so as to coordinate each of these topics. So we may propose some things for the next fiscal year, always being in line with these strategic objectives because the idea is to work together with this in mind.

From last fiscal year, we have been discussing everything related to the digital era. The idea is that within our subregions, we may do some activities that may lead us to achieve this objective. It's not just communication and enhance the participation of all the technical groups that are being trained at colleges and universities, but now we have the opportunity of this virtual interaction because we know that there will

be no face-to-face meeting, but we can [inaudible] at least large meetings. We know that there are restrictions and challenges due to COVID.

Finally, Claudia, can you help me with the link? The idea is to share with you the results of the survey for operating initiatives. Here, you can see the most important regional initiatives at each RALO that participated in this survey. And certainly, there was [agreement we discuss it] in the operations meeting because they matched the strategic objectives, the operating objectives and the subjects that we are developing.

So this is to talk about the results of the survey but at the same time—thank you very much, Claudia—this work is in line with the IDNs and universal acceptance. I think that it was the third topic. And we can see here that we are sharing improvements in the DNS in line with the objectives that we discussed. Let me go to the following slide.

And here we have the most important topics regarding operating initiatives. Mostly, the strengthening of the multi-stakeholder model. Next slide, please. The evolution of the community's decision making processes. Next slide, please.

I would like to reach the final table. I think it's number ... Oh, this is the first one. Can you scroll down, please? More, please. This was the survey, and here you have universal acceptance, 63.6%. Significance and importance is given by all RALOs to this topic. That is in line with our importance. And thanks to what Dennis said, we understand why this is a sticky topic.

Scroll a bit down. To summarize, the first three topics really are the first three initiatives that are being promoted since last year, including courses for universal acceptance, engagement, and particularly based on our capacity building strategy, train new people. This is a long haul initiative and this is not something to be concluded in the short term. So we want all communities that are interested to participate in this capacity building activity so as to be informed and to participate in all other processes. Otherwise, we would be repeating our history, low participation, low engagement. This is not the way we would like to go ahead in the future.

Thank you, Claudia, because this is the summary slide I wanted to show when we're talking about specific topics. You can see there are lots of important topics. ATRT3, of course. This is one of the keys and this is why ALAC decided to start the meeting with the Board talking about this topic. And so if there is any other topic, we hope Lito and León to share with us any topic of relevance. Augusto, you have the floor again.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you very much, Harold. It's been a very comprehensive report. And we're going to take advantage of the last minutes. I think Lito was asking for the floor. Is that right?

LITO IBARRA:

Yes. Thank you, Augusto. And thank you, Harold, for your summary of the strategic objective and strategic plan. I would like to add that this is the strategic plan that we will, among all of us, we will collaborate and move and change. It will depend on the environment. There was an

annual review, first one took place, and if necessary, there will be changes. Otherwise, we will continue with what has been planned. The idea is not to change that because we want to change it, but we do an annual review so as to adapt and fine tune some things. So it's not something static that will be analyzed after five years. Year after year, it will be fine tuned as needed. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you very much, Lito. León, you have the floor.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

To supplement what Lito said, we are not working on setting what [is the scope within] the Board as their operating priorities. These operating priorities make reference to internal tasks at Board with the purpose of making more efficient or improving the way we work, the way the Board works. They are not related with operating issues in the organization but with operating issues at the Board.

For instance, one of the operating priorities of the Board, last version, was this framework to identify what we call a global public interest. So based on the work done within the Board, we set the framework, and now the decisions we make at the Board will focus themselves, and of course, we've acted on behalf of the global public interest, but now that we have this framework, we use it to evaluate whether the decisions thoroughly comply with the framework, are within the framework, and the idea is to be more predictable regarding the decisions made by the Board.

It's good to have these operational priorities, and we have set some for our meeting in September and it will be published so as to start following them up at the annual general assembly. And we will be holding update meetings every time we [inaudible] in a public fashion so that you can check on our progress, how we achieve the objectives set by these priorities.

I think that you know, but the Board has made a decision for the Seattle meeting. It will be a virtual meeting. At the end of the day, we received comments from various parts of the community. Many of them asked for a face-to-face meeting immediately, some others asked for more caution regarding face-to-face meetings. And so with all these comments in hand and the surveys made by the organization and the criteria of the Board members, the Board made a decision to hold a virtual meeting but to start working to explore the possibility of little by little going back to normal, but of course taking care of the security of the organization and the members of the community.

The idea is to have some pilot meetings by the face-to-face meeting with smaller groups, for instance, the NomCom. Perhaps we may think if the NomCom has all the conditions to meet face-to-face, let's try and see what we can do for this to happen. And if it cannot be 100% face-to-face because there are disparities of the pandemic evolution and the vaccination speed, we may hold some pilot program so as to have hybrid meetings. There would be people meeting face-to-face and people attending virtually.

The idea is to get ready so that in March 2022 in Puerto Rico, we might hold this hybrid meeting. Of course, we will keep you posted and we will

welcome any concern, information, suggestion, anything you may say. You may comment about how you feel about this step forward to face-to-face meetings. You may also speak about the restrictions in terms of health, travel in your countries. This information is useful information for us, and we're going to certainly appreciate and take into account all this in our next decision.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you very much, León. We are going to give the floor to Vanda.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: I just wanted to say that we are now in the last week of work of the NomCom. So next Sunday, we will publish our work. This week, we are devoting all our time to interviewing candidates and we will bring this process to a close with a list of candidates so all of us in the region may have some news next week or in two weeks after some legal actions. So this is just to give you an update of what we are doing at the NomCom.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you, Vanda. We are already coming to the end of the time allotted to this meeting. I want to thank you for your attention, your time, and I wish you good night to you all. Bye. Thank you all.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]