
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. Welcome to the AFRALO operating principles review working group call on Wednesday the 22nd of September 2021 at 17:00 UTC.

On the call today on the English channel, we have Isaac Maposa, Sarah Kiden, and Hadia Elminiawi.

On the French channel, we have Aziz Hilali.

We have received apologies from Seun Ojedeji.

Our French interpreters for today are Isabelle and Claire.

And from staff, we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Claudia Ruiz on call management.

Friendly reminder to please state your name when taking the floor so the interpreters can identify you on the other language channel.

And Abdeldjalil just joined the French channel as well. Welcome, Abdeldjalil. Thank you all very much, and with this, I turn the call over to you, Isaac. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Now we go to the adoption of agenda. As you can see, the agenda is shown on the screen. Is there anything that may want to be added or subtracted?

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.

I don't see any hand raised, so I take that as agreement to the agenda. So the agenda can be adopted. Thank you. I give the floor to staff for the next agenda item.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much. I will go over the action items of the call, the last one in August. Sarah Kiden to copy and edit the rules, section 5.7 including the revised membership criteria. She will give us an update on that.

Then Evin Erdogan to acquire about webform for the individual membership application on At-Large website exploring the Google form option and in the meantime updating the current PDF once the edits are approved by AFRALO members.

And ICANN provide an update—my colleague, Evin Erdogan, has been in contact with the team in charge of creating this online application form. And yes, this is possible for sure. So once this group approves the new rules and new application form, At-Large staff will be coordinating with the webmasters to create this new form to fill out the form online once these edits are approved, probably today.

Then Isaac Maposa, Sarah and Abdeldjalil and working group members will finalize the document with the last call's input.

Isaac Maposa and Abdel will send a document to AFRALO mailing list requesting comments within three weeks and that was completed.

Isaac Maposa and Abdel will present the working group work at the next AFRALO monthly call on 1st September. And I recall that was also completed. So that's all. Thank you very much, and over to you, Isaac.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you very much. Now we move to the next agenda item on finalization on the individual member application form. So I give the floor to Sarah and Hadia. You can take the floor.

SARAH KIDEN: Hi everyone. Hadia is also here. If staff can show the issues under review, pages four to five, I think we've finished the application form and we've received feedback from people—I think we've tried to respond to many of the questions, pages four and five. Scroll down a bit. Yes.

So maybe this group can take a look at the form one more time, but I think from my end, all the comments that were submitted have been captured. I don't know, Hadia, if you had any pending comments.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you, Sarah. I don't have any comments in relation to the application form. To me, it seems good. I don't have any issues with it.

SARAH KIDEN: So if there are no more comments, maybe Hadia, after the call, we can just resolve the comments and see if there's anything else we need to

respond to, but from our side at least, the application form is complete.
Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you very much, Sarah. And once Hadia and you approved all the comments, if I could ask you to please be so kind as to send me a draft, the application form in Word document so I can send it to my colleuage, Evin to start coordinating the application form to be prepared so it can be put on the website when it's finalized. Thank you. Okay, I will add it as an action item. Thank you, Sarah.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Isaac, Seun has his hand up.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Seun, go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. Sorry for coming in late. For some reason, I didn't realize that we had this call today. Okay, I just wanted to confirm, so this draft is going to be part of the draft that would be submitted by the work party, right? So it's not something that we should not put on the website yet in terms of the action items. I think that unless this is going to be operational, if the intention is that it's going to be part of what will be voted upon, then we may not be doing the action item at the moment to put on the website. I think we should still have it as draft and add it to the main document as an attachment, the main document

that the chairs would be sending to the AFRALO leadership who will then put it to voting of members.

So I think we need to agree. Basically, is this going to be part of what members vote on? I think it should just be part of the attachment that we'd also present to members. And if there are any changes after we do the voting, we can then put up the action item to actually have it prepared on the website. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA:

Thank you, Seun. That's correct. Silvia, you have the floor.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Of course, yes, Seun, I think once this document and the form is approved as per the methodology, then it would be put on the website, but in the meantime, I was wondering if I could already start sending the draft to the web team. Just as I know that there are many other requests from the ICANN Org, so I want to get in the queue as it may take some time to implement. That's why I'd want to have the draft. If you are pretty much sure that it won't have any changes, then I could start already getting our work into the queue so we have—because I think it may take some time to prepare. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA:

Thank you, Silvia. I see the answer's been put down. Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. I had some comments in relation not to the form but the membership part. I don't know if we could actually discuss them. Could I, or not now?

ISAAC MAPOSA: If I get you correct, you mean the membership part, the beginning of the issues under review document, right? We'll cover that in the next agenda item.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Okay. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Seun, you have the floor.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thank you. Thanks, Silvia. I think that is fine. I'm fine with you giving a heads up to the IT team. While I don't think there would be differences, there's going to be maybe just minor change. I guess the website team can always update the field if required.

So I'm very fine with that. I just wanted us to know that this remains a draft until voted upon. So there can indeed be changes, though it may not be a major one, depending on what the membership says. Thank you.

ISAAC MAPOSA:

Thank you, Seun. I don't see another hand raised. Okay, so we can move on to the next agenda item, which is a discussion of the issues under review so that we can accommodate the comments that were put in by working group members.

Okay, I accepted some changes, minor changes like spelling so that we could leave the major comments so that people can actually discuss on those comments to accept them or to reject them. So now we can move on. Staff can share from the issues under review document. Sarah, would you mind leading the adoption of comments of the document?

SARAH KIDEN:

I can try. We can go through from the beginning, only the pending comments. Thank you. The first comment is 5.4. The comment is by Hadia. I think this is okay, individual members, so we can just accept this one. All individual members are provisional members shall be entitled to participate. I think we can accept this change unless anyone has any comment. Hadia, you have your hand up. Please go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you, Sarah. I just wanted to explain here—I know that we are reviewing from after 5.3, because we are reviewing the individual membership. However, I wasn't trying to review what's before. I was trying to read the whole document together for consistency for the purpose of being consistent. And that's why I suggested moving 5.6 to come after 5.2. And the reason for that is that in 5.2, we are talking about members in general, and so we are saying that all ALSes—in 5.1, we are defining what's an ALS and then in 5.2, we are saying that ALSes

could be members in AFRALO. And then I would see what's logical to come next, who else can be members of AFRALO.

So in addition to the ALSes, we have individual members. So logically speaking, 5.6 would come up to 5.2. And then 5.3 starts to speak about the rights of the members. And that would apply to both, all kinds of members, ALSes and individual members.

So in 5.3, we say there shall be no limit as to the number of members of the AFRALO. And that will mean that this would apply on both ALSes and individual members. And then in 5.4, we talk about other rights, entitled to [inaudible] information, shall be entitled to participate in mailing lists. And again, this applies to both ALSes and individual members.

So this is not really—it doesn't introduce any changes, but it is to document a consistent way of thinking and also makes 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 apply on individual members. So this is what I wanted to say. Thank you. And thank you, Sarah, for your clarification that even observers can be—like even nonmembers can be on the mailing lists, but again, so even if nonmembers can be on the mailing lists, maybe also this should be mentioned. Like we say all members, individual members, provisional members, who else, should be entitled to participate in AFRALO mailing lists. I don't know. But anyway, I understand why provisional members are here, because nonmembers are also allowed to be on the mailing list. I'll stop here. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN: Thank you, Hadia. So maybe Seun can respond as the chair of AFRALO, and then we can comment. I don't think I have a lot of comments. Then we'll go to Daniel after this.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Okay. Thank you. I'm looking at the edits. I think from 5.4, the first, all members, should already cover individual members. So I'm not sure we need to repeat that. When we say all members, I believe that it includes individual members. Then the phrase provisional members, I'm not sure we have a definition for that somewhere, because if we have a definition for that, then we need to look at it and see what is written to be a definition of provisional members.

I understand that provisional members are probably those who don't want to be either individual members or basically those who are on the members, [maybe] list members, so maybe we need to define that somewhere in the rules of procedure to make it clear. However, unless we want to change the "all members" to members of the ALS, otherwise I don't think the individual members needs to be repeated in 5.4, 5.5.

Also, the provisional members, if we want to cover that, I don't think we should even call it provisional members per se. Maybe we should introduce "and any other person that wants to join the list." I don't think we should call them members per se, because they are not members. I'm not sure how we want to coin that.

I think 5.5 is what we need to edit, just say all members shall be entitled to and any other nonmember shall be entitled to participate in AFRALO mailing list. Maybe we should word it like that in 5.5 and not bother

mentioning provisional members unless you want to define that strictly in the rules of procedure. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you, Seun. So if I recall correctly, when Evin joined our meeting a few weeks ago, she mentioned that we have individual members and observers. So we have at least observers who have—and I think Evin reached out to them and asked them if they wanted to apply to be members and some of them said no, we just want to remain observers. So we have people whose status is observer. I think maybe Abdeldjalil can confirm if [it's still the same].

Then I think it would also be nice to look at this document in the full document, because some of these terms may be already defined earlier on. I see Silvia is already saying that some of them were already mentioned. So it would be nice to see it in totality so that we know where it falls.

Then regarding saying all members, I'm in agreement with your suggestion to say all members. Maybe the first time we mention it, in brackets we could but individual members and observers so that when we say all members, we don't have to do it. But I'm okay with the suggestion.

Hadia, go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you. I just wanted to mention that I do agree with Seun that all members include individual members and that we do not need to add

them. But the reason I actually added them is because at this point in time, individual members at this point in the document were not defined yet. And that's, again, one reason for which I would like to start identifying, defining individual members after 5.2 so that what comes after that in relation to any membership gripes or would include. But if we keep them like after, you might think that the rules above do not cover them.

And then my understanding is that observers are not members, they're just observers. But it is my understanding as well, as Sarah pointed out, that they are part of the mailing list, which is definitely fine.

So we have ALS members, individual members, observers, and then provisional members. Are provisional members observers? My understanding is that not all provisional members are observers. I think provisional members also include those who have applied to become members but are not members yet.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you, Hadia. I would like to request Aziz, because I remember when this was being discussed in 2017 when I was new, Aziz was in the leadership. So maybe after Daniel, Aziz can give some pointers about this. I'm not very sure about the historical context. So Daniel and then Aziz, and then Seun. Daniel.

DANIEL NANGHAKA:

Thank you very much, Sarah and the team. This is great progress on the document, but I have just a little bit of confusions. The fact that one is

interested in the joining of AFRALO, regardless of whether they're ALS or individual members or provisional, I think there is an obligation of what they want to achieve. And we may not decide to limit their rights to subscribing to the mailing lists, but it could be mandated for you to be updated on what is happening in the mailing list or within the region. Then you could join the mailing list and also participate effectively or diligently, especially in promoting the roles or objectives of AFRALO within the region representing the views of the end users.

If we begin to look at the observers, the observers have a right, but what they're observing still beats my understanding. If they're observing, what is their touchpoint? Are they simply observing for the sake of formality, or to understand or something? I think there must be a very exclusive description of what the observers need to do or what their obligations are. But as far as the mailing list is concerned, I believe all individual members, all members or even respective provisional members have an obligation.

Probably, this sentence becomes a little bit vague when you begin to say all members. Individual members and provisional members. I think let's be very explicit and specific on who exactly we're meaning. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you so much, Daniel. Aziz and then Seun.

AZIZ HILALI:

Hello everyone. After what Daniel just said, I have to agree. But I also think that we can't get too much back down into the details, whether they are provisional, whether they are observers and so forth.

So since you're asking me about this history, AFRALO was always open. The most important point with these working principles is the most delicate point, which is the right to vote and the number. And we talked about that already, and I think that we already validated that question.

Now, I don't think that we need to include too many terms so that we don't include any confusion. Whatever user it is in Africa who wants to come in, whether it is in e-mail form or whether it is actually participating in an AFRALO meeting, the idea is that AFRALO is very open.

So my advice would be not to include too many articles so that there isn't too much confusion created. By definition, AFRALO is an open organization to all users in Africa just as long as it's not someone there to create issues. But that also answers Daniel's question. If someone, whether he or she is an individual member or whether he or she represents an ALS or is a member of an ALS, if that person brings concrete proposals, it adds value to our activities and to our work.

And I will end on that point. I think that the idea is not to add too much formulation or too many articles and make sure that AFRALO remains as open as possible. Participating in a meeting is possible. Being part of a mailing list, I think in the past, as soon as somebody comes in, we don't ask him or her who are you, which ALS do you come from and so on. If

someone wants to be included in the mailing list, we just accept them. It's not an issue.

However, we do need in article included that explains what happens if someone doesn't abide by the rules or quite simply doesn't have any respect for AFRALO members. That's where we do need to include a point so that that person is excluded from the group. Thank you very much.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you very much, Aziz, for that comment. I see somebody is typing. Thank you very much. Please continue to add comments into the document. Seun, go ahead.

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Thank you. I just wanted to also agree with Aziz on that. So just as has been said earlier on, we maintain all members. There is a definition for provisional members, actually, and I think that we can maintain that as well because that is what is there right now, unless you want to remove provisional members from the article completely. But I think we should maintain it or we should rather then—in the definition of terms, we can put in brackets where we said members, ALS members, individual members, to address the definition of members.

and the addition that has been put in here, we can add it to the definition of provisional members, and any participants interested in getting involved in AFRALO, we can add that to the definition of provisional members so that this looks cleaner.

Actually, based on what we have in the terms right now, the rules of procedure at the moment, even though we have been [practicing open,] the rules of procedure at the moment actually did not support non-member who is not a provisional member to be part of the mailing list. It doesn't.

So let's just cover that now for the sake of it. Let's append this edit of any participant interested in getting involved in AFRALO, let's append it to the provisional member definition, and thus we then address every other aspect of it. So there's no need to write out individual members in 5.4 and 5.5 if you just say all members and provisional members and all the rest of the things in the definition.

That's what I suggest. Thanks.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you, Seun. I just wanted to make an observation that in the PDF document that Silvia has just shared, we have definition for member, we have definition for provisional member, we have a definition for individual member. So I'm almost tempted to go with what Aziz is proposing, that we just say all members, because then if we mention provisional member, then we have to mention individual member because they're all defined separately in the document. But please, [inaudible] comment so in the document, you can write how we should adjust that definition. Thank you.

So we'll go to Isaac. You have the floor.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you, Sarah, thank you Sun, Aziz and Hadia. Just a question to pose to Seun. The document we are preparing from 5.3 would be part of the operating principles document, right? After we are done with [inaudible], it is going to be attached to the operating principles document—

SEUN OJEDEJI: It's a section—we're updating the operating principles document, yes.

ISAAC MAPOSA: So with that, I notice that on the operating principles document, there'll be need to update one or two things so that our document also makes sense. For example, we already have the member term already defined on the operating principles document. Provisional member is defined but on this, it only relates to ALS applicant. So maybe there'll be need for addition of individual member applicant. And also individual member is defined but now that term is changed and that needs to be updated so that it's in tandem with our document we are preparing.

So that being said, there would be no need to define on our document since it's going to be part of this operating principles document, the terms are already defined. Thank you. Back to you, Sarah.

SARAH KIDEN: Thank you, Isaac. We have Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you. I raised my hand to agree with both Aziz and Seun, and I definitely agree to just mentioning all members and not starting to mention who those members are, because we might miss—so if we say all members and then say provisional members and we don't mention individual members, then one reading this might think individual members are not part of this.

So if we mention one group and drop another, that will lead whoever's reading the document wondering that maybe the member we dropped is not meant by this sentence.

And again, that's why I have suggested moving 5.6 to come after 5.2, so that it is obvious that what comes after covers all members. Again, leaving it like this might leave you wondering, maybe those two items are related to all members of the ALSes but not all individual members.

And so that's my suggestion. Thank you. And I do agree on adding also, as Seun mentioned, that any participant interested in getting involved with AFRALO could be added to the definition of provisional members, because what Aziz said and what we all know, of course, we want as much participants as possible, and whoever wants to get involved with AFRALO should have the opportunity to do so.

So what Aziz mentioned makes perfect sense, and also in order to look cleaner, what Seun said also makes sense, to add this to the definition of provisional members. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN: Thank you, Hadia, and thank you, everyone, for your contributions. I've put them at the top of the document. Seun, maybe you can add the text so that Isaac and Abdeldjalil will know when we are sending this over for comment.

So I think that—

INTERPRETER: Sarah, I'm very sorry, this is the interpreter, Aziz wanted to take the floor if possible.

SARAH KIDEN: Okay, that's fine.

AZIZ HILALI: Thank you very much. As I said before and as Hadia also said, I think that we need to avoid to include too many definitions. For me, there are ALS members represented by individuals that we called the first contact, and there are individual members. I think that we need to avoid everything else and basically get rid of provisional members. We have ALS members, individual members and others. I think—and it was clearly said by Hadia, it would be complicated to add this or that member without actually describing all of the rights that they might have. What we have is ALS members, individual members and others, and the others is really anyone who is interested in our RALO.

That's my proposal. Otherwise, I think that we will create too much confusion. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN: Thank you, Aziz. So I've removed the terms. I've just left it as members. I hope that is okay with everyone. So we have Seun.

SEUN OJEDEJI: Thanks. I think we need to make something clear. That's something we are doing in practice. We're allowing anybody to be subscribed to the list, which we all agree with. Let's also face that the current rules did not expect that. So we need to fix that. The current rule did not actually expect that we'll subscribe anybody who is not a member or provisional member to the mailing list. So this is an opportunity for us to add that so that it is now in our rules. Aziz was saying that ALSes, individual members and others. Others is not covered in the rules at the moment, and that is what we need to cover and that is why the aspect of any other participant can be appended to the provisional members.

The reason why I think that it makes sense to separate members, which is individual and ALS members, from provisional members, is just to make it clear so that it is clear that these people are not yet members. Anybody that is a provisional member, including those that have applied to be an ALS or individual member, and those that want to participate within AFRALO. So those are the two people and they're not supposed to be part of all members.

All members is ALS representative and individual member. The aspect of provisional member, perhaps we should even make it provisional applicant, maybe the member is a little bit confusing. But the intent of

the provisional member is just to allow somebody who has applied to be participating. That is what the current rule says.

But what we have been applying in practice is we're allowing anybody, even if they haven't applied, to subscribe to the mailing list. We need to cover that under provisional members. And this is an opportunity to do so. That's why I think the modification of provisional member is very important, so that it will be clear that we are doing what is in the rules. That is not what we are doing at the moment. Thank you.

So if you are doing an action item, I would probably tag the action item to me. I would suggest edits. Basically, the edit is going to be on the definition section which I'm going to look into, and personally, I prefer that we maintain members and provisional members in 5.4 and 5.5, but it's okay if we don't want to separate it that way. All right. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you, Seun. We will capture that as an action item for you to add the suggested text. I see we have nine minutes, there's a hard stop at the top of the hour.

I think there's one pending comment that Hadia was suggesting we move 5.6 to become 5.3. I've not had anyone commenting about that. Is there any preference? So 5.6 is any Internet end user within the AFRALO region may become an individual member but must not be a representative or a leader of an ALS to any RALO.

I don't have a preference and I don't know if anyone has comments on this. Any takers?

SEUN OJEDEJI: It is fine by me.

ISAAC MAPOSA: I think since the members is being defined in the parent document, would there be need to move—I don't think it makes much difference to me.

SARAH KIDEN: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, since we've seen that it's actually defined in the main document, we can just leave it because it's like half a page above, so it's not even very far from where this comes. It should be okay. Hadia, you have the floor.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. I think, again, it needs to be moved. The reason for that—and I see that you have no preference. Isaac also has no preference. But to me, I think I do have a preference, and the reason, again, what comes after if we put 5.2 and then 5.6, what comes after applies to both 5.2 and what will become 5.3. And that makes perfect sense.

So if you're reading only this section of the document and you're not reading the entire document, if you go 5.2 and then you start reading 5.3 and 5.4 and 5.5, at this point in time you do not know that there are individual members. And you're just reading and you do not really know who this applies to. All you have in mind are the ALSes. And again, that's why I do have a preference to move 5.6 to come after 5.2. So when you

start to read what comes after, you know that this includes ALSes and members, if you're reading only this section. Thank you.

SARAH KIDEN:

Thank you, Hadia. I think we can do that after the call. I'll make this change if there are no objections. We have six minutes to the top of the hour. Isaac, maybe we should discuss when the next meeting is, because we don't have much time.

There are just a few more comments left in the document, so I think in one meeting, we could finish everything. Which is what I thought today, but I don't know. So Isaac and Abdeldjalil, maybe we can use the rest of the time to discuss the next call. Thank you, everyone.

ISAAC MAPOSA:

Thank you, Sarah. I notice Silvia actually put a suggestion in the comments for next week, 17:00 UTC. For me, I'm okay with that. I don't know what other working group members think.

Okay, I don't see any other suggestion. Since everyone is okay with next week 17:00 UTC, same day ...

SILVIA VIVANCO:

I see two times. Claudia, if you could confirm we have 17:00. And we also have, if you want, 16:00 UTC. 16:00, 17:00, 18:00 UTC Wednesday 29th of September. Claudia?

CLAUDIA RUIZ: We do have 16:00 and 17:00. At 18:00, there's actually a EURALO GA prep team call. I don't think that'll affect anybody on this call [inaudible].

SILVIA VIVANCO: I'm looking at Wednesday the 29th.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Oh, I was looking at Tuesday. Yes, we have those three slots available for Wednesday the 29th.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay, so we have three slots available. Would you like to take the 16:00, 17:00 or 18:00 UTC?

ISAAC MAPOSA: I think 17:00 is okay. And I see Hadia says it's okay with her as well. I think we can go.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay, because this discussion is a very rich discussion, so I think the working group needs more it me. So let's put it then on the 29th at 17:00 UTC next week.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you so much.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay, so in the meantime, everybody has time to review and make some edits into the document, and we will post the action items in coordination with you, Isaac, very shortly. Thank you very much, everyone.

ISAAC MAPOSA: Thank you, Silvia, thank you, staff, thank you, interpreters, and thank you, everyone. Bye.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you all for joining the call. The meeting is adjourned.

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