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CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to Future ICANN Meetings on Thursday, the 21st of October at 17:00 UTC. On the call today, on the English channel, we have Maureen Hilyard, Alan Greenberg, Ali AlMeshal, Sébastien Bachollet, Barrack Otieno, [inaudible], Bram Fudzulani, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Eduardo Diaz, Vanda Scartezini, Jonathan Zuck, Jose Lebron, Judith Hellerstein, León Sanchez, Marita Moll, Naveed [inaudible] Raymond Mamata, Ricardo Holmquist, Satish Babu, Wale Bakare, Yrjö Lansipuro. And audio only, we have Alfredo Calderon, Nkem Nweke and Pastor Peters. And on the Spanish channel, we have Augusto Ho.

We have received apologies from Holly Raiche. And from staff, we have Gisella Gruber, Adam Peake, Naela. And we also have Roberto Gaetano, who has just joined the call. Thank you all very much for joining.

We have Spanish and French interpreters on today's call. Our Spanish interpreters are Claudia and Veronica and our French interpreters are Camila and Jacques. A friendly reminder for everyone to please state their name when taking the floor, each and every time, and to please speak slowly to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you all very much and with this, I turn the call over to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Claudia, and welcome, everyone. Thank you all for your attendance today. It's an additional meeting this week at such short notice and I'm just so thrilled that there are so many people here today. Welcome, of course, to our special guest, León Sanchez, who is going to

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be discussing with you the issue of the day. But the purpose of this meeting is to gather together some ideas and suggestions that León has asked of our community—will help the ICANN Board to make their decisions about how they might plan for the future of ICANN meetings.

We're very fortunate to have the vice chair of the board actually seeking information from us as ordinary end users whose voices add value to the work that is being done within the ICANN community. So it is important that ICANN does make every endeavor that it can to get as many of our members actually at the meeting, whether it's face-to-face or virtual, as it has been over this past two years.

So these ideas and suggestions that we give today will complement or add to those that come from other communities, both within and outside of ICANN. And we will hear from within the ICANN 72 plenary. The plenary has been organized to consider and discuss how we might return to future ICANN meetings, face-to-face or the more likely scenario of what hybrid meetings might look like in the future.

So the aim of today is to come to some sort of consensus within our At-Large group that León can go back to the Board with so that León can back to the Board with an At-Large position on this particular topic.

That's the introduction. I do realize that we've got people who've been engaged in the ICANN 72 plenary planning. So they've obviously had a chance to look at this issue in a little bit more depth and can give us all some of the ideas that we might be able to contribute for León. So I'm going to pass you over to León to continue with any further

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explanations from the Board level and also so that we can start posing some suggestions from the group. So over to you, León.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Maureen, for making this time to speak with me. I am very grateful to receive this direct input from you guys. As I usually say, it's always good to be back home. So thank you for having me in this meeting.

If we could see the slides that I sent, please, so I can give you a little bit of background on the aim and the objective of this exercise. This is, of course, a conversation that I want to hold with At-Large and with the ALAC. And it's an informal discussion. It's to inform myself and to inform the Board on the temperature—the thoughts and the concerns that there might be in this very important part of the community. Can we go to the next slide, please? Thank you.

So the background is that one of the Board's operational priorities, which you might be aware I have been tasked with crafting, along with the shepherds and the Org executives, is the Board's operational priorities for Fiscal Year 22. And one of them, which coincidentally, I am in charge of—I am the shepherd for that Board operational priority—is to carry on working with Org on continued engagement with the community to improve online, hybrid, and face-to-face meetings and joint work.

So this is not only about going back to face-to-face meetings. It is, of course, one part of it. It is definitely central to our discussion but it also encompasses other opportunities for us to interact. Again, online

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meetings, hybrid meetings. How are we going to go into hybrid meetings? What are your thoughts on that? So I have drafted, also, some questions that I would like to pose.

Also, the pandemic continues uneven ways and with uneven consequences around the world. Not every country has been able to face the pandemic in the same way. Some have faced it in a more successful way than others. We know that vaccination is flowing very unevenly across countries. And of course, the stages or the waves that are happening throughout the world in regard to the pandemic are also very unevenly distributed. Some countries are already in the fourth wave while some continue to be in previous waves. And of course, the effects of this have been devastating to many countries and to many people.

Many have expressed their concern for a different kind of burnout. I've been talking to some of you in regard to how we conducting our meetings in this new setup, during the pandemic. The views are very diverse, from people expressing that they are completely burned out and that this is a new kind of burnout as opposed to the regular, traditional burnout, so to speak, that we used to know before the pandemic. Yes, we were burned out but this is a new kind of burnout. This is a burnout which has required volunteers and people working on ICANN matters to expand the time that they devote and they dedicate to ICANN matters in a remarkable way.

For example, we used to dedicate one week time fully to work on a public ICANN meeting. Nowadays, we are dedicating three weeks to prepare, to discuss, and to actually flesh out the different issues that we

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need to take care of in each ICANN meeting. So going from one week to three weeks is especially demanding for volunteers and for pretty much everyone in the ICANN community. So I think this is an opportunity for us to rethink how we're doing things, how we are engaging, how we are working together.

Also, I have received comments about, as Jonathan is posting in the chat, [hibernation] meetings, in which they turn terribly boring, terribly monotonous, etc. So how can we have better online meetings? How can we improve the way we are doing things online? How can we better engage with the audience and not have these meetings in which, as I am doing right now, it's just a monologue of someone speaking with a slide on the screen.

Also, COVID will continue to be part of our lives for years to come so we'd better learn to live with it as opposed to keep under a lockdown, unless, of course, the authorities demand that we keep to be on lockdown. But it is a reality that COVID will continue to be amongst us and we will definitely need to learn to live with it.

As I was saying, there are opportunities that we might be missing for improving the different meeting formats that we hoped. So which are those opportunities? How can we take advantage of online meetings to be more inclusive across regions, for example? There is, of course, an opportunity for us to bring in more people into our community via these online tools.

And also, earlier this year, ICANN Org conducted a community-wide survey—you might have been part of it—on the community interest in

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face-to-face meetings. There is, of course, the result of that survey. But I think that we need to refresh that survey. We need to update that survey because, of course, the circumstances under which that survey was taken back then are different than the current circumstances that we live in.

There is more knowledge about COVID. Of course, vaccination has advanced, has progressed in different regions. We know a little bit more about, maybe, prevention measures, treatments, etc. So I think it could be a good idea to actually refresh that survey. And to that end, I would like to move to the next slide, please, and start a discussion with everyone about the objective of this session, which is to gather direct input from the ALAC and the At-Large community on the following topics.

By this, I mean to have, as a Board member and as the Board vice-chair, the opportunity to listen directly from the very bottom of our community, which is the grassroots of the community, and be able to take these insights and this knowledge that I ask you to share with me back to the Board, and back to Org, and try to find ways in which we can improve the way we conduct meetings and hopefully find ways to transition into face-to-face meetings, and of course, maybe hybrid meetings as a means to transition to full face-to-face meetings.

The questions are in the screen. How do you feel about current virtual meetings? Are there ways to improve? Is it death by PowerPoint or how are you feeling about that? How do you feel about going back to in-person meetings? Maybe not fuller but smaller meetings, keeping in mind that having, maybe, smaller meetings would not be as inclusive as

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we would like to, meaning that maybe some parts of our community would not be able to attend in-person.

How about holding hybrid meetings and the angst of not being in the room? How would you feel about that? Do you think that there is an increased chance for participants in-site to actually get meaningful participation as opposed to those who are participating remotely? How do you feel about that?

How do you feel about traveling under the current circumstances and given the many restrictions that are in place? We've always faced restrictions. We've experimented. For example, challenges in getting visas for all participants. Some participants have not been able to attend previous meetings because of visa challenges, etc.

But nowadays, those restrictions are at a higher level, I believe. There are a number of health restrictions and travel restrictions in place that are very variable from one place to another. And also, if you plan to go to one place to another and you transit through a third country, for example, maybe you need to comply not only with the destination country restrictions but also with those that will be on your way when you transfer. So again, there are a lot of restrictions and I would definitely like to know your thoughts about it.

How are you dealing with the pandemic locally? Are there still lockdowns? Is vaccination progressing? Are there travel restrictions put in place when you leave? How are you managing those restrictions?

Which health and safety measures would you be willing to see in place and also comply with in case of attending an in-person meeting? Which

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indicators should Org and the Board consider in deciding whether to hold or not a meeting with an in-person component—for example, the CDC, the European Union, the host country. Which would be those indicators in terms of risk, in terms of [contagion] at a local level, etc.

So these are the kind of questions that I would pose on the table for you, if you kindly would like to answer them. Of course, this is just the first approach—the first exercise that I would like to conduct with you.

Ultimately, I think it would be meaningful to coordinate with Org and define, as I said, a refresh to the survey that we ran on June this year, and of course, try to gather info directly from our ALSes because I think that having this kind of feedback directly from the ALSes and from other parts of the community, of course, is fundamental for the Board to be able to make informed decisions that will allow us to transit into face-to-face meetings or at least into hybrid meetings with some in-person components.

So, Maureen, I would like to open the floor for comments, for questions. And again, thank you for your kindness of having me and sharing this time with you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much, León. I don't see any hands up at the moment. But just to get started, one of the things, as you are aware, within At-Large, in order to make sessions more interesting and not so boring for both presenters and the audience, we've encouraged experimentation in our sessions. And it's been an opportunity which has been ... I think that



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we've displayed the experimental quality of some of our sessions and there were obviously some improvements to be made in some areas.

But I think that one of the things is that with At-Large—and I've really appreciated—is that we've taken up that challenge to make the virtual environment more interesting, more interactive—the sorts of things that you need to do in order to basically adapt to the situation in which we're in. But I'm really pleased to see all these hands shooting up. It's really good to ... And there's been so many great comments made within the chat. So, please. If you've made a comment that you think can contribute to this discussion, please let us know. Let's talk about it. So let's start with Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you, León, for being with us today. Thank you, Maureen, so much. Your first question was about current virtual meetings. Current virtual meetings are good but they're not hybrid meetings. ICANN always had remote participation. But again, remote participation is not like having a hybrid meeting.

So what we're looking for, going forward, is not something like we have now, which are the virtual meetings. And it's not something like we had before, which are the remote participation elements. But we're looking for something different, which is a hybrid meeting. A hybrid meeting, as I would understand it, is a face-to-face meeting with online participation, which are participating as if they are in the room with those who are attending physically. So that would entail that they need to be able to do everything which the physical participants are doing.

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For example, if the physical participants are breaking out to rooms or doing breakout sessions, remote participants also should be able to do that with the physical attendees. If you're writing something on the board and the physical attendees are contributing to that, the remote attendees should be also able to do that.

So a hybrid meeting, as I understand it, is that remote participants are able to participate and engage as if they are attending with the physical attendees. Right now, I did not see this happening yet. Virtual meetings are one thing. Remote participation is another. But hybrid meetings, we have not seen them yet.

And then you were asking about going forward and having face-to-face meetings. I think to explore and to start actually having physical meetings, with some, maybe in the beginning, strict criteria. For example, requiring vaccination, having rapid testing on site. There has to be some sort of criteria. At some point, we need to start. So I would say yes. Let's go ahead and start physical meetings while maybe, in the beginning, putting some criteria that maybe would not be suitable for everyone. But I think it's okay, in the beginning, to do that while allowing true hybrid meetings. Thank you.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Hadia. Sorry for jumping in, Maureen. Thank you very much for your comments, Hadia. I think they are great. One thing that, of course, would be difficult in regard to hybrid meetings is to have exactly the same level of engagement and participation for remote participants. For example, we usually have maybe a social break, social

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moment in a face-to-face setup. So that would, of course, exclude those who are participating remotely.

Also, when speaking of social interaction in a face-to-face setup, of course we should establish ground rules as to allow us to take care of everyone's health. So that's also another challenge. But I definitely see your point and I thank you for your input, Hadia.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, León. Yes. We've got a whole lot of hands going up. I would like to hear as many people as possible so we can keep our interventions of a reasonable length. Thank you. Jonathan next.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Thanks, Maureen, and thanks, León, for this meeting. It's definitely a very important topic. Let me turn my camera on here. I think, to answer your first question about the current meetings, I think there was a little bit of novelty at the beginning. We saw exceptionally high numbers of attendees, across the board, on sessions in the first couple of virtual ICANN meetings. I think we've seen a fall-off of that.

So I think there is a burnout that's happening with those. I feel like there's a move on the part of the more active attendees to minimize what we try to accomplish during them and things. It feels like they're heading in the wrong direction, which I think really speaks to the need to get back to some kind of face-to-face meetings to get the work of ICANN done.

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And I guess I would say that it's always been the case and always will be the case that it's just a subset of the attendees of a meeting that are active participants in that meeting, even in a face-to-face meeting, and that the productivity of that core group, I think, has improved dramatically by being face-to-face. So we need to make sure and make improvements that we can for remote participants.

But I've been in meetings in the IPC, for example, where prominent members of the IPC were only engaging remotely and they were very active in the meeting. So it's not impossible to do, even in the more limited context in which remote participation was in the past. So I don't think that we should deceive ourselves into thinking that somehow, through a hybrid meeting that people that are normally quiet throughout the course of the meeting are going to suddenly be more participatory because that just hasn't been the experience.

So I think we do need to focus on ICANN getting its work done, first and foremost, which is about getting everybody into the same time zone and then do what incremental improvements we can to remote participation. But I actually believe ... I've been in meetings where remote participation was very effective. So I don't think we should be entirely dismissive of it.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you. Ricardo?

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: Thank you. Do you hear me?

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MAUREEN HILYARD: Yes.

RICARDO HOLMQUIST: I have two comments. The first one is I don't know but in the last two years, I had to travel a lot inside Europe for work. I had to travel a lot. I feel fortunate because I am one of the ones who can travel.

But in the same sense, I feel like maybe instead of having a hybrid meeting that nobody knows exactly how to do it, more than the remote participation, is why we don't think about regional hubs, where most of the people can go? For example, I understand Australia, New Zealand, Cook Islands, can travel among themselves. But you can go outside Europe. You can go to almost any place in Europe. But it is difficult to go outside. The United States is more like the same. So having the remote hubs, maybe in five, six parts of the world, can solve most of the participation where you can have the regional people.

The second comment is about the burnout that we are suffering. I don't know the [majority] experience here. But in my particular case, the burnout has to do with having the pandemic. At the very beginning, we decreased the quantity of jobs we had because we were in our houses, trying to deal with this pandemic. But later on, four months later, we found out that we had to work our real work double or triple because we couldn't lose our jobs. And we have a lot to do to show our employer that we can do the job. And we don't have the time to balance this work with these ICANN things and the lots of things we are doing.

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So maybe the people, after 65 and they no longer have a regular job, are in a better shape right now to continue attending the meetings. But the people under 65, it's very difficult. We have to double or triple our work. Those are the two comments. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thanks, Ricardo. Satish?

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Maureen. I would like to share what's happening in my part of the world. Today, India has plus one billion vaccinated. There are very few restrictions and the case count is dipping. Today was also, coincidentally, the curtain raiser for the India IGF. It was a hybrid, with a fairly large group meeting in Delhi and the rest of us joining online. Number three, the Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance, 2021 edition, is being planned as a face-to-face event in mid-December, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. So largely, our part of the world is opening up.

Regarding the question that León has asked, I'll summarize my take on this. For global meetings, time zones still remain the most significant impediment. No matter how innovative the tools that have been used are, the burnout is very real. Three weeks. And for some of us, for this meeting, is Asia Pacific region which is struggling with the time zones.

To the global meetings, no doubt, the best way to handle this, we need things like onsite testing, isolation insurance, COVID norms and protocols, and gradual opening up. Otherwise, we will continue like this for the next three to five years. Thank you.

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MAUREEN HILYARD: Thanks, Satish. Marita?

MARITA MOLL: Hi. Yeah. Points well taken, Satish. Time zone's going to be an impediment, however you break it down. I have to say that I have just been traveling internationally. I've just come back from Europe and I live in Canada. Here in Canada, we can travel nationally, within the country, without very many impediments except you need to have a double vaccination to get on a plane. But if you leave the country, in order to get back in, you have to jump through a whole lot of hoops and I don't think that's going to change for some time to come.

What we really need here at ICANN, I think, are choices. If people are prepared to go ahead and take those risks and jump through those hoops, then they may want to travel to a more centralized location. But there should be choices inside their region that they can travel to if they wish to, if they feel that's safe for them. There's always, for quite a long time, going to be individuals with more or less feeling that they want to take that same risk. We all have a different risk—what's the word I'm looking for?—analysis. I might be ready to take a risk and my neighbor is not—exactly the same risk.

So I think that we have a lot of choices. If we have choices, people can take those choices. And it will never be perfect, any old way. It was not perfect to begin with and it's not going to be perfect in the new version. But I think, basically, it's going to boil down to giving people various choices that they can have access to the meetings. And sometimes, they

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may choose one choice and another time they may just participate remotely and be happy with that. That's my comment.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Marita.

LEÓN SANCHEZ: And thank you, Maureen. Just one question to Marita, to ensure that I understood correctly. When you say that there should be choices for people to attend meetings within their region, are we maybe thinking about regional hubs, for example?

MARITA MOLL: Oh, yes. Definitely thinking about regional hubs in different countries where people, like Satish said, they're opening up. People are traveling. Some of us are opening up and some of us aren't. But there will be possibilities for regional hubs. I think that's going to happen pretty quickly.

LEÓN SANCHEZ: Thank you so much, Marita. Back to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, León. We're up to Yrjö.



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YRJÖ LANSIPURO: Thank you, Maureen. And thank you, León, for very good questions. So far, I think ICANN, we have done amazingly well relying on virtual meetings. But I also think that we are pretty much near a limit now, of what we can do. Interactive tools? Yes, of course. They will be invented but it's not only a matter of technology and tools. It's also how you design the meetings in a completely new way.

So what I think is that in-person interaction is like the oil that a machinery needs to be running. If there is no oil, the machinery will eventually grind to a halt. So that's why I would support what Jonathan said. We have to do the work. We have work to be done and we can't wait forever until everybody has exactly the same [inaudible]. We need to define—

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yrjö, you're cutting out.

YRJÖ LANSIPURO: - meeting would look like. Or [inaudible].

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Yrjö. But yes. We did get the gist. Thank you. Vanda?

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Hi. I believe all the colleagues, what we in general feel. And I would like to express that some groups are doing well. I believe ALAC has been not efficient as it should be, but in the circumstance, yes. But others

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struggle with some difficulties and things are not moving for the work they should do. From my view, we should go to hybrid situation, demanding some aspects of protections, like vaccinate or even other conditions.

But anyway, I do believe that we should also try to improve regional. We have been saying that for many years. For instance, nowadays in South America, we could get together around those countries. So from Colombia, to Brazil, and for Argentina and so forth, we can visit each other. So we are more regionally-organized with the COVID than with the rest of the world.

Whatever is the solution, we should start to test something. If we stay in the same way we are doing, I believe we'll encourage a lot of members to drop out and to abandon ICANN. This is a risk that I believe we should not take. Even as a pilot, next meeting should try something different. Just say, "Hi, guys. We are trying to make this more efficient, more interesting." You could see, during those meetings, everybody complained about how lack of efficiency ICANN looks like.

And from outside point of view, this is quite important. For the NomCom this year, for instance, we have not much people from outside. They don't see that they can face. And I got a lot of questions from probably interested people to join. But in the end, they say, "I have no time anymore for those many hours of screen," and so on. So it's something that is related to this environment that we are living with.

But anyway, for ICANN, they need to show up to the work, that they are not stopped, not stuck into the decision that we will never see each

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other. We will never go together. So any tests, in my opinion, should be done in the next meeting. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Vanda. Eduardo?

EDUARDO DIAZ: Thank you. I just want to try to answer some of the questions that León mentioned before. How do I feel about current virtual meetings? I know many people have heard this. It seems that you are in an ICANN meeting all the time, through the year. It's a long, long, long path. There's not a break. That's how I feel about the current virtual meetings.

Going back in person, yes, for sure. Social interaction is very important. And having a hybrid meeting is a way of moving towards that. The issues about traveling, I have traveled—not internationally but I have traveled to the US and have seen that there are hurdles that you have to go through. But once you get through those, then you can travel. So I am willing to travel to the meetings, now.

However, if we are in a hybrid meeting, are the people that support the hybrid meetings, are they willing to travel to manage those meetings? That's not a question for us. It's a question for ICANN Org or whoever they contract to do this.

I hear about the regional hubs. Regional hubs have the same problem that we have in the time zones. If they are a regional hub then, yes, you can get together. But still, you are getting together at wee hours of the

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time, sometimes or not. If that happens here, I will stay home. I will do it from home because it's easier.

All these health and safety measures, I think they should follow whatever is in-country or better than that. I was going to say I see myself in a hybrid meeting with no microphones. Usually, the tables that you we have are in a U table or a round table. I don't know. But I don't see microphones in the room. So what we do is we are all connected to these Zoom meetings in the hybrid meetings so we are at par with whoever is virtually connected.

But the person that connect come or decides not to come to the meeting, it's going to be another virtual meeting like the one that we're having now except for the people that are going to be in-person. So I don't see the people that are in-person using microphones to communicate between them in the meeting, while the meeting is going. So we can use the same platform just to talk and even for the presentation. Anyhow, those are my comments. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Eduardo. Seun?

SEUN OJEDEJI: Yes. Thank you. I think a lot has been said. We need to face reality and find a way of [moving] on. This is not going to leave us anytime soon. What I think has been said, we need to give options. People who want to use the hub, can use the hub. Of course, the global one is to happen. What is moving to a new normal?

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And the people are beginning to get busy with their jobs. There's a lot of distraction that is happening now. So I don't see the participation getting better going forward because people are now focused on their jobs. People are getting distracted. In the past, you would take a leave and then go somewhere, focus on ICANN. That is not possible remotely.

So I think we have to find a way to provide ... In Africa, for instance, AfriNIC will be doing its face-to-face for [November] meeting. We're going to be doing face-to-face. Some of the RIRs are also ... LACRALO has also ... Not LACARLO, the LACNIC. I think they are also doing face-to-face. So we should try to provide that option.

But I think ICANN also should try to see if they could support people for vaccines. The plan is to start very early, check those who have the vaccine at the moment, those who don't have and who are restricted by funding, if ICANN could support them—especially the [normal] sponsored participants. That would be good. That would help some people to get vaccinated. But definitely I do agree with letting people have options, not just face-to-face.

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Seun, apologies. Can you please speak a little bit louder for the interpreters?

SEUN OJEDEJI:

Sorry. Anyway, I hope ... I'm not sure. I didn't know I was actually not speaking loud. Okay. Let me not take too much longer. The summary or the gist of this call is that we should allow multiple options. It will be

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good. And of course, ICANN should consider how they could support vaccination indirectly, one way or the other—encourage it so that at least people who don't have the funding, and where vaccinations require funding, and they are sponsored participants, perhaps maybe the Fellows and so on and so forth, ICANN could come in to also support them to get the vaccination done. We need to motivate people to be able to get vaccination done.

Otherwise, I fear that ... Looking for [another] within the last few remote meetings that we've done, we've witnessed some [participation] numbers but I don't think that we can sustain this. People are having jobs and people are getting distracted. So I think we need to come to face-to-face, the sooner the better. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Yeah. Thank you, Seun. Sébastien?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you, Maureen. I am just back home. I was driving. That's why I didn't see the exchanges on the chat and the presentation. But I would like to make four short points.

The first one is that we need to make a choice. Do we need to have meetings with multiple constituencies or meetings with multiple countries? Maybe we can organize a meeting in each country with the different constituencies. It will be easier. But how we bring them together, it's one of the questions of this type of hybrid meeting. Or do we want to have some more countries, eventually, by constituency.

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The second, I would like to say that we are dreaming. We are dreaming to have more people because we are online. Jonathan explained that it's the reverse, what has happened. It's less and less people. And yes, we are more in difficulties. And the chair of EURALO has less and less people to participate, to do some job, to help to organize things. And yes. I know the chair of EURALO is a very bad guy but you have still also to consider that for everybody, it's quite difficult. And we will not have new people in that type of a situation.

The last point is that I would like to suggest ... I already said that in a previous meeting. But why not, if people are traveling and others are staying home, why not give one people online to be taken care by one people onsite. And yes, they wouldn't drink the same glass but they will see the glass—just a joke about the glass but it's something I really feel that it could be a good idea.

The last point is one [bringed] in a French meeting by a registrar. He said that if he is not supported monetarily by ICANN, he will not be able to do work. What about us, as end user? I really feel that it's something we don't want to discuss but it's time now to have this discussion about how we can be supported, including monetarily-speaking. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thanks, Sébastien. We've got 10 minutes left. So if we can keep our interventions short. But thank you. Harold?

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HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you very much, Maureen and all of you. And thank you very much, León, for your triggering questions. In my opinion, we have a tangible reality and it's quite a challenge when we talk about the time we need to plan ICANN meetings. Many countries, many continents are providing their own rules and regulations to travel between or among continents. So it seems, then, next year will not be the case, in which the United States or the European Union will improve or will lift their impediments to travel.

But as a matter of fact, we have been working within LACRALO. We built a universal acceptance course. It has already taken place. And all this has been done in virtual meetings. It will be replicated in some others. So we know that the virtual work may be done. It's tiresome. We know that. But we can do it.

However, ICANN meetings are quite another stuff. We know that ICANN has some offices and it has in different RALOs—in Europe. I think we have the headquarters in Los Angeles. We also have the Internet House in Latin America.

So there are other options that I think we may give a try in the next meeting—the meetings that we are calling hybrid meetings. So we may maintain and respect the rotation. If it is in Latin America, most associations of the LACRALO—most ALSes of LACRALO—may go to Montevideo. So there will be just certain impediments internal to the continent but the main meeting will be held there. So at each office where ICANN has space, has staff, has liaisons, we may do it.



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I know that reality shows that we will not be able to go back to even smaller meetings as we had before. So I think that the opportunity, when we talk about face-to-face meetings are keeping the rotation among the various zones. But the main meeting should be done in each of these spaces where ICANN has offices because ICANN has offices, I think, in each continent. So this is something we may take advantage of. Thank you very much, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, Harold. We've got only a few minutes left so the queue is closed. But Alan next.

ALAN GREENBERG:

Thank you very much. We've been hearing here a lot of what individual people think will happen and want to happen. I think we need some more feedback from ICANN as to what they're imagining, what they believe is possible. There are a whole bunch of issues. If you presume that eventually, sometime in the next year, two years, three years, we're going to go back to face-to-face meetings at some level, there's a whole bunch of issues that we haven't talked about at all.

Marita mentioned the cost of testing. If we're going to have international travel, the costs are high. We're talking about several tests, each of which typically cost a few hundred dollars. Who's going to fund them? Is ICANN going to fund those? Is it going to be a personal responsibility?

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Is ICANN imagining vaccination hurdles to pass, that everyone has to be vaccinated? Which vaccines? Because that's a major issue. Different countries accept different ones and we may have large numbers of people who are vaccinated with things which the US, for instance, does not consider appropriate. I don't know if that's the case but it's certainly a possibility.

Are you imagining onsite testing? If you think about the proximity—how close we have been to people at face-to-face meetings—does anyone really want to do that is prepared to do that right now, and to travel from room to room, and sit down, and start fiddling with microphones that someone else was handling? How does ICANN imagine they're going to handling this kind of thing?

With regard to remote participation, I have never been in a meeting—in an ICANN meeting. I've been in others but never been in an ICANN meeting where the remote participation allowed for equitable access for the people remotely. The people who were present in the room always seemed to take precedence. I haven't seen a way to do it. Eduardo's thought of everyone using Zoom doesn't really work, if you've ever tried it, because they're significant time delays between what you hear the person saying in-person and what you hear on Zoom.

So I guess I'd like to get something back from ICANN about which direction they're thinking about because that will help us focus whether we really can do it in Seattle or we're talking another two years. Us talking to them is fine but I think we need some feedback and an ongoing dialog of where they're imagining this is moving to so that we can take it and personalize it and say, "Am I willing to work in that

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environment or do I think the risks are too high and I'm not going to do it?" or, "I'm going to drop out because I'm tired of doing everything remotely." So I think this has got to be more of a dialog, not just asking for input. Thank you.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thanks, Alan. One minute, Ali, and then Nkem. Thank you. Ali?

ALI ALMESHAL: Thanks, Maureen. I wanted just to share with you what is happening in this part of the world, especially in the Gulf countries. Like here in Bahrain, almost the life is back as normal—I said almost—and things are going very normal. We are sitting at meetings, face-to-face. And I'm sure most of you heard about Expo 2020 in Dubai. So it's fully open. People are interacting and meeting, going back.

Most of the points the participants here has raised that and mentioned that. And also, because I'm participating with the IGF meeting happening at the beginning of December in Poland, they are practicing the hybrid meeting. I'm one of the travelers that will attend that hybrid meeting face-to-face. I don't know how would they do it but they are offering that as a hybrid meeting.

And I even came to know—maybe this is one of the points that the audience here have raised—when I spoke with them about the type of vaccination, which is maybe not accepted in Europe as an approved one, they said no. There will be a special arrangement with the UN office, with each of the countries themselves there.

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So there are ways that we can go or ICANN can explore, being the organizer, with the countries of the host. So I am more into the starting with the hybrid to start and test something and see how it will work. And then this, eventually, by itself, it will be built up until we are back to the normal life. Thank you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Ali. Nkem?

NKEM NWEKE: Yes. I'm just [inaudible]. I'm happy. I'm [inaudible] and I also would like to remind us. When you're looking at the virtual meetings, let's that forget that there are several distractions when people are online in the comfort of your home—distractions [inaudible] distractions [inaudible]. An also, let's [inaudible] a reminder that [inaudible] of the [inaudible]. Hello?

MAUREEN HILYARD: I'm sorry. I can't hear you very well. I don't know whether it's my sound or what it is but it's very difficult to hear what you're saying. Can you just summarize it in a couple of sentences?

NKEM NWEKE: I'm saying that I think [inaudible]. I also would like to remind us that [inaudible]. There are always a lot of distractions. And the issue of [inaudible].

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you. I think we caught some of that and we'll try and see if we can get that on the transcript. What I would like to do is just ... I've got Jonathan geared up to do a short ... Sorry, Dr. Peters. It's right on the hour and I'm summarizing now, please. We're going to have a couple-minute summary from Jonathan and then I'd like to just give León an opportunity to have the final words. We're already at the top of the hours. So Jonathan, can I just have your views on what—an At-Large position at the moment.

JONATHAN ZUCK:

Oh. That's a higher bar than you set in the private chat, Maureen. But I think that Alan did a good job of underscoring that there's an emotional side to this as well as a practical side. So to some extent, we've established that emotionally, there's a strong desire to see a return to some face-to-face meetings. There's a notion that a hybrid meeting is something that's a little bit more expansive than just improved remote participation. But at the same time, there's a recognition that most of the work gets done virtually, anyway.

So understanding what the important value proposition of an in-person meeting is might help inform what they need to look like. So to Jeff Neuman's point in the chat, most of our work is done virtually. So what is the real role that those face-to-face meetings play and how do we capitalize on them accomplishing that role as opposed to expecting virtual meetings to be the same as in-person meetings or expecting in-person meetings to replace everything that we are doing virtually.

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So I think that there's definitely a consensus here that we want a return to face-to-face meetings, that improving the means of remote participation through a hybrid meeting is important, but there's a lot of details in getting that done that may end up back in the hands of ICANN org to work out once the community has expressed its desire in the form of more generalized goals. That's my takeaway.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Awesome. Thank you so much, Jonathan. León, what do you think?

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thank you very much, Maureen. I think it's been a very productive discussion. I really value your input. I see Alan's point, in that we should be moving forward into knowing a little bit more of what ICANN Org and the Board are thinking, rather than just asking for input. But believe me, input is definitely crucial for both Org and the Board to be able to build these thoughts and to propose things to the community.

One thing that, of course, I think is on everyone's top of mind, and it's of utmost importance for both Board and Org, is that we want to go back as soon as it is safe to do so. We don't want to risk anyone. We don't want to risk community members. We don't want to risk staff and we don't want to risk, of course, Board members. So this is a way in which we continue to explore ways in which we can do that—make the right decisions to go back as soon as it is feasible and safe for us to go back in any fashion. But safety is first and this is what will continue to guide our decisions.

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Thank you, Maureen, and thank you to everyone who has attended and kindly shared your views with me.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you, León. And I guess we'll put sort of document together on behalf of At-Large to summarize everything that's come up today. I do have to thank you very much. We are already four minutes over and I know we've got another meeting straight after this.

So I'd like to thank everyone for your contributions. Thank you, León, for being here and for listening to us. And thank you, everyone, for your contributions, not only orally but in the chat as well. So we're certainly going to be keeping tabs on that. So I hope you have a great morning, afternoon, or evening, wherever you are and I'll see you at the next meeting. Thank you.

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

Thanks, everyone. Bye-bye.

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Thanks, everyone, for joining.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Bye, everyone. Thank you. Bye.

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Enjoy the rest of your day.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thanks, everyone. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]