
GISELLA GRUBER:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the first LACRALO Monthly Call of 2022 on Monday the 17th of January at 23:00 UTC.

On today's call we have Augusto Ho, Antonio Medina Gomez, Adrian Carballo, Olga Cavalli, Maribel Sanchez, Lito Ibarra, Carlos Aguirre, Norma Frank, Laura Margolis, Alejandro Pisanty, León Sánchez. And we have Sergio Salinas Porto who has also just joined.

On the English channel we have Claire Craig and Jaqueline Morris. At the moment, we do not have anyone on the French channel, but we are expecting Sindy Obed to join us. And we don't have anyone on the Portuguese channel either.

Apologies today noted from Dev Anand Teelucksingh as well as Lilian Ivette De Luque Bruges.

Interpretation today, we have Spanish, Portuguese, and French. Our Spanish interpreters are David and Paula; Portuguese, Esperanza and Bettina; and French, Claire and Isabelle.

If I could kindly remind you to please state your names every time you speak, not only for transcription purposes, but also for the interpreters to identify you on the other language channels which is very important for our community members not on the Spanish channel. And also, please speak at a reasonable speed to allow for accurate interpretation.

With no further ado, I will hand the call over to Augusto Ho. Thank you very much.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you very much. Welcome to this first meeting in 2022. Thank you for listening to the call and for coming to the meeting. And let's now go directly into the meeting.

First of all let me say happy new year to you all. I hope it is a productive year. And let me remind you that we have an agenda that seems to be short, but it is going to be long. So please respect the time slot assigned to each person. We have a webinar, and that webinar is the main part of this meeting. That's why it may take quite a long time. So let's try and speak to the time we have.

And now I want to wish Lilian Ivette De Luque a happy birthday. I know she's going to be celebrating her 50th birthday, so happy birthday to Lilian.

And now, yes, let me give the floor to Claire so that we can check out agenda. Go ahead, Claire, please.

CLAIRE CRAIG: Thank you, Augusto. Good afternoon. Happy new year, everyone. I know Augusto already welcomed you and said, "Happy new year," but just on behalf of myself, I would like to say it as well. So we are into the agenda. The next item would be a report by the chair of the Governance Working Group who is Sergio Salinas. And then we have the webinar, which Augusto just spoke to you about, by Alejandro Pisanty. Then we have a short presentation again by the chair of the Communications

Working Group. And we have another short talk by the chair of the WHOIS Working Group.

We have been asked to amend the agenda somewhat with a short presentation also by Vanda who wants to speak on the NomCom positions that are now open. So is it okay? Can we go ahead and add that?

Do we have any objections to adding that to the agenda? Okay, I'm not seeing any hands so I assume that's okay. Is there anything else that anyone would like to add to the agenda at this point in time that we have not captured? Okay. Again, I'm not seeing any hands there so we ask you to confirm the agenda.

And I turn it back over to Augusto so that we can go [into] the next items. Thank you all very much, and wish that we have a very productive and succinct meeting this evening. Thanks.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you very much, Claire. I know would like to give the floor to Harold so that he can tell the region why is it that we chose today's webinar issue. So I would now like Harold to talk the floor. Please go ahead, Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Augusto. I hope you can hear me. I am now in between cities.

AUGUSTO HO: We can hear you very well. Please go ahead.

HAROLD ARCOS: We wanted to say that we are starting this 2022 ... It is going to be a very challenging year. And we wanted, then, to say that we are coming from an IGF where we dealt with very significant issues.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: We cannot hear you anymore.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Now I think we lost Harold. We definitely have lost Harold's sound. Gisela, if you could please help us with this. I am told that his call dropped. So he's going to be called again.

GISELLA GRUBER: We are just sorting the technical issue, thank you. We are calling Harold. Thank you very much.

HAROLD ARCOS: I hope you can hear me.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Yes, we can hear you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

My call dropped. So we were saying, then, that we are coming from an IGF where Alejandro Pisanty was the moderator of a panel on the Internet. On the last webinar in 2021, there was an intervention that was very pertinent, and we hope this intervention would be sort of a lighthouse to identify those issues where we need to focus in 2022.

And this is basically what we want to share, and that's the reason why we want to hold this very important webinar. And we would like to thank Lito, León, and all of the regional leaders participating because it is essential that we start with this perspective. We are going to mention many of the events that we have scheduled within this fiscal year. So without further ado, let's go into this and pay attention to the issues that we are going to be dealing with today.

Augusto, you now have the floor.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Harold. I had asked Harold to do this introduction because we are aware that he may have issues, but we could finally hear him. Let's not listen to Sergio now, following with the next item in our agenda. Sergio Salinas Port is going to take the floor now. So Sergio, please go ahead.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you, Augusto. It is a pleasure to be here with you today again. What I'm going to say is very short and very simple. The Governance Working Group is going to meet again, probably next week. All of you who want to join the Governance Working Group, you will be very

welcome. There's a lot to do. We are going to start with the process to study and design the metrics for LACRALO. And this, of course, is going to imply a significant impact in the composition of the region once we complete it and once it can be put into operation.

So first, I would like to call and invite anyone who wants to join the working group. And this is something we had been working with together with all the leadership and together with Augusto. We need to know what is the capacity that the region has in terms of being able to bring solutions and answers to the growing demand in the world of ICANN. And at the same time, it is a way to revitalize those areas that are dormant, that have not had any incentive to participate in the region. And we believe this is the starting point.

We need to be able to show the region in a sincere manner, and we need to be able to plan. Many times we say there are a certain number of people in the region, and then there are only 5 organizations instead of 20. So that's the purpose with this working group, with this Metrics Working Group—to be able to have a clear number of the participation of each organization within LACRALO and to ensure that our region has some kind of order.

So you're all invited. We have sent a Doodle poll on the primary working group. Those of you who want to join the group, you can call me or you can e-mail me. You all have my e-mail. If you just want to be in contact with me, you just need to e-mail me. We will try to complete this document as fast as possible.

Silvia is now telling me that this has been sent to the LACRALO mailing list, so that's great. If you just sent it to the Governance Working Group, then that's fine as well. We need to see if we will lucky this week or next week to be able to progress on this.

I want to thank Augusto and Claire for having given me this time. And that's all for me. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Sergio. I am also going to participate in this meeting, Sergio. I think here is an issue that is very important to me. We see that there are groups that exist that we don't really know much about them, so we will try and see if we can dot the i's to be able to make this outlook clearer.

And now, yes, we have a very important guest. Alejandro Pisanty has accepted an invitation to be on today's webinar. Alejandro will be dealing with the main values on the Internet. Alejandro, I think you are here already, so you now have the floor. Please go ahead.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY:

Thank you so much. I'm very glad to see you all here. It is my great honor to be able to address you all at this meeting chaired by Augusto and all the colleagues, of course. Happy birthday to Lilian. If you can convey this message to her, I would appreciate it. We'll try to be brief.

As you know, every year there is a session that is usually in person, but now it is taking place over Zoom. And this is the Internet Governance Forum that is a forum organized by the United

Nations. But in this particular case, there is a multistakeholder group where we have representation of the government, the businesses, the civil society, and the technical community.

Although there should be balanced representation, we see that the governments have a greater representation than all the other groups combined. There have been different presentations, and every year there is a different theme and many topics are discussed.

The IGF was originally set up as a non-duplication forum, a non-resolution making forum. This means that purpose is to have discussions, and all stakeholders should be able to have the freedom to discuss the different topics without being afraid that a given person is going to be audited or criticized for not saying something or for saying something specifically.

So this allows us to have a discussion at a more conceptual level. And it is a non-duplication forum because most of the topics discussed at this forum are also discussed in other fora. When the IETF was created years ago, most of the topics had to do with access to communication networks. Therefore, there was a lot of focus on telecommunications policies and spectrum allocation policies led by governments, and also discussions centered on domain name-related issues.

ICANN came onto the scene and then other topics gained more importance like cybercrime among others. So the intention is not to have a duplication in this forum.

At the same time, we know that every year we have some new issues that crop up in the field of the Internet. So we always have the chance

of setting up new bodies, but here we wanted to make sure that we had proper representation of all the different stakeholders in all the different discussions. So this forum takes place every year, as you well know. And we have the Dynamic Coalition as part of the IGF.

Initially, the forum was expected to react to changing circumstances. As you know, now there is the Internet Rights Coalition. This is one of the most important coalitions that coalitions that have come up with a generic charter of rights for the Internet. We all know that we don't require specific rights charter for the Internet, that all the rights that exist in real life also exist in the Internet space. But once again, the Internet Rights Coalition has come up with non-regulatory papers that have supplemented other papers and reports.

So I belong to a Dynamic Coalition that is called the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Core Values. We discuss the core values here, but I would rather call them principles because I think that we take into account technical principles.

I am being asked to use a mic and to speak louder. Just give me a minute, please.

So as I was telling you, the Dynamic Coalition deals with core values such as rights, freedom of speech. I would call them principles, rather. And there are different interpretations.

Can you hear me better now?

LEÓN SANCHEZ:

I can hear you perfectly well.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Gisella, could you please confirm that everybody can hear Alejandro? Because interpreters listen through other types of lines and they also have more specific needs. Okay, yes. It's much better. Thank you, Alejandro. Go ahead.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: So as I was telling you, we discuss Internet core values. There is some ambiguity here, and when I speak about principles, I usually refer to interoperability, to the best effort principles, everything that aims at giving us clearer metrics and values that have to do with freedom of speech and security on the Internet.

So in this space and these discussions, we are concerned about what we can do to improve something on the Internet. When we try to improve security, when we try to reduce polarization within the Internet, how can we ensure that there are good behaviors on the Internet?

Sometimes people come up with proposals that would mean putting an end to the Internet and to the freedoms that exist on the Internet. When it comes to domain names, we may talk about jeopardizing certain principles such as the principle of interoperability or openness because, technologically speaking, we could end up having one mechanism that gives priority to a certain region or to a certain country.

ICANN, with the IDNs work, has set an example on how we can change a very complicated technology trying not to harm the principle of openness within the internet.

You may recall that there was a proposal to have an algorithm to translate the scripts into different languages, but affected the top layer and that affected the principle of interoperability because not everybody was going to use the same browser and the same capability. That also affected the open nature of the Internet, and that would only be applicable on the web and to on many other protocols.

So that is the kind of discussion that took us to come up with Dynamic Coalition. So we had a very interesting session this year. We had a Russian operator talking about the core value of interoperability through Internet exchange points. And I think that was a very interesting session, and that is what moved Augusto and Harold to invite me to give this presentation.

So we talked about the introduction and deployment of 5G networks. We know that 5G is a group of technologies, not just the evolution from 2G, 3G, 4G, and now 5G. Actually, we are now talking about a combined network technology that requires not only modifications in the radio spectrum, but also in the way that devices operate. In particular, there needs to be some communication enhancements. We need to increase reliability for certain applications of 5G such as telesurgeries. And some people uphold that this should be considered as an overlaid network with a slicing mechanism, that is, having layers on top of other layers.

When we participate in these kinds of discussions, we need to have a clear understanding of all the aspects of this topic. Many of you will participate in public consultations where you will have government representatives there or you will have operators also represented. So you have to make sure that the introduction and the deployment of 5G

in your country should not lead to failure that ends up fragmenting the Internet.

Fragmentation is one of the greatest risks that we need to pay attention to. So perhaps there may be little actions everywhere and they may lead to fragmentation of the Internet. We need to make sure that we can have a safe Internet for children. Some people believe that we have to fight against certain types of content such as the neo-liberal content. There are people who are against sexual content on the Internet. So we start having a very initially naïve fragmentation.

So content moderation is quite a complex issue. It's not something that LACRALO is usually involved in, but everything has to do with networks that have to operate on certain mechanisms. And you always have lobbyists or representatives that want to go through the DNS to come up with certain solutions that may end up fragmenting the Internet.

I will try to be quite brief here because I want to give you time for an exchange of views. But I think that it is very important for us to look at annual article that was a week ago that refers to prospect for this year in terms of Internet governance. We talk about cybersecurity. The focus is placed on cybersecurity. The proposals by some countries of entering into cybersecurity agreements or having some standards relating to cybersecurity.

And it is here where we are now. This is the public core of the Internet. That would be like the backbone of the Internet with the DNS, with the IP addresses. And it is there where we need to do some lobbying with our governments and our countries to make sure that they do not end

up supporting documents that will actually lead to a fragmented network.

So I will stop now and I will be glad to take any questions.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you, Alejandro. I think that Sergio Salinas has raised his hand. Go ahead, Sergio.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Augusto. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to say hello to Alejandro. It's always so nice to listen to him because he has a very clear understanding of what goes on around the issue of Internet governance.

Alejandro, let me ask you a question because you are talking about Internet fragmentation as a result of the deployment of 5G networks. This is just to add some value to the discussion. This is just for my personal understanding. Could you please go deeper into that so we understand what you are referring to?

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Thank you, Sergio, for your question. I will show you some material that is in Spanish, but it's also available in English. And this can help you understand it better.

The 5G technology includes two big parts or components. One has to do with a radio spectrum, and the other one has to do with network management and operation.

On the spectrum side, new spectrum bands are now being opened that can hold greater bandwidth or can also secure more reliability. Of course, there is always some tradeoff that you have to make on any of these two components. You may have a certain band with access to a certain frequency that will give you more bandwidth. But at the same time, the disadvantage is that it will have a shorter reach. And there are some obstacles to access that frequency. And in some bands, even the presence of humidity in the air or the environment, or water, may affect those frequency bands.

Some people work with community networks. Sergio, in Argentina you have groups that are very good, highly component. And they suffer this problem quite frequently because they live in mountainous areas, and at a given time during the day, their connection is completely lost because they use a band similar to the microwave oven bands. And they lose connection at a given point during the day.

So, sometimes we have these kinds of tradeoffs. In some cases we have lower latencies [inaudible] or more irregularity so that it may affect the network. 5G is not just one single standard. It is a set of standards. And you may have the short-range, the long-range networks and bands.

And it may happen that, in some cases we talk about incredible things such as fantastic cars that are driverless cars that can receive

information and can receive thousands of signals per minute. So that would be on the radio spectrum side.

And then the other component has to do with network management which is quite complex. Actually, the decision as to which band the network is going to work on will depend also on a number of factors including the devices. So we will have cloud computing. We will have edge computing. We will have many other factors that have to be taken into account. And, of course, security plays a key role in this discussion because that actually costs us a lot of headaches.

I hope, Sergio, this is useful to you. Later on I can talk about fragmentation of the network or net neutrality.

5G suppliers offer the equivalent of privately-managed networks. For instance, a company can have a network to control all the devices in its own site and its own company. Or you may also have a network for communication among vehicles that are driving along the street. And here you need integrated services. You need data analytics. You also have an AI component here.

And of course, this poses the risk of having and offering paid services. And there are many companies that would be interested in becoming gatekeepers and charging for access to those services. And that would lead to fragmentation.

Then, of course, you may have a diversity of national regulations that may also cause some problems. So 5G is not just something that is happening in the bottom layer. It is happening at all layers. So this may have some consequences.

I don't know if this is useful to you.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you very much. If you have some bibliography, especially in Spanish, please send it to me. Otherwise, I will try to translate it. It would be better because even though ...

In Argentina, all the different frequencies have already been used. There are issues with [digital OpenTV], so we want to have more information.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: What you're saying is very important because spectrum is not all. We do have a very interesting [intervention] capacity.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I'm sending you a big hug, Alejandro.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you very much for your intervention. This enriches the discussion. And I understand that Vanda has asked for the floor. So Vanda, you now have the floor. Please go ahead.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Hello. How are you doing? Thank you, all. I wish you a fantastic year. I am rather involved with 5G right here because what we see in Brazil, and we see this increasingly, is that 5G does not improve

communications between people. But it actually improves costs. I have been discussion 5G in the [industrial] area, in the agricultural area. And independent networks are actually growing a lot. So the effort we see in Brazil is more targeted to independent networks. It's more targeted to manufacturing, to security, and those kinds of issues.

I think this is the road to fragmentation, and it's an easy road to fragmentation. It could be an advantage for communication between people because machines do not show where the information is coming from and where it goes. And so it is actually a path that concerns me.

The other thing I see, but I don't really see this very clearly now, we are working on Open RAN. But then having an open network, I'm not really sure whether this will be good for us in the future, whether this will enable fragmentation or not.

I'm not really sure, Alejandro, if you have thought about this. And if you have, please share it with us. Thank you very much.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY:

Thank you, Vanda. What we're seeing in countries and in others, in all the countries where there is agriculture—like México and Brazil and Argentina—there is combination of drones and sensors and communications to monitor variables such as humidity in the soil and the composition derived from fertilizers. All those things lead to a very technological agriculture with relatively low costs.

These are added costs for agriculture and companies are showing an increasing interest in controlling the whole package. Companies would

be happy to control the whole package instead of being able to assemble it. And this is not an anti-globalization or an anti-corporation idea. Actually, this should help us to dominate these technologies.

I agree with Vanda that these networks [inaudible] anymore. So this does not go to the consumer. The consumer represents a lesser use when compared to the acquisition cost, and the return on investment is lower. And so these networks could be more targeted to these very costly presentations, to uses in hospitals and industries and transportation. And they probably need to leave aside the need for an open communication.

Our mission which goes beyond ICANN ... I mean, we need to maintain ICANN's focus on this issue, and something that is small perhaps does not touch us. But in particular, we need to ensure that this openness, this interoperability is very significant.

I'm not really sure, Vanda, if we agree or not.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

I think the use of Open RAN will allow us for better control of one of the other because these are open networks. You cannot be protected from all the rest. And so I think this could be a path. This could be the right path. I think somehow we need to discuss these technologies in ICANN. How are these technologies going to have an impact on our main issues which are ICANN's special principles, IANA's main focus, and all of this?

All of these are issues that I think are not very clear [inaudible]. And I also think that we need to raise this issue. This is an interesting time to

raise this issue to have a discussion perhaps with the PTI or with people who are more associated to technical areas and not to the more business area.

And I know that we are more focused on the use and the users, and that's why I don't think 5G will impact us directly in our areas because it does not offer anything very special. But for whatever is associated to these fragmentation issues, it is important to have this as an open discussion. Perhaps asking questions, raising issues, I think this ...

Because of the pandemic or because we didn't really find this, I don't really see a significant discussion when I participate in the ccNSO groups or the GNSO groups, I don't really see that these issues have an impact as we usually see.

Thank you, Alejandro, but I think we need to continue with this discussion without really having closed this issue.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY:

I agree. I think this has to go with environmental awareness. This is something that we need to maintain. The geopolitics of these issues affect us indirectly, and there's a competition within China and the United States and the European countries and Japan. All these countries are promoting 5G technologies associated to investments, and they're both in the ITU.

So perhaps there is an issue that is not directly related to 5G and ICANN but that will impact a vote in the ITU and it does have to do with other

investments in China and Asia and sometimes in Latin America. And they're going to vote in the block.

That's why this is environmental awareness, and since León is here in this conference, if he would like to take the floor, may he can tell us about his view.

I was telling Harold during the weekend that I think it would be very health that in the next session we can have León or Lito talk to us about the prospect of our work for 2022 to go ahead in LACRALO's work. Thank you very much.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, all. I think Lito has raised his hand. And maybe Claire, too. I'm not really sure what [inaudible]. Claire, if you'd like to take the floor first and then Lito. Go ahead, Claire, please.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Okay. My question is quite brief. This was a very interesting webinar, and the materials covered were quite extensive and there's a lot of discussion that can come out of it. I am just wondering what are the next steps. Usually we say, okay, we're going to put it on the discussion lists and have some discussions coming out of it.

But for a topic of this magnitude, I think that we should probably decide how we would like to treat with it moving forward and pick up some specific things out of it and decide what's the best way. Because there are things that impact our region, particularly when you're talking

about—for me, in particular—the whole area of the cybersecurity and the vulnerability of our networks.

I think that is something that is very critical that we really need to sit down and address. It may not be an ICANN type matter, as you said. The same thing with the content. That's not an ICANN matter, but it is something that is important for us in the region. So it may be something that LACRALO needs to find a way to discuss. So I just wanted to know how you see us moving forward with a topic such as this that we can find so much deep information that we could share and discuss. Thank you.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY:

My very brief answer is that I think we need to have a planning effort for the year and reading not only the document that I presented to you on the core values coalition, but actually the great conclusions of the IGF would be very valuable. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

I think we have Lito alone. Lito, please go ahead now.

LITO IBARRA:

Thank you, Augusto. Let me wish you a very happy new year. I have a cold, so I'm going to be very brief. Thank you, Alejandro, or this webinar.

My reflection may help you answer what Claire has just asked. For some of us who have spent quite some time in this Internet world, the values

and the core principles for the internet may be something natural or obvious and maybe something that we can even say by heart that we can reconstruct them with the help of others. But I'm concerned about the next generations.

And in this sense, seeing that the young people have the illusion that they will have faster Internet and that they would be able to have more social interactions, that they would be able to download videos faster, well this is what they buy in. And they may leave aside what are the main values and the main principles, and what are value and principles on the Internet good for? And especially for me as a user who was born with the Internet already existing in my childhood.

So LACRALO, in my view, can spread the word about these values and these principles on the Internet and then establish other actions from then on. But at least to have a starting point to know what are the principles and the values on the Internet. And of course, the most difficult task is to sell them in the good sense to the current and future users of the Internet. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Lito. I see León's hand up. Go ahead, León.

LEÓN SÁNCHEZ:

Thank you, Augusto. Good evening to you all. Happy new year. I hope that this will be a good year for us all. And those of us who have been lucky enough not to get sick, to continue evading and avoiding this virus.

As Lito was saying, it is very interesting to look at all of these different aspects as put forward in the Board. So let me share the summary of the most recent activities of the Board members.

We had our first workshop for 2022, and precisely we worked on prioritizing the different activities that we believe are more urgent and more important and need to be completed as soon as possible. Within this universe of tasks that the Board the community have to carry out, there are some important initiatives that have to do with looking at the ecosystem in a comprehensive manner, as Alejandro was saying, such as the follow-up and analysis of the certain regularly initiatives that the Network and Information Security directive NIS 2 from the European Union that deals with different aspects that are of importance to use like root servers, resolutions.

And as Alejandro properly said, sometimes laws are drafted and they do not seek to harm the Internet as we know it, but sometimes because of lack of technical understanding by lawmakers, they end up affecting some core component of the network and can have a negative impact on the Internet as we know it.

The NIS 2 directive is not the only topic that we are following up as part of our strategic plan, the plan that we put together year after year. You might recall that recently I coordinated the Board's effort to set some operational priorities for the Board. Basically, these are topics of interest to the Board that have to do with the operation of the Board, but they may also have a wider impact and they may be of interest to the community as well. Such is the case of DNS abuse.

I realize that I was speaking too fast. I don't know if I was too fast for the interpreters. I apologize to them. I will try to slow down a little bit.

So I was telling you that we focused on DNS abuse. To a certain extent, this is a priority for many community members and the Board is not an exception. We understand that this is a major issue that may have an impact on different areas, and quite easily this may mislead or deviate [inaudible]. And we have to make sure that we do not have a limited vision on this, although ICANN's remit is more limited.

And then we talk about the work that can be done by the Board with regard to aspects that are of importance to the community. We have to make sure that whatever we do as a Board will have also a trickle-down impact on other efforts. We try to be spectators, but we are ready also to contribute to the efforts that have been made at different levels within the community. Of course, we do not want to have a hierarchal or a vertical effect on other sectors' work.

Then we also worked on the implementation of the ATRT3 recommendations and some of the reforms that are still outstanding for certain parts of ICANN bylaws, things that have to do with the organization and the launch of the next round of domain names, the Subsequent Procedures as we usually call them, for approving and adopting new gTLDs. We will continue working on our work plan to improve the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model at ICANN and some other topics that also have to do with other parts of the ecosystem.

We are trying to keep an eye on everything that goes around that, although we try to focus specifically on our limited remit, our limited vision and mission. But we try to make sure that we do not have any negative side effects on other parts of ICANN's work.

I can also give you an update on the resolutions adopted by the Board, but I would leave that for another time because I know that we are running out of time, Augusto. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, León. I don't see any more hands up. I want to thank Alejandro for this presentation. And by the way, I realize that you said that you are going to join the Governance Working Group again. So we thank you for that. And we are all happy to have you around us. I also want to thank Lito for his comments, and all the other people who have asked questions to Alejandro.

I saw Alfredo Lopez making a commenting the chat. I think that he wanted to make an announcement. I don't know if he's still connected. If that is the case, please go ahead.

ALFREDO LOPEZ:

Good evening. Can you hear me?

AUGUSTO HO:

Yes, loud and clear.

ALFREDO LOPEZ:

Greetings to all of my colleagues in the region. Happy new year. I hope this will be a prosperous year for us all. I want to extend an invitation to you all. We know that on February 8th in Europe, we will have a celebration on the second Tuesday. That is on secure Internet. And Colombia has decided to join this celebration five or six years ago. In previous year, we held events at the national level and we had the support of LACRALO.

So once again, I would like to extend this invitation to you. As part of this event, we are going to be present in three cities across the country. We will have 10 universities involved. We will also have the city council of Bogotá, the department in charge of open government.

So I would like to extend this invitation to see if LACRALO would like to be a co-organizer for this event. So that would mean having some space to disseminate information about the principles that we have been discussing about today. So this could be of use to the community. So once again, I would like you all to take part in this event. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Alfredo. In the chat we are asking you to provide us with more details about this event. At the personal level and as a representative of my university, I would like to participate, of course.

We will have some items on our agenda. We will not move on to the Communications Working Group. I don't know whether we have ... Who do we have from the Communications Working Group here in the meeting?

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: I am here together with Maribel Sanchez.

AUGUSTO HO: Okay, go ahead, please.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Greetings to you all. Happy new year to you and your family. Wishing you all the best in the new year. And I hope you had a great year despite the pandemic and the specific circumstances in all the different areas across Latin America.

I want to thank all the previous speakers for all the information they have provided us with. This is not information that you can easily find, so it would be nice to have some kind of summary or account of all the comments that were made here. Perhaps we can have a half-page document as a summary. Alejandro, perhaps we need more but I think it would be interesting to have that kind of account summary so that we can include it in our newsletter. We can disseminate that information and also provide more and better information to our readers in 2022.

I also see Maribel here. She has some proposal to share with you. So if you agree, she can spend a few minutes talking about them. Go ahead, Maribel.

MARIBEL SANCHEZ:

Good evening to you all. Happy new year, as Marcelo was saying. I have a proposal to put forward. In the past meeting when I took the floor, I said that we wanted to disseminate information about the work that is being done by the different organizations that are a part of LACRALO. Therefore, it is important to have that information and convey it to the users. Sometimes users need this information. You are sharing a lot of information with us. I'm learning a lot together with you, although it takes time and effort, that is true.

We would like to make this proposal for the World Internet Day. We know that different organizations and different companies will be holding different events. So we would like to produce a LACRALO institutional video. We could have one or two representatives of each of the teams working in LACRALO, the working group members, social media, communication, [inaudible]. So perhaps you could provide us with a few comments, some contributions. Through an audio message or through a video, you can tell us about the important work that you are doing within LACRALO and how that connects with the Internet Day.

And please be aware that this has to be understood by users that this has to be conveyed to users. They need to understand what we are doing in the region so that we can all strive to achieve a secure and open and accessible Internet for all. That is basically my proposal.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ:

And I also want to ask Sergio to provide us with the information that he gave us about the governance group. And if you're interested in these activities, you can share the information with us. Thank you, Augusto,

for giving us the floor. Happy new year again to you all. And special greetings to Lilian, for instance, for her birthday. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you both. I see that there is a lot of interaction now in the group. And can you please remind me of all these activities in due time, and I will make my own contributions.

Okay, now we are going to move on to the next agenda item on the WHOIS Group. Carlos Aguirre is with us. So please go ahead, Carlos.

CARLOS AGUIRRE:

Thank you, Augusto. I would like to say that I have taken over as an ALAC member two months ago. And during these two months, I have tried to keep up to date with all the work and all the policies and all the statements that the ALAC has to draft and pass on the different discussion topics.

This has not been an easy task, let me say, because although I have more than 20 years of experience in these kinds of discussions, coming back to this deep debate has been quite difficult for me because these are very complex topics. And also because there are a lot of challenges in coordinating efforts among the different ICANN stakeholders.

Just to give you some context, you know that the GDPR is a European regulation for data protection. This is a general regulation for data protection coming out of the European Union in 2016. This came into force in 2018, and in 2018 ICANN passed a preliminary directive or policy in order to start complying with the European regulations. This

has to do with data protection of Europeans wherever they are in the world. Of course, this involves everybody in the world.

And WHOIS is a directory, as you know. Actually, it's just like a list of domain names that holds information about the owners and the managers of domain names. That used to be publicly acceptable. But with GDPR coming into force and all the data protection provisions, this had to be reviewed and revisited.

So ICANN came out with its preliminary decision in order to start adapting to these new regulations. And in July 2018, together with the GNSO, it set up a working group charge with the responsibility of looking into the situation and following its evolutions. There was a Phase 1 and a Phase 2 for the specifications for gTLDs regarding data registration, how data was going to be disclosed.

And now, a few days ago, we got to know that there is a final report on the Temporary Specification for gTLDs. And each stakeholder, each of their constituencies, have provided their own comments, their own views.

Now we are talking about a Standardized System for Access and Disclosure in order to provide information on the holders of certain domain names. What used to be WHOIS now has changed significantly. We have RDAP, and we also have the option of having a standardized system of information on the holder—the addresses on the managers of these domain names.

And we'll have to see whether the GNSO Final Report is going to be adopted or not and what will happen if that is the case from the point of

view of implementation. This report has been submitted for public comment and all stakeholders provided their views on that.

In particular, the ALAC does not fully agree with implementation of SSAD which is the Standardized System for Access and Disclosure. And the Governmental Advisory Committee (the GAC) and the Business Constituency and the Intellectual Property Constituency, all of them, shared the same view.

In particular, and I must say this. I'm trying to develop a good understanding of this topic, but I must say that I don't agree with ALAC's recommendation, although this is already an official recommendation, because I think that this has to do with protection of data, use of data. The data abuses are critical, and they have to do with user identity. And somebody needs to defend them, and I think that GDPR can do that.

I think that the interests of the Business Constituency are different from the user's interests, although there is this idea going around that has to do with the high costs that would be entailed in implanting this kind of system.

The GNSO final Report expects a three- to four-year term for implementing the system, and it estimates that developing this system would cost between \$20 million and \$27 million. However, annual operations for this system would entail between \$14 million and \$107 million. So there is a lot of criticism from the BC because they would have to adapt to these policies. And of course the IPC is also against this because they have always dealt with users in a different way. So I think that we need to put this forward in a different manner.

Anyway, as I said, ALAC's recommendation has been not to support the SSAD because there is another issue involved which has been mentioned already by León when he was talking about the Board discussions. Cybersecurity issues raised by the European Union within NIS 2 have not been resolved yet. They're still holding discussions. No final decisions have been raised already.

So everybody is wondering what would happen if this would change because if these regulations change, the implementation of the system would also have to change in order to disseminate and disclose information about registrants and domain name holders. So to a certain extent, I think this makes sense.

But I think that defending personal data through GDPR has more valid ground, and I think that the Board will have to make a decision on the GNSO Final Report. And I think that will be quite a difficult task. I think that it is going to be quite complicated and the amount involved, the budgets required for implementing this system would also be a topic of discussion in this context.

Anyway, this is not closed yet. We know that we have been talking about these topics and these policies for three or even four years now, and we still haven't reached any conclusions because we are still in Phase 2.

And some topics that are within the scope of this working group have not yet been discussed, so there will be much more to discuss in the future. But so far, this is the situation. And I think that we need to join these discussions because these are highly complex topics that would

also have an impact on other parts, as Alex has said during his presentation, and León has said.

And let me also congratulate León for the presentation he made yesterday at the San Martin de Porres University in Peru. When he talked about Internet governance, he was very clear. That was a very good presentation. So I think that it is very important for us to develop a full grasp of all of these policy-protected issues because this is going to definitely have an effect on Internet users' [rights if it is not] well designed.

That is all on my part. Thank you, Augusto, and I hope this has been clear enough because I know this is quite complex. Thank you.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Carlos. Vanda has requested the floor to share something, and I think León also wants to speak. And I am seeing Olga Cavalli's hand, so please be fast. Alejandro first, okay. Okay, so we have four people. Go ahead, please.

OLGA CAVALLI:

Thank you very much, Augusto. I have a question for Carlos. Carlos, your explanation was very good. In the webinars you have attended, about a week and a half ago and in connection with the cost of this system, the ICANN CEO, at some point, said there will always be a free access system. And I think that comment was very relevant, especially considering the costs that you were mentioning that were also discussed in that webinar.

Have you listened to this comment, and can you say something about it?

CARLOS AGUIRRE: Thank you, Olga, for your question. I have not heard this. I am only based on the GNSO Final Report, and I do see that there is a way to charge when somebody is asking for a report on some kind of a domain name and who are the owners or the managers of the domain name. And so each of these has a different cost which may be high or low. But I didn't really see this free report on the GNSO report. If this is the case, then that's very good.

OLGA CAVALLI: That was a comment by Göran Marby on the webinar, and I can send you the link to one of these blogs. I think the comment is very relevant, but I haven't really seen anything specific on the reports. That's why I was asking you.

CARLOS AGUIRRE: Thank you, Olga.

AUGUSTO HO: Thank you all very much. We're a bit behind. Vanda is in our agenda, and León as well. Vanda, you now have the floor. Please try to be brief because we are really behind.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

I'm going to be very fast. I had prepared a slide, but I'm not really sure if this has been received by staff. What's important now is that everything is open in terms of leadership positions in ICANN for the NomCom. So I would like to say that every person should communicate this to the groups.

We have a position for the PTI. The PTI requires a more technical position, but this is a governance group under IANA. So we're talking about the public technical identifiers. This is a position for the Board of Directors. We are also looking for three Board members for the ICANN Board.

There are no positions for At-Large on this call. The same happened last year. We have managed to have Laura there. This year is for North America and for Europe. There is one for the GNSO and one of the ccNSO.

So I am asking that you spread the word. This is what is going to happen in NomCom 2022 in ICANN. All the information is online. It is very easily accessible. All the data has been included. It has been very well prepared. So I ask everyone to remember to spread the word about all of these leadership opportunities for us. Thank you, Augusto.

AUGUSTO HO:

Thank you, Vanda, for this information. I think León wants to take the floor, and I think Alejandro has raised his hand again. Or is it an old hand?

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Yes. Let's have León first.

AUGUSTO HO: Yes. León, please go ahead.

LEÓN SÁNCHEZ: Thank you, Alex. I'm going to be very brief. I think this has been said before, but we need to say this in our monthly meeting. I want to congratulate Alex and Lito for their inclusion in the Hall of the Fame of the Internet. We are very fortunate to have them with us. We are fortunate to learn from you to guide us with your knowledge and your experience. And it is a privilege, and we're very proud to call you friends and teachers. And we're very happy that you have been included in the Hall of Fame of the Internet. Thank you, Augusto.

AUGUSTO HO: Alejandro, you can now have the floor.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Carlos Aguirre, I am very happy that you can have this vision. I'm going to be very brief. First, the Europeans still need to agree between those who want to protect the data and those who want to have unrestricted access from the point of view of the security initiative. For the time being, GDPR is winning because it is sort of written in stone. But what's most important is that this is a regulation that has a cross-jurisdictional scope. It is going beyond the borders and ICANN has already been very

competent in trying to resist these kinds of issues that may become unscalable.

And secondly, about this mechanism for universal access to domain names. There is an important objection to layer crossing. When you require to access the successor of the WHOIS, there are many technical parameters that will reduce the interoperability of the Internet.

And finally, when we work in At-Large—and you know this—we need to be very meticulous to bring the voice of Latin American users. There are very few people who have domain names, and the voice of At-Large and the GNSO, these are all voices that try to favor the speculation model that [inaudible] speculate with. I think we need to make this distinction. Thank you.

CARLOS AGUIRRE:

Thank you, Alex. I think the Board's decision will be very difficult. And ALAC's decision to reject the implementation of the SSAD, in my view, has not been a good decision because it comes together with the GAC and the Business Constituency when we, the users, have a completely different view. And so hopefully, the Board will be enlightened to have a good guidance at the very end. Thank you, Alex.

AUGUSTO HO:

We're just at the top of the hour. I would like to thank you all. This has been our first meeting in the year. It has been very informative, very entertaining, and very complete. I would like this to be a model for the

rest of the meetings in 2022. I am faithful that this will be a very productive year.

So before we close our Zoom meeting, we're going to send you a poll. Please complete it and send it back. It is now 7:30 in Panamá right now. I would like to thank you all and say good-bye by officially adjourning this meeting on January 17th 2022. Good evening to you all.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]