YESIM SAGLAM:
Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. Welcome to the AFRALO universal acceptance discussion call taking place on Tuesday 15th of February 2022 at 16:00 UTC.

On our call today on the English channel, we have Abdalmonem Galila, Seun Ojedeji, Abdulkarim Oloyede and Bram Fudzulani.

We currently don't have anyone listed on the French channel, and we have received apologies from Aziz Hilali.

From staff, we have Silvia Vivanco, Yaovi Atohoun, and myself, Yesim Saglman. I'll also be doing call management for today's call.

As you know, we have French interpretation, and our interpreters are Camila and Jacques.

A kind reminder to please state your names before speaking, not only for the transcription but also for the interpretation purposes in case someone joins our French channel.

With this, I'm turning the floor over to Bram to start the call. Over to you. Thank you so much.

BRAM FUDZULANI:
Thank you very much, Yesim. I am sitting in on behalf of Seun who's also listening with us but I think the agenda is pretty set for us to discuss the issues of universal acceptance. We had a call earlier that was, again, a well-organized event, and I think a lot of lessons that we took away from that panel discussion itself.

It also helps us, I think, to contextualize the discussions as we are embarking on this at AFRALO level. So once again, thank you for the wonderful panel discussion that was put this afternoon.

I wanted to just find out from all of us the draft suggestion which was made whether you were able to have a look at it and then if there's a need for change, comments, feel free to definitely do that, because we're still collecting feedback in terms of the draft which was circulated, I think, last week.

I don't know if there's any input to that, any comment, need for clarification on the draft call itself.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Bram, [inaudible].

BRAM FUDZULANI: Okay. I'm trying to get the link and post it in chat.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, if you put the link there, Bram, we can display it on the screen.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Perfect. I think we had the comment from Seun who I think made some comments and observations on the first initial draft itself. Okay, so maybe we can move to the next agenda item, which is on the webinar sessions. Yaovi, you have the floor.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you so much. For the webinar sessions, last time, we proposed that I think it's linked to the message that members take the courses available online. So I'm thinking about this webinar as a period where we consider two things, the time and the format of the webinar.

So I'm thinking it's about something more like also a dialog, the way I see that webinar, not like a classic webinar but people should ask the basic questions, because for me, what I can see, again, from the dialogue today, that we have been speaking on universal acceptance since many years now, but some people are not taking time to really understand the topic.

The universal acceptance has nothing to do primarily with the content, but people most of the time are linking the universal acceptance of a domain name—it's linked to content at some point, because when we say that the website should be also compliant, this is not the content in other languages where some people sometimes are not careful to avoid this confusion.

So the format I think—the content will not be the classic content. It's like an open discussion [inaudible] everyone attending the universal acceptance, that one should really be able to understand at the end. So the content, I think, will be a bit different from what you have in the previous workshop.

So I consider the document on my screen, but I'll come back to that. So the [depth] for this one, we have a week between ICANN prep week and ICANN meeting. So one option for the period—because if you want to

move fast, we can do it the week after the prep week, which is the week of February 21st. But I'm wondering if it's something we can do between the 2nd or 3rd of March. This is something I'm thinking, if we can do it before ICANN meeting. That is my suggestion. If not, it would be after the ICANN meeting.

SEUN OJDEJI: Sorry, I just had to quickly [inaudible] I want to just quickly mention [inaudible] Yaovi, for those who'll be [taking the course,] it's not necessary to have an introductory webinar kind of thing? So we just choose a date and say that people should register for the call by or before this date and we have an introduction webinar regarding the online course to introduce people to the—even though we know the course itself [inaudible] kind of introduction, they also [inaudible] some people who are going to be doing the online course. So I think if we are going to do that, then it's better that that happens before we do the other webinar, which is more of a discussion session like you're referring to.

I'm also thinking, do we change the name and call it something other than a webinar? I think we should call it a workshop or we should call it something more descriptive or [inaudible] happen if it is not going to be the conventional webinar format. Sorry for jumping in, I'm [inaudible].

YAOVI ATOHOUN: I agree with Seun, what he said, this will help people, it can also be an introduction so that when people go to the course, they better understand or they know what to pay attention to. We have two

options. One would be also people take the course and when they take the course, they come back to this session and then they have more questions.

So the two options are valid. So we can make that an introductory webinar and then now, the question is more about the date. So I was suggesting that we do it probably like—I'm thinking March or something like that, which is a Thursday. So my proposal is, can we think about it now and then confirm during the week, like on March 3rd, if we see— [inaudible] there's something—this is a busy week, or March 1st. I'm thinking about something like that.

So let's forget about the 3rd, but the 1st of March is something we can do, March 1st? So that is what I want to say about the [inaudible] the webinar we are mentioning. So the [inaudible]. Can we do it on March 1st or March 4th?

BRAM FUDZULANI: before I come in, Abdulkarim, please come in.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you, Bram. I want to probably respond to some of the things Yaovi mentioned and also to raise a few things before we move further. I totally agree with Yaovi that there is a mix of between—people usually have some misconception about what universal acceptance is all about, because if you were at the webinar, some of the questions, you understand—what Yaovi was talking about.

And from my experience, it's easy to mix it up. It took time for a lot of people, even myself, to understand the concept of universal acceptance. So I think a lot of people will need to sit down and understand the concept.

But I'm just thinking if we ask people to do a self-learning on it, it might be a tough one because I think it's better, like what Seun mentioned earlier, that we should probably have like an introduction for people to understand the concept and understand—we're not talking about content, we're talking generally about internationalized domain names and issues like that that have to do with the root zone. So I agree with Yaovi on that.

Then with regards to the name of the webinar, yes, we can change the name. I have absolutely no problem with that. But in terms of what date we are going to pick. For me, I don't know, I want to ask Yaovi. For today's one we had earlier today, can we have the statistics of how many people attended? Because I think that'll probably guide us as to when is going to be a good time.

For me, the entire first week in March is quite busy, attending WTSA and things like that. So I'm doing a lot of traveling first week in March, it's going to be a tough one for me personally. But I don't know, it depends on what is convenient for most of the others, and we can actually just look at the statistics of what we had today and see if the timing was good enough.

For me, I was thinking a little bit later might be better, but it depends on what we have today. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you so much. Silvia, please go ahead.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you so much, Yaovi. On that, a couple of things. Number one, I wanted to share with you the experience from NARALO that the GSE team conducted a series of four sessions. It was more focused on technical people, actually, but they have two modules, one on a general format that provided general information about what universal acceptance is, and the last module was how to become a UA ambassador.

So those two were general modules, and the other two were more technical for people that have programming expertise. But I wanted to point out that they also asked people to take the ICANN Learn on universal acceptance, which is actually very broad, and I did take that class as well and it's very useful.

So I don't know if you want to put it as a prerequisite, but highly recommend it, maybe, to have this ICANN Learn as a prerequisite to join so they will come with very good background.

The second question, Yaovi, is if you're planning to do maybe two sessions, two weeks, or one session, 90 minutes. And the third point I wanted to make is also regarding the timing. I will strongly recommend to have a longer time for promotion so people are marking their calendars. March is a very busy month with the ICANN 73 meetings and lots of conference calls, so you may find some people a bit exhausted

perhaps, too much Zoom time. I would recommend to do it after ICANN 73, that will give you the time to promote throughout AFRALO.

The other question is if it's only for ALSes or if you are also [inaudible] to include any other external participants. So all of that. Thank you, Yaovi.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you so much. I want to agree that we do it after ICANN 73 so that we have enough time for promotion. That is a first point. The second point also, from now on, I'll look at the message and my input will come maybe tomorrow or later in the day. In that message, the recommendation would be for people to take the course so people have time to—they have their own agenda, they take the ICANN Learn course, and that session, the [inaudible] I think it's more for AFRALO members.

I want to [veer away from the classic training or this material that we have.] Again, people are listening since many months, many years, they have something in mind and this is not changing their mind. So our session we want to have with AFRALO will be more open.

I don't know if we call it even training, because after people take that online course, it would be like an open session, we'll discuss, people will raise questions, what they have learned from the training. So this is the way I see it. So it'll be a follow up of that training people will take online so that members before going and talking about the topic know what we're really talking about. So for me, it's different about the technical one, because we are a special group of people who should [understand

how to configure for e-mail address. We know the technical one.] How to configure for developers is a special one.

So I'm also thinking that one maybe enough if people attend this ICANN Learn course, we do one webinar. During that, we call it what we want to call it, but during this time, that session, it'll be very open, we'll be sure that people understand the concept. So this is the way I see it. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thank you so much, Yaovi, for the clarification. I believe we also talked about ICANN Learn in the last session that we had. I actually didn't receive a certificate from ICANN Learn, but I think I received a confirmation of attendance, and it's less than one hour but it's quite good. So that'll be a very good prerequisite if you wish to have.

So during [inaudible] maybe two hours or so. Right? One session.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Yeah, one session of two hours.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Sounds good. And also interpreted in French.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Exactly.

SILVIA VIVANCO:	Okay, so we can prepare a poster with proposition so it can be promoted throughout AFRALO for two, three weeks so people start taking the class. We can think about—maybe we can do like a survey to see how many people are taking the class. We can talk about it, Yaovi, and make sure that people come prepared. Okay.
BRAM FUDZULANI:	So in that case, I think we've exhausted point one, the way forward in terms of—we will not call it a webinar, I think that's been agreed as well.
YAOVI ATOHOUN:	Yeah, something like that.
BRAM FUDZULANI:	Yeah, I think something that'll give attention to our ALSes and members to really come out and participate in the call.
YAOVI ATOHOUN:	So I'll make a comment to the document later today or early tomorrow morning. Yes.
BRAM FUDZULANI:	Okay. That's fine. Now I think we can move to the next steps. I think Silvia, you had mentioned you will get in touch with—Seun, please go ahead.

SEUN OJDEJI: Thanks. I just want to make a note. If we are editing the document, let's not do comments, let's make specific edits, text that we want to change, let's change it directly or [inaudible] suggestion mode so that we can see what we are changing, and Bram can then process it.

So I'd really appreciate the feedback—it'd be good that Yaovi and the team look at the call, because the call needs to attract members. We need the call to give members an idea of what they're going to be doing. So even within the call, [inaudible] the final date for the webinar, personally, I was thinking that it's going to be two webinars, the first one the introduction and the second one being [inaudible] and practical [inaudible] discussion like nature. But again, if just one call is what the GSE is able to do, that's fine. It would be good that we kind of need two, a kind of introduction and then the follow-up. But again, I'm open to any options. And I'm fine with us doing it after ICANN meeting, but at least let's get the call out this week.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: [inaudible] make inputs as soon as possible. And if you give us the ability to do suggestion mode, we will see the proposed changes. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Would you like to display the document on the screen now and see the contents of this draft?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Okay, but after the call, if you can give the link—

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes. Okay. So you see there the call that is drafted by Bram.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: For example, the second paragraph, ICANN, double N, just a typo. And then later tomorrow, you'll get the team's input, or latest, Thursday, because we have also a call on Thursday morning. So latest, Thursday by noon, you'll get our input to the document. We'll do our best. It'll be ready from our part. You already have the link to edit. Thank you so much, Yesim.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Maybe we [inaudible] ICANN Learn, we are calling on the members to be champions in your own communities by registering on ICANN Learn. So maybe the link there to the ICANN Learn platform. And Yaovi, should we put why, like a blurb or sentence on why universal acceptance is important or what it is? Because there is a call for action there in the three bullets.

That is the call for action. You'll be able to perform the following task, A, B, C, but before that, should—because people may not be aware, and you can say, why is universal acceptance important? Because we are able to read in your own language and something like that, explaining, three or four sentences. I guess that'll be useful for people to understand. Would that be possible before the call for action?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Like a sentence explaining why it's important? Yeah, we can think about something like that.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Yes, I think that'll be useful, and also the link to the ICANN Learn class, and for clarification, please contact AFRALO secretariat, or maybe stay tuned for dates, something like that, because we still haven't determined the dates. So this is like the first, this is going on, this is coming up, to start gathering more interest, and then stay tuned and register. Some people have time. Because the challenge we see is that many people are doing universities, schools, home office, so they're in front of their laptop for a long time, so it's better to leave them time to think, I don't know, in three weeks, I'm going to be on this class. I think that's better for them, to have very good notice, long time to prepare.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Okay. Well notes. I think the document, we have the comment also what's needed from our end, as I mentioned, we'll do that and also include one or two sentences on that one.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay. So the deadline then to comment this document will be on Thursday. Is that okay?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Yeah, Thursday by noon. This week.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Thursday 17th, [inaudible] 12:00 UTC. 12:00 UTC is early in the Americas, so I don't know, maybe let's put Thursday 19:00 UTC, afternoon for you in Africa, yes?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Okay.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Perfect. So that is a good time frame, I think, for everyone to agree. Okay, great. Thank you, Yaovi. And do you wish to then meet—also, I wanted to go over my action items. Yesim, if you'd be so kind to please show the action items from the last one that we had. Yes.

I was supposed to open a Wiki page—which I did—on AFRALO universal acceptance project 2022. I put a brief overview, and if you could please show the Wiki that I created. I can send it, but you can also look at it. Yes. That's it.

So I wanted to show you, this is the one-stop shop where everybody can look at the source, the information, the timing, the requirements, what is this project about. I put there the objective, Yaovi, what is the project about, I put the you know that the next billion Internet users will not be users of the Latin script, learn how to reach them and prepare your systems now for the future of the Internet. Something like that, I thought, would be interesting also to put on the draft that Bram has

prepared. And then universal acceptance, I explained what it is, and then number two is the resources on universal acceptance. I put the link there to the blog about how you can help to build a more digitally inclusive Internet which is part of the ICANN Org website.

And then AFRALO webinars on universal acceptance, we will change the word "webinars" by another word, but all of you have access to this Wiki page to post or to edit, but I can also do it for you. So if you want any documents or anything to be posted there, please let me know and I'd be happy to include any documents that you wish, Yaovi and all. So that's at your disposal as our main project Wiki. And I will also link—it's linked actually to the main AFRALO portal as well at your disposal.

I want to also remind everyone that Yaovi and Bob, we had an action item for you to send me materials to be posted on the AFRALO universal acceptance Wiki, and we agreed back then that two webinars will be held on introduction on fundamentals of universal acceptance. We said today that it's going to be one session, but we can talk about it maybe. Then Seun, Yaovi and Bob will coordinate on the contents, and then Bram was supposed to do the draft call, which he has done. So those are the action items.

So I will follow up today and add the action items to finish this call, launching the project by Thursday and then to continue meeting, if you wish. Next week, we don't have interpretation, but I believe—

YESIM SAGLAM:	Correct, Silvia. Next week, we don't, but the following week, we will. The first week of March, we will have interpretation.
SILVIA VIVANCO:	Yes, so if you wish to touch base, again, the first week of March, same day, same time. I see it empty on the calendar. We could already say that if you all wish to meet again to have this prep call.
SEUN OJDEJI:	Yes, we appreciate it if you can do a Doodle for that. Thank you.
SILVIA VIVANCO:	Okay. Great. Thank you so much, Seun.
SEUN OJDEJI:	I suggest we do a Doodle, if others are fine with it, unless there's nothing to discuss, but I think we should have something—we'll have some final content by then, and then from that content, [inaudible] by then, we can then finalize on the content itself. I hope [inaudible] we'll have a final on the date. But Yaovi, I still think that we can still kindly [inaudible] possibility of having two slots for the webinar. But let's see how the first one goes. If there's need for another one, we can add. But I think that two may be good. Thank you.
YAOVI ATOHOUN:	Yeah, no issue to have two. So maybe after the first one, we see how the first one goes and then we plan for the second one.

If I may, also on the action items, I sent an e-mail this morning to Silvia, so I proposed to link in the resources. So I sent it to you by e-mail. So one of them is a page where we have content on the various trainings. So that is one, and the second will be a proposal that will put the UASG website. So I'll send you an e-mail about that on the action item. So you have at least two links I'm proposing you put there. And for the rest of the page, okay, we'll also make some contribution, proposal to the page. Thank you.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Great. Thank you so much, Yaovi. So I will be on the lookout for your e-mail, adding more information to the Wiki page, and that can be shared also when the draft is finished with the membership so they can click on it and see what's posted there as a one-stop shop.

Okay, so I am hearing then that we are okay for—let's see, the calendar is Tuesday the 1st of March at 16:00 UTC, which is the same time as today.

YESIM SAGLAM: Yes, correct.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Okay, so if everybody here is okay with that date and time, then we will schedule our touch base call to go through where we are and next steps on March 1st. Wonderful. Thank you all. Any other comments, questions, remarks?

BRAM FUDZULANI: I think that'll be all. We've exhausted pretty much everything that was on the agenda, and the next way forward has been clearly marked. So [inaudible].

SILVIA VIVANCO: Fantastic. Thank you so much. It's taking shape. Thank you so much, Yaovi and everyone for the work, and we'll be in touch. I think we can adjourn the call. Thank you.

YESIM SAGLAM: Thank you all. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]