
YESIM SAGLAM:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to everyone. Welcome to APRALO monthly teleconference taking place on Thursday 19th of January 2023 at 06:00 UTC. On the call today we have Amrita Choudhury, Aris Ignacio, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Shreedeeep Rayamajhi, Eranga Samarathna, Satish Babu, Holly Raiche, Pavel Farhan, Ali AlMeshal, Shah Rahman, Maureen Hilyard, K Mohan Raidu, Puteri Ameena. I see Justine Chew is joining us right now as well.

We have received apologies from Naveed Bin Rais and from Gunela Astbrink.

From staff side we have Gisella Gruber and Athena Foo, as well as myself, Yesim Saglam and I will also be doing call management for today's call. And before we get started, just a kind reminder to please state your name before speaking for the transcription purposes. With that, I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Amrita. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you. Yesim. Welcome to the first monthly APRALO call for 2023. It is great to see our young fellows joining in and we hope to see them participating in our discussions more.

Today briefly, we have a policy update from Maureen, Holly and Justine, then I will briefly be sharing on the APRALO Outreach Engagement Plan, which was also shared with you and discuss how we take it to the next

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level. There will be a briefing on what Aris plans to do in APRICOT, and a brief discussion on the AP retreat. Shreedeeep would briefly say what he's been doing in the APRALO Policy Forum. There would be a discussion on the UA Day plans. And we will start our discussion on APRALO General Assembly. We have an update from Cheryl on the ROP and election process for APRALO, a social media update from Shah. Ali will be updating us on the NomCom. And if there is anything else anyone wants to speak, you will have the floor.

So with this, I pass it on to Maureen, who will give us a snippet of the GNSO guideline process for applicant support, which she is working on. We get to hear more from it. If you have any questions, queries, please put it into the chat. Thank you. And Maureen, over to you.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Thank you so much. And thank you, everyone, for being here today. It's really great. Very briefly, because I know we're really pressed for time. And I've left the these slides available for you in the agenda should you want to refer back to them.

The GNSO guidance process, the GGP is a program that's actually been developed by the GNSO Council to support the next round of new gTLDs, that's the ultimate point of it. And they've actually had four meetings already. And of course, I'm only just newly appointed to this group. So I've only attended one meeting. But we've got another one next week. And that [inaudible] in the topic of—I see my internet connection is unstable. I hope that hangs on.

The applicant support is topic 17 in the SubPro final report, and it's actually really interesting. It's only a few pages. But it is really interesting to see the developments that have actually been made by the SubPro group to improve on what happened last time. ICANN is making a real effort and the GNSO [inaudible] big effort to make sure that the applicant support program works for people who want to apply for a new gTLD this time around.

And the GGP is actually very strictly limited to providing guidance. We're not making a whole lot of new policy, we're not allowed to do that, we're actually going to be looking at developing metrics and making sure that the guidance that we give actually adds value to what it is that the GNSO ultimately wants out of this program. Next slide, please.

As I said, we've only got five things to do. And it seems to be quite easy. And what's more, those five things have to be done by September. We've got to make sure that we've got a guidance report, really to give to the GNSO before the AGM, because they actually want to launch the actual, the guidance booklet that they're going to be presenting.

And then the first two tasks, of course, were already done before I arrived onto the GGP. So that was sort of like just basically setting the scene for what the working group actually has to do, which is basically go through the recommendations and the implementation guidance that's actually in the SubPro. And we have to basically follow it and develop guidance that's going to sort of like be helpful to people who want to actually apply.

But at the same time, we have to develop metrics that are actually going to show that the guidance that we're going to give is actually going to add value to the work that ICANN wants to do with regards to the new round, when it actually eventuates. Next slide, please.

And when I'm talking about metrics, like this is a major focus, because in order to sort of like demonstrate that there has been an improvement on what happened last time—everyone talks about last time as being a complete failure, blah-blah. But at the same time, there are lots of lessons learned from that experience, and so that the SubPro document actually says we have to show that there's an improvement in the outreach, awareness raising, applicant evaluation and program evaluation elements of the applicant support program.

And so it has to be good for ICANN if we can actually get this report out in a way that is expected by the GNSO. And they've actually made that recommendation, but they also provide guidance, the implementation guidance is sort of like how I might—they're actually offering guidance to us as a GGP as to how might able to implement this recommendation. And of course, what they're saying is that the outreach and awareness raising activities that we're actually going to sort of like guide them through, need to be out, and to those people who are interested in becoming applicants in this whole process, well in advance, and the rationale is, of course, and it makes sense, that when you've got a longer lead time, it helps promote more widespread knowledge about the program.

So it makes sense. But it's further supported by another section of the report, which has to do with communication, is that they actually say

that for timeliness, the working group believes that the communication period should begin at least six months prior to the beginning of the application submission period.

The last time, things sort of like really got on top of everyone and the guidebook didn't come out until the application period actually opened. So what we're going to try to make happen this time is that people who are interested will get the information that they need at least six months, hopefully more. But it just means that there'll be better prepared.

Next slide. One of the things that we have to do as a working group is we have to look at how we're going to—the important thing here is what represents success, the success of the measurement techniques we're going to use, the approaches, the impacts it's going to have on applicants, all these things have actually got to be considered in our report. And it's got to make sense. And people who want to apply have to understand how they're going to be helped through this process.

[inaudible] recommendation 17.9, there's a whole lot of criteria. And this is one section of it. But it's one that's sort of like dear to the hearts of us in At-Large to do with outreach and awareness education. So this is one that I put out, but the criteria that we're looking at is on the site. So if you have any interest in the new round, the new gTLD round, it's really good to get some—or if you know of anyone who went through the process and had any difficulties, we need to hear just on these things, nothing outside—as I said, we're very limited in our scope. So let's have them read through the topic 17, it's going to be really important to get your feedback, we've got some excellent feedback

today actually, from the CPWG. So it's that kind of an input that we really need to take to the GGP and to make sure that what we do is actually going to add value.

And the final slide is really just pointing out like what our timeline is, and the others started off in December, and I'm sort of like coming in mid-January. But the process is that we work on tasks three, four, and five, getting those metrics done, finalizing the tasks and the metrics by the end of March and starting to put together a draft report.

The draft should be ready before the mid ICANN meeting. And it goes out the public comment so that you'll get an opportunity to have a look and make a comment then. And when the public comment period is over towards August, hopefully we'll develop the final report. And we'll be able to pass it over to the GNSO Council in September.

So I really think there's going to be pressure cooker, especially when it comes to the sorts of things that we're actually aiming to provide at the end of this period. So that's a sort of like a lightning talk on basically what I'm going to be involved in anyway, during this year. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Maureen, for sharing this at a higher level. I'm sure if anyone is interested, you can go and look at the attachment which Maureen has shared. If you have any queries, you can reach out to her and she's very accessible.

So we go to Holly, who will be sharing us a bit about the ICANN budget. For those who attended the APRALO policy call this month, she did

present out there but she will be giving a high level update here. Holly over to you.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you. I'll be really brief. I recommend to everybody the slides that should be available for the policy call. It was a reminder to everybody there. The Budget—it's a three-part document that includes the FY 24-28 operating plans and finance. It includes the actual budget for FY 24 as well as operating initiatives and so forth.

The presentation that I gave has a link to the actual document. The comments on budget are due on the 13th of February. There is a link to the Google Doc. Ricardo Holmquist, who is a member of the OFB working group, is developing some comments just on the numbers. I would suggest the things that are important to other people would be a look at the actual initiatives that ICANN will be undertaking and what you think of them, whether the initiatives that they're taking, will indeed produce the kind of initiatives that we're hoping. And our top initiatives have been things like the multi-stakeholder model, our number one initiative, or our number one choice for initiative, planning, participation. So have a look and look at the documents, particularly the final document, which is about the—not only the initiatives, but what tasks will be undertaken by ICANN to achieve those initiatives. I suggest that's where you look.

The other part of my presentation that I just referred to was also a look at funds available from ICANN for ICANN-related activities that can be applied for and talked about the ABRs, the CROP and this new grants

program. It's also in that plan. At some point if you want to hear about what was in the CPWG, the Consolidated Policy Working Group, happy to brief on that as well. But I think we're running out of time, if we're going to fit Justine as well.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yes, Holly, so we will just hear from Justine in case. Towards the end, if we have time, we will come back. I just have a question to you from—the ICANN budget is overall ICANN Org. But is there any significance flags from the At-Large or APRALO which you'll find is concerning, anything which you will want to flag?

HOLLY RAICHE: I have put up in other discussions when we look particularly at the operating initiatives that have been identified by ALAC as important to the At-Large community, the initiatives we focus on are both planning, decision making and the multi stakeholder model looking particularly at those and considering whether the activities that ICANN planned for this year will help deliver those outcomes. That's the way we've come at it before. And I'd suggest that's the way to approach budget comments. As I said, Ricardo is doing a very good job of just looking at the numbers. If other people are comfortable with budget numbers, by all means, but I'm not. And so I rely on him. But I do welcome just a thought about from a community point of view, are these the sorts of things that ICANN can be spending money on that will assist in advancing the multi stakeholder model and our participation?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you so much, Holly. For others, please do look at Holly's detailed presentation at the links. This is important for the community. So do have a look. You may not know the entire thing, but certain things, which are important, you may kind of flag it to the CPWG or mention it. So we go to Justine, if you could share what is happening in the IDN EPDP currently.

JUSTINE CHEW: Oh, yeah, sure. Sorry, I may sound a bit distracted, because I'm working at the same time. Okay, IDN EPDP, well, the majority of our time in the recent months has been spent on working out the feasibility of string similarity review for variants, because the plan is to introduce variants for IDN gTLDs in the next round, so you need to have some policy around how to govern those variants.

And variants in a sense, very simply put is, if you think of a set of variants, where you have the source or the primary gTLD and if you put that primary gTLD through what is called the root zone label generation rules tool, which is basically you know, think of it like an algorithm and then that algorithm will spit out results of a set of variant labels which are determined by that primary or the source label that you put into in the first place. And basically, this set will tell you that all these labels are considered similar, or they point to the same words.

So that is, in simple terms, the definition of variants, okay. So the idea is if two or more labels are considered the same thing or the same string, then you can't have one label being operated by one party and another label being operated by another party. Hence, we go into the notion of

having a set where the whole set of labels or strings have to be maintained by one group, if it's going to go out to anyone at all.

So the point being that string similarity review is the process within subsequent procedures that relies on the root zone LGR, has just been updated to version five, to determine what are the variants for each string. So if you imagine someone applying for a gTLD, in the next round, there could be variants associated with those gTLDs. Therefore those need to be identified, regardless of whether they're going to be applied for or not, but those need to be identified in order to establish that they don't conflict or they're not in contradiction to other people who are applying who may have also variants.

So, hopefully, that makes sense. Anyway, IDN EPDP is a very complicated PDP, I can tell you, if you ask anyone who's in the EPDP, it's tiring, it's complicated. And it has a lot of curly questions that we are still trying to find answers to. But in short, that's the bit that we've spent most of the time on.

And not to say the problem, but the difficulty with the string similarity is we have come up with a particular model called the hybrid model. I have spoken before about the hybrid model, I am not going to go into details. But the essence is that there are questions around the implementability of the hybrid model. Technically speaking, it's not an issue to implement it. But practically speaking, it adds complication and costs. Because the review itself is done by a panel of people. So imagine having to go through every single application, and then looking at the potential variants that are associated with a particular string that's being applied for, you can imagine that if there are 2000 applications

coming in, as expected for the next round, you're probably looking at having to match 2000 plus. So that's where the added complication may come in.

So we are still trying to find ways to make it feasible, as simplified as possible, so that it doesn't create more problems, it doesn't increase costs of the evaluation significantly. But we will still maintain that there will be some form of minimum comparisons that needs to be done. Because at the end of the day, what string similarity review is supposed to do is to reduce confusability among labels, and that is something that is important to end users.

And moving forward, the EPDP is now working towards issuing its initial report, draft initial report, timeframe we're looking at is April. So I think from February onwards, maybe mid-February onwards, the ALAC team of Satish, Hadia, and Abdulkarim would probably start presenting portions of the initial report through CPWG by way of consultation, I guess, and then we would look at formulating presumably an ALAC statement within that process. I think that's all I have to say about the IDN EPDP. Thanks so much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Justine, and thank you, Maureen, Holly and Justine to step in last moment to share your updates. Hopefully next month, perhaps Naveed or Satish can give us some updates also, since they are in the ALAC.

And now I'll briefly touch on upon the next part and if that link can be opened, which is on the APRALO Outreach and Engagement Plan, which we were building up along with the GSC team of APAC.

So, there are a number of activities which have been outlined. What we actually need to do now is start each of the people who have mentioned themselves as lead and I will not go through the entire document, you can look at it yourself and we can also post the link on the cha.

I would request each of the groups to actually start deliberating on the action plan for example, if you can go down a bit, if you can scroll down, there are some activities which are planned for the UA Day for example, in SANOG, the Bangladesh ISOC chapter and Shah are planning to do things.

We are thinking of doing some —we come up with the action plans for say TWNIC or any place which we plan to work on. And if anyone you know, there are names written here of people who actually said they are interested in case others also want to put in the contribute, they can get in touch with the leads, and we want real contributors, not just names.

if we can go down. So, I will not take much time, I will request you to go through it and each of the groups, the leads can discuss and come back on what they propose to do perhaps they can share it before the next APRALO Call which is on 16th Feb and then whoever can present something can do in the next monthly call. Hope that makes sense for most people.

There was one point where we discussed that we would be making communication material which is suitable for people to understand with pictographics, etc. On DNS abuse, IDN, UA, but I understand and Heidi can correct me if this—we were thinking of applying for an ABR but I think Heidi, this is going to be in the proposal which Natalia had shared, is that correct, my understanding? Or was that not included?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Yes. There are actually two cross-RALO submissions for additional budget requests for fiscal year 24. The first one is developed by Natalia which is for an E-onboarding system. That one did pass for the FBSC with a request to update that request. And she had done so.

The second cross RALO ABR was a request by Sebastien in EURALO for a Zoom Room for every RALO. And that one also passed FBSC and is likely to be sent into the controller of ICANN Org. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you. So Heidi, if I understand you, this is also part of it or this is not part of it.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Yours is within Natalia's. You're talking about the onboarding, correct?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

No, I'm talking about what we were suggesting of making material, a pictographic, etc. on UA, IDN and DNS abuse.

HEIDI ULLRICH: That one is in Maureen's. Sorry. There were two that I thought you were talking about. And that one was also accepted. That's an ALAC-wide proposal. And that is a capacity building pilot for APRALO and AFRALO. Maureen, did you want to add to that?

MAUREEN HILYARD: And just to confirm. This was one of the things that I included very specifically as an example that APRALO resource building was included as part of my project here.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Okay, thanks, Maureen, as long as it is accepted. Whichever way it goes, that's fine. But thank you so much. And yeah, please do go over it and I know Vivek and Jahangir and others have said—they volunteered [inaudible] and others. Please do work with your leads, the other leads or reach out separately to me, Aris and others and we will be happy to guide you on how to go about the planning and of course, there will be discussions with the GSE team who will be supporting us in this initiative. With this, I will pass it on to Aris because we have the APRICOT meeting next month and Aris is planning to do some activity there. So over to you.

ARIS IGNACIO: Hello, and good day to each and everyone. Thank you, Amrita. We are planning to hold a session during APRICOTG which will be held from

February 20 to March 2. I think the first four days of the event is the one that corresponds to the conference itself.

And actually, the event is currently a face to face event. And this is the first time that they're going to go there since the pandemic and they have been doing the online sessions for the past two years. And with regards to updates on the current standing of the communication with regards to the organizers, the organizers told me that if we're going to initiate a session, because the session will involve DNS abuse awareness, it's like an orientation of which it's geared towards students and newcomers and mostly who are not really familiar with DNS and also [inaudible] that it's been taken.

So I've been in constant communication with the organizers. And they told me that—I was quite surprised by it. But I was just requesting for an hour and a half session. But they told me that we need to sponsor a particular room for us to be able to conduct that specific session. And I was quite surprised. That certain statement that they gave me.

And also with regards to the speakers, maybe one speaker who is an expert with regards to DNS abuse would be great, maybe coming from ICANN or something. That will be very beneficial.

But when I was checking, not only the website, but also [inaudible] I discovered that ICANN is a community sponsor of APRICOT, [level two.] And one thing, I really don't know the coverage of the community sponsorship. Maybe [inaudible] GSE can clarify that. Because if we are a community sponsor, maybe we can just be given a simple time slot and a certain area where we can conduct our specific outreach activities.

So as of the moment, that's really the bottom line. I do hope that maybe anyone from the group would be able to give some clarification on how we can proceed with this. But as much as possible, I'm in constant communication with them. So if [inaudible] could give me a little bit of on how to proceed further, with regards to all of the things that I have mentioned, it would be to great. Thank you so much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Aris. Perhaps you can start a letter with ICANN GSE team to give us some more clarity. And we can also speak to the APRICOT and APNIC team on this. I see Satish's hand up.

SATGISH BABU: I'll be at APRICOT in person from 23rd to 27th. So regarding the room, I think we can take it up with Jia-Rong, ask them for support for the session that we're planning. Thanks.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Satish. I think it is workable, we will just have to see what best works and see what we can do, perhaps start a small discussion on this. And with this, we pass on to the next agenda item which was discussion on the presentation on AP retreat. So I believe that APRALO is also a member of the APSTAR community and Pavel is managing the secretariat. And then Satish put it to my notice that we could give a presentation during the AP retreat. I haven't attended any of them. I would like to hear from Satish, Maureen or the others who have attended it, what could be that we present there, in just a few minutes.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Amrita. So APSTAR organization [basically] share anything new that they have taken up in the last one year in these sessions. So normally, Maureen has presented in the past on ALAC. And I have presented on—Liana has presented on APRALO and I have done on [APSIG].

So [inaudible] you can take a look at them. But basically it is just updating the regional community on what is new with APRALO. Thanks.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Satish. And I see Maureen also posting it in the chat. Perhaps we can look at the previous documents and create a community presentation wherein others can also put in what we should highlight briefly. And Pavel, how much time do we get for this presentation?

PAVEL FARHAN: Currently, actually, we have a lot more time this year, because we're getting both the morning and afternoon sessions on the 26th of February. I believe that just for the APSTAR. And so we are considering that will have presentations in the morning, and we will have the more thematic discussions later in the afternoon. So in the morning, I believe we have from 9:30 to 12:00, so Satish and I will discuss this and we're considering maybe up to six presentations.

Usually before we used—like in the previous version, we gave around 10 minutes per presentation because of the limited time. But this time, we are still considering—there's no really time limit, because we want

to see the—the call for presentations just went out yesterday. So we're just waiting for more presentations to come in before we can decide how many minutes to give one. So right now, you're welcome to please send in all the presentations. And of course, Satish and [inaudible] from APNIC are the chair so they will look at it. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thanks, Pavel. So we will keep it in mind that it would be around 10 minutes, which can stretch so we would keep that in mind while making submissions. So with this, I will go to Shreedeeep, who will give us a brief of what happened in the policy forum meeting.

SHREEDEEP RAYAMAJHI: Yes, thank you Amrita. In the last APRALO policy forum meeting, we had a brief update from Cheryl about the CPWG. Maureen did update us about this GNSO guidance process. And Holly did a wonderful presentation about the ICANN budget. And Nabil has shown [inaudible] the position of the co-chair. It was announced by Gunela. And he has shown to take up the position. And apart from that, a lot of suggestions were forwarded to us in context of the working document that we are doing, and we will be working on that as well. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thanks. Have we framed what we are planning to do at least in February, since January is gone, what we plan to do in February, March, or is this still something which we have to plan?

SHREDEEP RAYAMAJHI: Right now, we have not framed about what to do for the February. But during the meeting, we finalized that we would be cleaning up the documents and we will be further working on how we would be going about the whole APRALO policy forum with the document and the cleaned up document would be forwarded to the group and further communication would be done. So that was the update.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Right, thanks. Perhaps Aris, me and Gunela also will look into the document and give some structure so that we can plan out what is feasible and what is not. We need to really start working on it. Thanks so much. And the next update, I believe is on the UA Day plans. So Satish, briefly tell us about UA Day. And I look forward to everyone, after Satish speak for two minutes, others can also share what we can do as APRALO.

SATISH BABU: So the UA Day is on 28th of March, the call for applications is open currently until the 31st of Jan. And I'd like to request anyone who would like to organize the program at the local level, the national level, or APRALO level, to put in proposals. We are currently between—we are trying to get all RALOs [inaudible].

Presently AFRALO and APRALO have expressed an interest to have a joint program. We may have more RALO chairs kind of coming up together to joint initiative. But as of now, at least two are interested.

So there is funding available if required. And in the first year, the assessment is likely to be quite liberal. And any proposal that does not require funds can automatically approved, any proposal that requires funding, there is a committee set up from the UASG leadership, which will examine these things and on a rolling basis, approve those projects which are considered completely doable immediately.

And since we don't know how many are going to come before the deadline, we'll push the—in cases where we're not fully convinced, we'll push it to the end of the deadline. And then after the deadline is over, we'll kind of assess all of them together.

So funding is not a problem currently, because being the first time, [inaudible] can go ahead and kind of be liberal about it. There's also a physical event which is happening, most likely in Delhi, India, for which some of the ICANN Board members are likely to travel.

But you are encouraged to organize programs around 28 or basically 28 will be ideal, but if it's not possible then maybe just before 28 so that we can list them all together on the website, what's happening where. Thanks. Back to you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thanks. So my question to you is, if we have a call with the other RALOs, what is it we could propose that we want to do as APRALO in total and obviously? And we can have ALSes etc. doing their own things or individual members also wanting to share posts, etc., which is also an activity at the ALS or individuals level. My question to all is, what as

APRALO can we do together on UA, if you can think of something? Shah, over to you.

SHAH RAHMAN:

Thank you. I just have a small question that if in case in a local level, if anyone want to organize a UA Day session on the universal acceptance, so the organization needs to be the nonprofit or any company can also make [inaudible] of this program? Anyone eligible to—

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

This financial support we are talking of at this point is only for ICANN affiliated people, for APRALO members, ALSes or individuals who want to do and whose program is justified. I don't think an XYZ company can come and say I need funding for this initiative unless and until they have been very much involved in the ICANN ecosystem.

SATISH BABU:

And to add to that, the first is that there are speakers being made available, there's a call for speakers in the UA community, people can volunteer. So in case your program requires speakers—because you may not be kind of yourself an expert in UA—then there is a panel of speakers in different languages like Bengali, Hindi, and so on. There's so many languages people have now volunteered. So that is available.

the slide decks are also available. And there are three kinds of programs being visualized. First is the awareness building, which is very simply that entry level thing. Second is technical training, which is more for the developers in [inaudible]. And the third is strategy session wherein we

try to figure out how best to kind of achieve UA compliance. Back to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Satish. And Cheryl, over to you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thanks. To some extent, Satish eventually turns into what [inaudible] end of the intervention [inaudible] return to what I was going to raise, and that is what it says on the UA Day page, the availability of resources is not something that one has to come up with novel and new material, nothing needs to be designed. It literally is off the shelf, plug and play stuff. It is highly resourced. It's also resulted in minor funding as well. And I know, as far as I understand, one of the advantages of doing something that was more coordinated across the At-Large community, by the RALOs or not, would be the possibility of having a less competitive and perhaps more rewarding opportunity to have access to such resources without duplication or competition. I suspect Heidi will comment on that and make greater details available. Thanks.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes, thank you very much, Cheryl. So it is early days still on all of this, but there are plans. I know that you're looking at a white space on this page right now. But we are in the process of kick starting that and we're adding it to some of the RALO calls, we'll be adding it to the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee call to start filling these activities in.

Jonathan has been in touch with Sarmad, who is the supporter of the UASG and just to get more information on what kinds of activities they are offering and Satish did note them, that there are three types. The one that if we can click on the UASG UA Day 23 website, you can see that there are three types of activities. And this is a very simple page to look at. And the online form for the proposal to get funding is one page. And you'll see that there are UA awareness sessions, UA technical training sessions and UA strategy sessions.

So perhaps for At-Large to bring in that civil society element, you might think about doing this UA awareness session. And again, if you scroll down a little bit, you can see that again, they're ready made, they're off the shelf, as Cheryl mentioned, scroll down to that orange tab. And you can see that they range from I think half a day, one hour, there's one for half a day, a two-day event. So again, it's now time to start planning what you would like to make sure that across APRALO, there are events happening, hopefully we can get something in the Middle East as well. But all the way across Asia, and down into Australasia as well. But we will be looking at that for the RALOs.

And for ALAC, we are hoping to get the Social Media Working Group involved and get a specially made graphic for UA Day and At-Large for all of the ALSes and individuals to start tweeting out and there might be a contest involved. So lots of things to plan still, but I can feel the excitement coming up with all these—the potential to have At-Large and its global reach come into play here. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Heidi, for all this. And we do have the UA ambassadors who are members of certain ALSes, at least two of them I know are from there. So if you want, we can also use them. We have one from ISOC Delhi and one from ISOC Calcutta. Also, UA ambassadors whom I know. We could use them. And others, do think about it, deliberate. And you can also come up with your ideas, share it within the APRALO community, just in case to see if it works. If it doesn't, then how it can be tweaked and strengthened?

There are people who can also hold technical discussions with the help of the experts who are there. An online discussion is also something which can be considered in places where it is important. So yes, do think about it, and in case you're interested, you can look at it. I know the Middle East and the [inaudible] are pretty active in this. Other regions also. In case you're looking at it, please think about it. And with this, we go to the next agenda which is over to Cheryl, I guess. Oh, yes, a discussion on the GA. Heidi or Gisella, would you like to lead this discussion?

HEIDI ULLRICH: Maureen or Cheryl, I'm going to ask you first and if not, then either Gisella or I can cover.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Okay, then Cheryl, over to you or Maureen.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Perhaps Maureen. She's an ALAC member, I'm just hanging around.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Well, just putting in a word here. the general assembly is something that [inaudible] five years since we had our last general assembly and the deliberations that actually sort of come out of those assemblies are really interesting, because they cover our membership.

And so there's a lot of work that needs to be developed for a GA, but also, we need to confirm when we're going to hold it and in association with what organization, and from my perspective, I was actually wondering, has the leadership team had discussion about this? Because it is really vital that that information gets to staff, because you know what their timeframes are with regards to planning and organizing overseas travel. And for a GA, that's really big. So that's my input. Cheryl can give her little input. And so that we can sort of get this—I'm really keen to ensure that we have another great general assembly.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Satish, please go ahead.

SATISH BABU: A couple of kind of independent threads that we have to probably be doing. One is, of course, immediately we have to get Heidi's kind of permission for the GA in the sense of the budget, and you know, the location, all that. So that is the first approval.

SATISH BABU: We need to then discuss where we're going to have it. The proposals so far were IG F in Japan, or APRIGF, wherever it's going to be—we don't

know where it is going to be. That was only two options on the table. If there is a third option, the leadership team has to discuss that.

Thirdly, we have to have a process of identifying the ALSes and individual members or their representatives who are to participate. And that requires a process. So the process should take into account how much they participate, because we may not have budget for all the ALSes to participate. So we need to have some filter based on the performance and participation in APRALO activities.

Fourth, we have to prepare a schedule and a program for the actual GA itself. So I think we have to get more active on this. Maybe a small group or a team has to start work on it and [inaudible] on all these and then follow up on all of them. Thank you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Heidi, I think you need to respond to some of that.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes, Cheryl. Thank you. And thank you everyone. Satish, you raised a lot of points. This will actually be the fifth and final general assembly that our staff team has held in the last two years. So we are well into GA development mode. And you hit all the points Satish, so well done there.

So just to let you know that there is budget for this, we have planned it forward already. We believe that all of the ALSes, one rep per ALS and also an individual rep will be funded for this. We know it's going to be not at an ICANN meeting. So as you mentioned, the global IGF in Kyoto

in October 2023. We've looked at those dates, they are far enough away from the ICANN AGM to make it just possible. So that's something that you might wish to consider where you could perhaps hold your GA on day zero, and then have a sort of a joint IGF and GA on day two. So it'll be funded for three nights and two days. So that would work in perfectly to that schedule. Those who wanted to stay at the IGF, you're welcome to do so, but you'd have to cover that funding for the hotels on your own. So that's something to consider.

Definitely a planning committee. All of the GAs that have been held or are being scheduled now do have at least one, if not two, organizing committees. And there's a mix of events where there are—most of the themes of the other GAs have been about getting people reengaged after the pandemic. So that's something you may want to consider, identifying a theme, and then developing your GA meetings around that theme.

The other GAs that we've held have been really successful, bringing those people back in, after not seeing each other for so long, and really developing outcomes to make sure that they are reengaged. They're really excited to be a part of ICANN and At-Large, and, of course, APRALO. So that's something to consider.

So Satish, I think I've answered most of your questions. But if we could get some sort of I'm starting to look at the chats, yes, IGF looks like that you might be in agreement with. If that is the case, I'm happy to start working with GSE and our meetings team and others to start moving that forward. Thank you so much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Heidi, I think IGF is something which we may want to look at likely because we do not know what is happening in APRIGF, we do not have a host yet. So perhaps we can start the discussion. And as many mentioned in the chat, like Ali and others, that we could perhaps have a small group created of active users. I use the word active because we do have many groups coming up. But we need to have people who are actually interested to work, who are experienced and who have experience in other places to actually organize these events so that this can be worked out.

With the group of—Jahangir, you will have to put it in the chat. I'm sorry, we are running out of time. So I will quickly go to Cheryl, who may want to share a bit on the ROP and election process for APRALO. This is also critical to understand who our members are, individual members are, etc.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much. In fact, whilst we're on Rules of Procedure, it's germane to the last conversation. And I just want you all to know that I thoroughly and absolutely support the wisdom of the leadership team of APRALO just getting down and making a decision. The matter of reasonable urgency that they just look to Kyoto. It is the safest and the most practical for a number of reasons that I won't go into, but trust me on this, it is the best option, and certainly one that ICANN can quite easily manage. And it gives us a little bit more[inaudible].

Now one thing that happens at a general assembly, ladies and gentlemen, is modifications, if they are required, or any updating of important administrative tools. One of the most important of which is the rules of procedure we operate by.

And we have got, as you all know from previous presentations at these monthly meetings, a whole lot of little review things or little pieces of review going on regarding our rules of procedure for APRALO as we make sure that we are meshing perfectly with the requirements for the unaffiliated members and the ALS expectations and criteria in a post-mobilization and ALAC and At-Large review set of recommendations.

All of that's happening. if we do it in Kyoto, we should have a whole set of rules to actually approve of at the AGM because a general assembly or an annual general meeting but a general assembly in particular is the time where you've got the members, the delegates of all the At-Large structures and representatives of the individual membership within the region gathering together who can agree on the wholesale or otherwise changes of rules as presented. So we could work A number of things towards that Kyoto meeting, I'm just going to keep saying it so it becomes true.

However, something we'll need to do well in advance for that is pay attention to an annual requirement, which this is just an introduction, I'll ask if Yesim, apart from what you're displaying, which is fantastic, thank you very much, it's perfect, is also to just put into chat for those who are keen and who want to refresh their memory on the current rules that we operate under, Section D, which is page 30 of the current rules is the part that talks about selections, elections and appointments.

There are references to leadership teams, and who does what and how it's done. And all that fun stuff out there in the document.

But it is this section D, we need to consider in our annual cycle of refreshing the leadership team and some of the appointments we made from APRALO. Please pay attention to the following. Unlike most other regions, we have in our rules the requirement, the expectation that we will first try to make, wherever possible, consensus decisions.

Other regions are required to vote, they are required to go through very specific election processes. They're required to have all sorts of things happening even if you've got an incumbent who nobody is running against.

We do not have that in our rules. We are consensus first. And if we do not come to consensus on the leadership team and the appointments, then we resort to vote. And we need to get our consensus making activities planned. We need to have those consensus making activities completed by probably the last week of May. Yes, that's not far off.

Why do we need to finish those consensus building procedures by the end of May? Because by the end of June, we have to complete, including if we need to go to vote, and for a possible runoff vote, if we need to go to vote and there's a tie, we would have to have time to do all of that before the end of June, preferably three weeks before the end of June.

So you need to now think and we'll pick it up at our next meeting, who and how you might want to be encouraging, including self-nominations

to bring forward to the leadership roles. Read section D, know what you're playing with, and we'll take it from there.

Sorry about the extra time. But obviously, the Satish, gives us time to do the vetting with ICANN Legal. That's why the Kyoto meeting is ideal. So that's pretty much all we have time for today. But Section D is your Bible on this. Back to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Cheryl. Would you want that we have a separate calls for team working on this? Because this also needs some deliberation like we did earlier. If so, you could perhaps request for a meeting with the same team or whoever's interested to come in and look at it because we don't have much time.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I don't I understand what you said.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Okay, what I said is, in case we want some changes in the document, would you like a separate call or a small group to look at it like we did for the rules of procedures and others? [inaudible]

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: [inaudible] and it's not scheduled. It's not proposed to have changes made. And regardless, this will be the rules we run this year under.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yeah, but there was some concerns about certain election criteria. Perhaps you may want to look at [inaudible]

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: These are the rules we have to run this year under, the existing Section D.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yeah, but for future, in case we want to look at it, do we want to—

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Section D doesn't affect the criteria, it affects [inaudible].

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: No, ill get back to you on this separately. There was a concern which was raised last time, so not on this, but on our nomination process.

JUSTINE CHEW: You ladies might want to take that offline.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yeah. It's got nothing to do with what we need to do today or what we need to do this year, and we have a small group that's still running through the rules of procedure. And if that is still in fact a viable concern, which I don't think it is—happy to hear if it is—then it needs to come into the small team that's actually doing that work.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thanks, Cheryl. I was asking if for the small team, you want the call to discuss—that was my initial question. But anyways, we can take it separately. And now I go to Shah, who wants to present on what social media group is working on.

SHAH RAHMAN: Thank you. The social media working group update, just a few [inaudible] the two meetings of the social media [liaison group committee] has held and then that meeting with the working group members. As this time the meeting is going to happen in Cancun, this time, the social media leading by Lilian and the LACRALO team, also this time they have their GA. So there is a little bit additional social media working on the ICANN 76 as well as their GA.

So as like previous years, this social media strategy have been followed and developed. It's a three-week span pre event during the ICANN and that goes to ICANN meetings. According to Lilian, they are trying to organize different promotional video, and this time they are doing in different language from the leader, like Jonathan, then León and in different all languages, they are covering their video messages.

That means that welcome message for the ICANN. And this will be start from the February. The plan is almost ready. The next week or after the next week, that plan will be finalized. So this time we are helping from different regions, like from AFRALO and other region liaison, we are helping Lilian to develop this strategic plan. And we are also waiting for the final schedule of the At-Large session that will promote during and

before the event that will cover the At-Large relation to different topics. And also we'll cover some of the small talks from their regional.

So we are using different platform like Facebook, Twitter, Google, Instagram, [inaudible]. So this is the plan till now. In addition, this meeting also will have a social media contest in Twitter. That will be only for the ICANN 76, but for the GA, they will make it a separate and some of that social events for their GA they will do it by their own team. So that is the update with me. Anyone from our regions, if you want to participate in the working group, can send staff a mail so he can participate the meeting and can give the additional [inaudible].

I just have a question to all of you in case you have any additional things that you want to share with us or the liaison committee, then you can put the comments, I will discuss with the social media working leader, and we'll follow up with that. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thanks so much for the update. APRALO will be supporting the LACRALO in spreading the word about the next ICANN meeting. And with this, I go to Ali, I guess, there is an update from you from the NomCom.

ALI ALMESHAL:

Yes, thank you. I guess you put me the last because the best is always for the last. Yes, I'm sure that we are a bit late now. I'll just go quickly. The announcement has already been published and out, starting from 11th January the Applications are accepted. So because I have given an

update before about the open positions, but I will go through that in a quick.

As I said, 11 January until the 23rd of March, we are accepting the applications for the open positions and they are two for the board, each of them are for three-years terms. And we have one for PTI and one for the ccNSO Council. From our end, we have three positions, one for APRALO, for the At-Large, and one for AFRALO and one for LACRALO. So we have three At-Large positions open. And we have two positions for the GNSO, one for the contracted parties and one for noncontracted parties.

So please spread the word about the open positions. And you can look into the ICANN NomCom page. There are so many information and even the job descriptions, what does it require for each position and the portal for candidate who want to apply.

Also, I may request you if you have any sessions or events that you want me to attend, to just give the word and do a presentation about the NomCom and the open positions, it will not take more than five minutes. So if you have any sessions that can help to promote the open positions and help to promote to get new blood and new people into the ICANN community, just let me know in advance and I will arrange and I will share with you the presentation which will not take as I said more than five to seven minutes to do in any meetings that you have. So I can just participate into that. So [inaudible] are available as I said on the NomCom website, all about the positions and the job required. Done with that. Back to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Ali. Thank you for sharing this update, a very important update indeed. And it is important that we as a community spread the word not only about the board positions, but also if there is anyone interested in the APRALO position. Do go to the website, if you want, you can ping Ali. if you have any questions, queries, etc. And I would request before we close the call or if anyone has any AOBs, we can go into it. But if you can switch on your cameras, we will have Yesim taking a picture of all of us which I can use in social media. And I like your background, Ali. And this is nice.

ALI ALMESHAL: Thank you. This is in Montreal.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: That's nice. And Yesim, let us know when you finish the picture. And if anyone has an AOB, we will look at that.

YESIM SAGLAM: Just give me one second, please. I will need to take two pictures as I'm seeing two—Okay, smile, and one more please. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yes, thank you. Anyone has any questions, etc., or any AOB which someone would want to discuss, you can be quick. We have our next call on 16th February. Before that, I would ask the groups who had the

leads to actually work on things. We have not many things to do, make a small team for the GA activity and you have other things to look at. So please do look at it in case you want to share something from your ALS or individual member in the next call. Let us know in advance so that we can plan it out that way.

ALI ALMESHAL: [inaudible] I know like Aris and others might have some events here and there. So think about that event. If it is good for me to jump in, just for five minutes. Just let me know so I can participate and give some about the open position as part of our outreach and engagement for the open position and NomCom. Thank you. And others as well.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Please do remember any events, please let Ali know as he has said that he will participate and share more. And Happy Chinese New Year to those who are celebrating at the end of the week. Bye then. Till the next call or meet you online.

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

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]