YESIM SAGLAM:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO monthly teleconference taking place on Thursday 17th of August 2023 at 06:00 UTC. On our call today we have Amrita Choudhury, Holly Raiche, Amin Sharif, Bibek Silwal Cherie Lagakali, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Dr. Vladimir Svanadze, Hong Xue, Justine Chew, Katarina Gevorgyan, Mabda Haerunnisa Fajrilla Sidiq, Mohammad Kawsar, Pavan Budhrani, Pavel Farhan, Priyatosh Jana, Samik Kharel, Satish Babu, Shah Rahman, Shreedeep Rayamajhi, Suhaidi Hassan and Udeep Baral. And I see new people are joining as well. All those names will be recorded after the call.

And just to cover our apologies, we have received apologies from Gunela Astbrink and from Athena Foo from staff's side. And we do have Gisella Gruber and 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 names before speaking for the transcription purposes, please. And with this, I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Amita. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Yesim. And hi, everyone. I'm Amita for the record. So what we would do today is we will just give you a brief on the APRALO General Assembly. Then we'll have Justine take you through the APRALO Policy Forum. She will be highlighting the key takeaways from the ICANN 77 readout. There were two town halls this month. She would be highlighting the key takeaways, sharing what would be the aims of the APRALO Policy Forum, the calendar and priorities. And she

would be talking for the input, call for inputs on the ALAC proposal, which she again shared yesterday CPWG, but she will be highlighting it. And towards the end, we will just update you on the expression of interest for the policy transition program on the new gTLD registration data. So this is what the agenda is for today. If anyone wants to add anything, you can add it at the AOB, you can put it into the chat. And we will squeeze in time. So this is the agenda and we will be discussing the APRALO General Assembly first.

As many of you I see from this list are participants for the General Assembly and few may not be traveling to Istanbul, but this is going to be a hybrid meeting. The General Assembly on the 12th and 13th of September. But most of the travelers would be arriving on 11th. And so there would be a reception on 11th evening. And for the General Assembly to keep everyone updated, there is going to be a webinar on 24th August at 06:00 UTC. The travelers have been sent an email by staff to register for the General Assembly and also register for the pre-webinar. So we are expecting you to be there and there are some homeworks to be done, which will be shared along with the expectation checklist, etc. We are excited to meet you in Turkey, but we also want to do some work. So this is from my end, but Gisella may want to add something because she's managing the entire brunt of the logistics, travel, planning, etc. While staff are, everyone is doing, but Gisella is front-ending it. Gisella, would you like to add something on the GA? Anything which I have missed?

GISELLA GRUBER:	Amrita, thank you very much. This is Gisella for the record. And for those of you attending the GA in person, I'm very much looking forward to seeing again and meeting everyone in Istanbul in three weeks' time. And we hope that many will be joining remotely as well. And now you have covered most of the aspects, we will be looking forward to seeing you on the Monday at the welcome reception, which will be held at 6:00 PM. I will admit that we are looking at the flight details of most of the people to make sure that we maximize on that welcome reception and have most people present. So we may need to make that welcome reception maybe half an hour or an hour later so that we can see as many of the in-person attendees as possible. And there are still a few outstanding members who we need to confirm travel, etc. So if you have received an email from travel support, please do make sure to have a look at it and action it as soon as possible. Other than that, keep an eye on this page as this is a living space and we will provide you with as much information as possible on this space. And again, if you do have any questions, I will remain at your disposal at any time. Thank you very much.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY:	Thank you, Gisella, for this. And we have also for an informal channel created a WhatsApp group. If someone is missing, please ask. Aris, me and Shah are trying to reach out to all the travelers and get them included. So any issues you have, you can also leave it there. If we can, we will try to respond and solve or we will pass it on to staff wherever possible. So yes, I see a question from you Samik and it is a few meetings ago it was announced that few individual members would also get an opportunity. Yes, it was announced. For example, Priyatosh Jana,

Pavel would not be able to travel unfortunately, Bibek, and I think there are one or two more individual members who are traveling to Turkey for this, but others can always join online because this is going to be a hybrid meeting. Yes, Justine, you are from the leadership, so you don't have to say me too out here. So yes, as in everyone is welcome to join online and participate, but these are people who would be funded from ICANN at this point of time.

If there is no other questions on the GA, we will then move on to Justine with what she wants to share on the APRALO policy forum. So Justine, over to you.

JUSTINE CHEW: Thanks Amita, this is Justine. Okay, so I seriously doubt I'm going to take 30 minutes, but never mind. I just wanted to report on a couple of things that have happened under the policy forum banner, the APRALO policy forum banner. And for some of these, I may invite my colleagues to chime in if they wish to.

The first one is that in early July, we did an activity, which is the ICANN 77 readout. I believe it was successful and we had quite a lively discussion there and many attendance. And we have actually got a report out of that. So I think moving forward, whenever APRALO policy forum runs an activity, we're going to have some kind of reporting out of that. So it's not just the activity and so forth, and then everybody forgets about it. The idea is if there is some outputs from an activity that we can take forward and maybe build on it, or it sort of fits into the other holistic goal that we're trying to achieve, then that would certainly

happen and I would ensure that that happens. So in terms of the takeaways, I will leave folks here to read the takeaways. The link is on the agenda. And what I might do is either myself or I will get staff to actually send out the reports from both this particular event as well as the next event, so that the wider APRALO membership is aware that there is a report that they can refer to.

For this one, I'm not sure I want to get into specifics. I think it's quite clear. Maybe, Cheryl, you might want to comment on this if you like, because you were the moderator for this particular event. Would you like to make a comment?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yes, very briefly. Thank you. Thank you, Justine. One of the things I wanted to make a comment on was how outstanding I thought the group you put together to speak on behalf of, well, not just me, of course. I'm always wonderful, but that's not actually a joke. But I do hope you're amused. The group you put together to represent the different parts of ICANN, they were just excellent with the way they were able to dump really useful but succinct information for our learning and churning of thought.

And the other thing I wanted to compliment was the very good follow-up. What you see on the screen is really a small part of the material that some of the younger and newer members that you've got involved in the policy group now. And I was, to say the least, pleasantly surprised and delighted when I saw the rough drafting that had happened from

that team. So, if that's the beginning of what's to come, I think it's something we should do in the future.

The only other thing I would just mention is that you will see a strong nexus between what is in these proposed and potential next steps coming out of this documentation and what might be being incorporated into parts of the more interactive sessions in the General Assembly coming up in September. That's it. Thank you.

JUSTINE CHEW: Thank you very much, Cheryl. Yes, I should note that the report was actually produced by four people, including myself, Cheryl, and I should name [Namra Nasir and Vivek Sehwal.] So, Namra and Vivek is part of a research team that I've put together to do certain projects. So, yeah, it's the first great output from them with a little bit of help from us, I guess, Cheryl and myself.

I thought it was a successful event in terms of it achieved its intended goal. And I'm sorry to take this out of order, but in terms of what we discovered through the town hall meeting, I think people thought the same, participants at the town hall meeting thought the same about the ICANN 77 readout. And I think that's going to be an indication for us to do an ICANN 78 readout post ICANN 78, obviously.

Right, so I'm just going to go on and carry on the report. If there's any questions that people want to ask about certain things, then please feel free to put up your hand or put something in the chat, right?

So, in terms of the town hall meetings that happened last week, we ran two sessions because we wanted to try different time slots to see whether we could reach different sort of people. There, again, I did a very short output report on that, and you'll see some of the things that we captured out of that particular two sessions, right? And it will also provide indications of how we would take certain activities forward with the APRALO Policy Forum onwards. Okay, so again, I'll leave you all to read the very short report, and if there are questions, then by all means, please raise them here.

Moving on to the refresh APF aims, priorities, and calendar. So, one of the things that we focus on, or the key thing that we focus on during the APF town hall meeting was this particular document, which captures refreshed aims and also how we go about achieving those aims, and to see if there were anything that needed to be changed or added to in terms of the priorities for the RALO for 2023 to 2024.

And you will see that, indeed, there has, based on the town hall meeting outputs, we have now added priority number five, so consideration for new topics, which are internet fragmentation as well as aspects of the next round of new gTLDs. So, we're going to factor that into our planning for future events under the APRALO Policy Forum. And mind you, this particular document isn't set in stone. Inputs are constantly being welcomed. So, again, the link to this document is in the agenda wiki. So, if you would like to just go in, have a look, and you want to maybe propose an activity, then by all means, you can either put something in the calendar, as you see on the screen, or you can contact us by email, and we can discuss how we want to structure a particular activity that you have in mind.

Okay. I hope I'm being clear enough. Again, if there's any questions or comments, please feel free to put them in the chat or share them with us right now. So, in terms of the APF Town Hall, I'd like to ask Shah if he has anything to add in terms of what I've spoken about. He hosted the second session, so... And Amrita, also, you hosted the first session, so you might want to make a comment. But let Shah go first.

SHAH RAHMAN: Okay. This is Shah, for the record. Okay. Upon participation of that two sessions, I think that the first time slot is most appropriate, maybe 6:00 UTC for the next APF forum that we can organize. And my second observation is about the difficulties some... You have shared in your reports some of the... I may suggest that if we can add some additional resource before the meeting, so they can go through and can get the interactions upon reading that materials. Maybe those who are a little bit not much involved with this, so they can get by reading and can jump into our meeting actively. That is my concern. Thank you.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So, preparatory materials, basically, that you're talking about. Again, that's obviously going to be subject to the particular activity that we run. For example, if it's a webinar, then obviously we can share preparatory materials ahead of time. Then it's up to the members to actually find time to read it beforehand. But if it's in terms of like an ICANN readout, there really isn't much preparatory materials to go with that. So, I think it's going to be subject to the activity that we run. But comment noted. Amrita, did you have anything?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Not really, Justine. I think the different formats would require, as you say, different kind... Some need homework, some are interactive, people hear from it and then they can ask questions. But since different people are in different levels of understanding, obviously there are different formats in which we work. I think one of the suggestions was to have more discussions on those topics so that people understand it more. Somewhere someone had said. But overall, I think we learn from the input which comes in and more inputs coming in would help us to improve further. Because at the end of the day, we want you to participate, to understand, share your inputs and also pass it down to your communities and be the people who can actually share what the end users want there. So, I think whatever inputs we are getting, Justine, things are being modified and more inputs would help. So, one is please feel free to share your inputs so that we can improve. And I guess the morning time suits more people. That is the understanding which we got. But again, we cannot satisfy everyone.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah, indeed. Timing is always an issue because if you look at APRALO, the span of APRALO, it goes from, I don't know, New Zealand right up to almost close to Middle East. So, what is the best time for everyone? Really, it is hard. Yes, Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Cook Island to Armenia, it is one hell of a time zone selection. It is literally 27 hours. If you go from Cook Island all the way around. So,

finding a sweet spot is interesting. I just wanted to pick up, I may have come across a bit harsh my response in chat when Shah said we need to give people more preparatory reading.

It is always a difficult thing. I am passionate about history. So, I am all about putting things out and having them available for archive. If they can be done before an event, that is fantastic. So, I am all about having material out there and accessible. But I was once an educator in some way, shape or form. If it is some form of requirement for something that has a reward, then the motivation to do preparatory reading, like you are getting a degree or certificate or something, is vastly different to volunteers.

So, I am all for making sure the material is out, available, simple language and is accessible in advance of time. So, if people need to advance their knowledge or get up to speed or even learn anything about it because they are about to present on it, just to get their facts right, I think that is really important. But what I don't want to see is us slipping to this risk of assuming that we don't have a really huge difference in the knowledge base every time we talk with people. We should always make sure that we talk to a common denominator and we work out where the level of that common denominator is. And that might be really boring for people whose knowledge is up here, but then we should give those people a job in some way, shape or form to help either do something else to keep them occupied and interested or help the common denominator change where its level setting is.

So, I may have seemed a little harsh in my "do people actually do pre-reading" response, but we are not an educational institution here and

there is very little return to the enormous efforts that volunteers make to be part of our entity. We just need to be gentle with it. Thanks.

JUSTINE CHEW: Correct. Absolutely. And even the people that we engage to speak are also volunteers typically, so they may not actually have the luxury of them having enough time to prepare the materials ahead of time. Really. So, I think it's all a question of balance and we do what we can at the end of the day. Anyone else has a comment?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: I want to add that mostly in ICANN and even in APRALO, there are links to everything, even in the agenda. For example, even today in the agenda, there are several links, but again, everyone is a volunteer. They may not have the time to even go through the links. So, I would not say that the resources are not available. I would say there is a lot of resource available. Even I myself don't read them before coming into the call. So, I would say there is too much of material also available from ICANN and APRALO at times and it gets confusing for many people. So, they come into the calls, hear it, and then go back and read. So, it goes both ways. So, I would not say that there is material not there. The material is definitely there. Even when the speakers are coming and presenting, they are presenting basis, something which is already there. They may not be sharing the presentation in advance or they're talking points, but it's there somewhere. So, I beg to differ a bit in that point.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah, fair enough. Again, I think it's dependent on the activity that we run, as I said. So, for something like an ICANN readout, we typically wouldn't have any preparatory material because it's just people coming and talking about their perspective. So, why would they want to put something on the slide or something? It doesn't really make sense. But if we're running a webinar, then yes, we would typically have a set of slides and that would constitute the preparatory material. So, insofar as we can get it out ahead of time and people look at it, that's the best we can do. If we get ahead of time and people don't look at it, then it's not something that we can control either. So, it's a balance at the end of the day. But noted all around. There are resources. Sometimes there's an overload of resources. So, again, it's a question of balance. Satish, you have a comment? Please.

SATISH BABU: Thanks. So, I agree with most of what we've been discussing over the last several minutes. I think in the initial first few contacts, new people will naturally be overwhelmed. That is nothing surprising. The only way in my opinion to kind of continue to make progress is to keep at it. So, despite the initial, not understanding certain things, they have to keep trying. As was said, there's enough floating around. But sometimes, these are rabbit holes and a direct answer, perhaps it's harder to kind of locate than asking someone.

So, I'm wondering if there's any way to kind of create a help desk or something where a member or a volunteer who wants to know something more about a certain question or an issue or a particular thing can write to. Now, the policy forum itself is there. I'm not sure if

the policy forum has an interface where people can ask these sort of things. And if this is not necessarily FAQs, but questions that they can appeal and somebody can directly address those things. Because going into the documentation, the only problem I see is a lot of time is wasted. Meaning, you have to really kind of go through a lot of documents to find out exactly what you require. So, if you have some system of having an interface where people can ask questions, then we can perhaps build that into an FAQ. Because otherwise, people are joining every month. So, we can't repeat these things all the time. There has to be some way for people to refer back to what was discussed, something like that. Or in some way to organize this whole information so that newcomers especially find it easier to access information precisely as they want. Thanks.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Quite good points, I would say. In terms of response, I suppose the APRALO Policy Forum mailing list would be a good start. So, if people want to ask a certain question of a particular topic or policy issue, they could send an email. So, anyone who subscribes to that particular mailing list can send a message. It's not a one-way communication. You can send, you can receive. So, if you are wanting to send a message to that list, by all means, go ahead. And that list being a mailing list, it will reach everyone who subscribes to that list. And then I imagine that if someone does something like that, then someone who is a subject matter expert might probably pick it up and respond to it. Now, if you don't want to send it publicly to an open mail list like the APRALO Policy Forum, again, you can reach out to any of the leadership team members. I think by now, you have most of their email addresses.

So, I would encourage you to just tap on someone's shoulder and say, "Hey can you help me out with this?" And I'm pretty sure that my colleagues and I definitely are more than willing to assist in that matter.

I also talked about opening up one-on-one private conversation slots on my calendar. So, if you want to talk to me about something, by all means, reach out to me and I will share that calendar with you and you can put in a suitable time. So, that's something that I'm doing personally. And I think Cheryl has also has that policy. So, again there are a number of ways where you can reach out to us. It's just a question of what makes you feel the most comfortable.

In terms of a repository, well, that would require effort. Maybe it's something that we can attend to with staff assistance because it's very labor-intensive, I would imagine. But off the top of my head, I would suggest that people actually go and visit the APRALO Policy Forum wiki page, the actual main page, which I can put the link to because that has... I maintain that page, by the way. So, I have a record of all the projects that have been undertaken by the Policy Forum. And that record will also include links to different pages where you can actually go and have a look at what actually happened and the reports out of that. Okay. So, I will share the link if I can get my mouse to work properly. But I will share that link in the chat in a little bit. So, yeah, I think to that extent, that is the only answer that I can give in response to Satish's comment. I would actually like to hear if there's anyone else that have suggestions to make at this point in time. Noting that it's half past the hour.

Okay. Well, if no one else wants to make a comment, then I will just go on to remark on item 4D, which is the inputs to the applicant support resources. So, you remember that in the monthly meeting last month, I did a consultation with this particular group, the participants at the monthly meeting, seeking inputs on this particular topic of applicant support resources, basically. And I'm not going to go into specifics, but I can say that I want to say thank you to those people who have actually put in comments, right? And some of them have actually been used in a proposal that I developed for CPWG. So, if you want to follow through with what has happened to your inputs, then please have a look at the two recordings for the consolidated policy working group from yesterday and the week before, because it's been two weeks, basically. And now there is a draft proposal that's being looked at by ALAC for endorsement, because it's something that we are looking to submit to GNSO for consideration. So, that is how your inputs have factored into the processes of At Large and the processes of ALAC by way of generating something substantial and concrete that we can then put forward to the GNSO. All right, so it's very important that you understand that any inputs that we collect are actually looked at, right? And if to the extent possible, we will include them, incorporate them into the work that we generate for other constituencies or for the specific purpose that we aim to get into. Okay, I think that's pretty much what I wanted to cover. So, unless there are questions, further questions for me to answer, I would hand the floor back to Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Justine. Does anyone have any questions or want to ask, even if you don't understand, if you want to understand what this is all

about, this call for input for application support resources, just in case you want to understand it or are we good with it? Okay, so I guess, Justine, no one has any questions at this point of time, but thank you so much for this and a request to all of you, do look at the APRALO Policy Forum wiki page. And also, you can look at the [refreshed] calendar, put in your inputs because it's many times very easy to say, okay, this can be done, this can be done in call, but if you can put in constructive inputs into the sheet itself, it helps to try and put things into action. So, that would be a great help.

Okay, so let's go to the next point which we have. Haroon, your attendance will be marked later. The staff normally takes it into consideration and they update the sheet. So, there is a call for this particular program, which is called as the Policy Transition Program, which is inviting young ICANN community members—and this time the Policy Transition Program is on the new gTLD registration data. The submissions are open till the 31st of August. What they normally plan to do is, they plan to have a monthly meeting call. The participants would be given modules which include background studies, recordings, and relevant resources, and the participants have to study these materials, participate in interactive discussions with subject matter experts, and they may be in small groups to be role-played.

Basically, it is going to help to develop your understanding of the registration data process and the candidates would also have to be nominated from the SOs or ACs. In terms of requirements, they are expecting at least five hours per month to be dedicated for this program. The participants actively participate in these discussions, small groups, and virtual meetings and they put in a range of meeting times,

which could be from 11:00 to 3:00 UTC, and they would have to complete a post-survey meeting.

While the deadline is 31st August, but this would be routed through the, say for example, for us it would be routed through APRALO and then ALAC. So, this is from me, but Justine, if you want to add anything to it or even if the staff wants to add, please add. And if someone has any queries, we will try our best to respond to it. Anyone has any queries or wishes to apply? No one wishes to apply from APRALO. That's sad actually. I'm sad. For young people, this is a good opportunity actually to understand, get involved, learn from experts and it's going to be a cross-community activity.

JUSTINE CHEW: Well, Amrita, you have a few people who have either indicated interest or applied. Prateek, Bibek, Jasmine and possibly Namra and Adarsh. So, yep, I think there's interest. And Mabda too, so that's at least six people who have expressed interest. So, that's great. The question is if any of you have submitted an application and you found that you require endorsement from a constituency, then please let us know because APRALO as a constituency, I use constituency as a loose term, as a group, can look at supporting your application. Namra, I think her hand is up.

NAMRA NASEER: Yeah, hello everybody. I just wanted to say that I was actually part of PTP pilot program and I successfully completed the whole requirements and everything and it's a wonderful opportunity for anybody who wants

to take a deep dive into a specific topic. And other than that, you will be having like one-on-one meeting with experts from within ICANN community, ICANN Org on these specific issues, which is I think a great opportunity because sometimes you don't get a chance to listen to an expert for that long. And with that inclusive ...

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thanks, Namra, for this. That's really helpful. You know, since you've already gone through it and sharing your input, we do have quite a few, but do remember that you would need to be supported from the RALO for the application or any of the—since we are in APRALO, you would need a support from APRALO or ALEC for your application. So that's something that you have to look into.

JUSTINE CHEW: Amrita, should the people who have applied send an email to you or something so that you have a record of who has applied and who might need to get endorsement from us, from you?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yes, they can send to just me with a copy to staff, me, Aris, Gunela, or even to me with a copy to staff so that we actually have a record of who has applied. Because if someone asks us, we should not be in a back foot.

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JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah. Or at least to you and copy to staff. So one central person is looking into these things.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yeah, yeah, that's okay. Would that be okay if you sent in your application? Would you mark it to me and to ICANN staff so that we know that you have applied?

Okay, I guess we are done for today. If anyone has any issues or any aspects you want to discuss, we are happy to do so, else we can leave the call 15 to 17 minutes before time. For once.

Okay, I guess we are done. So, Yesim, back to you. And for the people who are traveling for the GA, please register for the GA and please register for the pre-GA webinar. That is important and I would say, mandatorily. It would help you. Yesim, over to you.

YESIM SAGLAM: Thank you very much, Amrita, and thank you all for joining today's meeting. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]