YESIM SAGLAM:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the first session of the APRALO Policy Forum Town Hall Meeting taking place on Thursday, 10th of August 2023 at 600 UTC. On our call today, we have Justine Chew, Amrita Choudhury, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Dahyun Chung, Imran Hossen, Gopal Tadepalli, Aris Ignacio. K Mohan Raidu, Priyatosh Jana, Eranga Samararathna, Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Urban Skill, Udeep Baral, Satish Babu, Pavan Budhrani, Alielle Michelle, Gunela Astbrink, Adarsh Bu, Samik Kharel, Ashirwad Tripathy, Jay Paudyal, Maureen Hilyard, Katarina Gevorgyan and Vladimer.

Just to actually cover the apologies, we have received an apology from Athena Foo, from the staff side. And from staff, we currently have Gisella Gruber, Seher Sagıroglu, and myself, Yesim Sağlam, present on today's call and I'll also be doing call management. And before we get started, just a kind reminder to please state your names before speaking for the transcription purposes. And I would like to also, before handing the floor, I also would like to remind everyone to please make sure that you have your full name listed on Zoom. It's important for us for participation, for attendance purposes. So, if you do not have your full name, please do kindly update it. And with this, I would like to leave the floor over to Amrita Choudhury. Over to you, Amrita. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Yesim. Hello everyone and welcome to this town hall. My name is Amrita. And just to give you a brief, if you've gone through,

what you're ingesting and everyone is aiming to do today is just give you a brief on what the policy forum is all about, what has been done so far, and also hear from each of you how we would want to proceed based upon what the ICANN wants to also achieve in this financial year or next. And obviously, it has to have the end user interest in mind in whatever we do. So, we wanted to be interactive. You can share your comments on chat. And when you are asked to poll, we would want you to wholeheartedly participate in the polls, give your suggestions. If you want to ask any questions, comments, you can raise your hand and ask the same when you are asked to. So, with that, I think I will pass it on to Justine. Justine, could you please share what you want to do today?

JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah. Sure. Thank you, Amrita. This is Justine. My video is on so you can see me. So, we have had this APRALO Policy Forum running for about two a bit more years. I think it was. Yeah. Forget the time. Time passes very quickly. I'm just going to jump through, and one of the more recent outputs of the APRALO Policy Forum is the what we call the APRALO priorities for 2023 and 2024. And that is an outcome of a hot topic survey that we did with the members of the RALO. I believe it was back in 2022 that we did that. So, therefore, it came up with a set of priorities that we're aiming to achieve within the region for the years 2023 and 2024.

Now I recognize that things have moved along since we ran that particular survey in particular, for example, the big news about the next round coming on. So, we thought it would be a good idea to just touch

base with RALO members to see if we need to make any adjustments to the priorities that we've set for this year and next year given that recent developments are quite important and interesting and may need to be in taken into consideration in the activities that we plan for the rest of this year at least.

All right. So, one of the key things I would like to talk to all of you about is also updating some of the aims of the policy forum. So, if you see on screen now, we used to have three aims Yesim, if you can go back up to the top of the Google doc. So, there is a Google doc link in the agenda Wiki which will give you access to this particular document. And I chose not to use PowerPoint slides because this particular document is the link being shared with all of you. So, the whole point about it is that you can go in and have a better read and also to comment if you want to comment and the commenting doesn't have to be done right now or throughout this call. You can comment anytime you want. which is why we put things on Google Docs and make them shareable and or commendable at least.

And so, I just wanted to speak to this particular document so that you familiar. You've seen it. You're familiar with it, and you can then work on it, as you please. So, back to what I was saying before is that when we first started the policy forum, we identified the top three aims that you see in the Google doc or what you see on the screen now. And over time, we try to improve things and we try to add to things. And so, the function of improvement is that we have now proposed to add Aim 4 and Aim 5. Aim 4 was born out of something that we ran recently which is the ICANN77 readout and I believe that provided quite an interesting opportunity for wider engagement in the sense that we are now

reaching out to other constituencies in the region. So, rather than just keeping our conversations internal to RALO and At-Large, we are now trying to tap, connections and conversations across the other communities like GAC, ccNSO and different parts of GNSO.

So, I think that's something that we will continue to pursue. So, I thought it would be good to update the aim of one of the policy forums. One of the aims of policy forum which is now aim number 4. So, that's the purpose of it. And aim number 5 is coming back to this whole concept about the town hall is to create not necessarily regular but periodic opportunities for RALO members to come back and tell us tell the leadership whether something new has cropped out that deserves our attention to put into the agenda for the policy column. So, that's what aim number 5 serves that purpose is supposed to do.

And then in terms of how we achieve these aims. So, some of it is not rocket science. I mean most of it is not rocket science anyway. So, it's about informing the community about what are the, ongoing policy issues being discussed in ICANN. It's also about engaging the community in At-Large discussions on those ICANN post the issues. Also consulting the community to formulate inputs wherever the there's a call for it, I guess whether there's a necessity for it. Also, we take cognizance of the fact that we need to build capacity. We need to keep building capacity of members so that they can participate, they know what they're talking about and can participate effectively in any policy deliberations or discussions that we undertake.

And the next one is to also try and expand outward a little bit, but still within the At-Large community, which is participating in intra RALO

discourse. So, how we structure is we're structured across RALOs, 5 different regions. So, we have our APRALO and we have our own little discussions. But at some point, in time, we probably need to also cross to the other regions and see whether there are discussions that can flip it across regions and then make it into more like At-Large thing. And obviously, the last bit of it is to create opportunities for intra-regional discourse and corporation especially if we are going to be advocating in individual end user's interest on a global scale. So, I'm just going to finish going through this document and we will have a chance for Q&A in a little bit.

So, if we can move down to the APRALO priorities. So, as I mentioned earlier, this is the set of priorities that were the result of a survey, a hot topic survey that we ran in 2022. And the part of the purpose of this meeting is to actually get a sense of whether we need to tweak anything, we need to change anything and therefore, we are going to be running polls to seek the temperature of the room to see whether things need to change.

In terms of the priorities, the way it set out is as you see four categories. So, there is things that focus on within ALAC and At-Large community and then there's specific policy related priorities. There's also a bit of an internal RALO organizational practices and priorities in terms of things like membership retention and engagement with a focus on capacity building, for example, mentorship, building leadership development, and also improving participation engagement and at some point in time instituting activity metrics.

And then the last category, which is the ICANN operating priorities, that is in reference to the ICANN five-year operating plan. They have identified 15 operating priorities and we had asked in our survey in 2022 to list the top five of those 15. And these are the top five that came through that survey. All right? If you want to know a little bit more about what each of this means, there is an explanatory. Yeah. I'm struggling a bit. It's explained in the document called the 5 year of the e-plan and the link to it is at the bottom of this page on the screen you see.

Sorry. I'm struggling a little bit with the itchy throat. And moving on, as a result of the inputs hopefully that we received today, we're going to be populating this calendar for the APF to meet things that we want to achieve. So, for example, if you get an input, you say that we want more fireside chats and we want fireside chats on topic a, b, c. So, we will look into organizing those things and then putting them into the calendar. And obviously, we'll try not to inundate people too much with five meetings a week kind of thing. It's not feasible for anyone to do that sort of thing. All right.

So, I will stop there. Forgive me, I have a coughing a bit. And also, I actually want to not have to talk to you all so much. It's about interaction. The whole point about this open style, open mic meeting is so that you can give feedback to us, you can tell us, feel free to take the mic. Feel free to put a note in chat or put a comment in the Google doc if you if you want to. There are various ways that you can talk to us and I would welcome you to take that opportunity to do that. Okay? So, I think next on the agenda is the open mic session. So, having gone very

cursorily through the APRALO priorities for 2023/2024, I'd like to ask if there's any questions or anything that anyone would like to clarify?

YESIM SAGLAM: Any questions, anyone? Gopal has his hand up, Justine. Gopal, if you would like to--

GOPAL TADEPALLI: Thank you for the nice presentation again. I would still request that DNS Abuse mitigation should be on top of the chart. The second--

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Noted. No. Sorry. Go ahead.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: That's fine.

YESIM SAGLAM: Thank you, Gopal. Anyone else? Anyone else has any points to make or anything you've not understood, you would want to clarification.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yes. This is your opportunity to ask if you if you're not sure about something because we are doing a series of polls, so we're going to be asking you whether you think this is important or it's not important. So, you really need to have I suppose an understanding of what we're trying to get to at least. So, please, if you're not clear about anything do ask

you can put things in the chat and we'll try to address them on the spot for you. Gopal, I see your hand is still up. I'm not sure whether that's an old hand or a new hand. Okay. That's old hand.

All right. So, if no one else has a particular question, then we might start running the poll. And, Gopal here is where I would invite you to participate in the poll and make your point. Okay? So, Yesim, do you want to start the first poll? Okay. So, I've talked about the priorities in terms of at least the policy priorities. And then you may have to sort of toggle between the Google doc and what you see on the screen. And these were the three top policy topics that we have in terms of our priorities are IDNs and Universal Acceptance, Internationalized domain names and universal acceptance, DNS abuse mitigation as well as something as we just short-term call or short form call, ICANN governance and global public interest monitoring. Okay.

So, if you think any of these top three needs to change, then, please, put a, I don't know what you call it, tick or whatever against that and if you think nothing needs to change, then obviously just check none of the above. And if you're not sure, then by all means tell us that you're not sure because that also gives us indication that you may not have communicated properly or effectively to you what we're trying to do. If people want to do the poll, Yesim, I'm going to need your assistance in terms of how many people have booked that in and we might cut off.

YESIM SAGLAM: Yes. Sure. So, currently, it's showing, 66% of the participants have voted and it's likely moving up, 27 out of 39, but remember, we have staff members and our operator as well, which are actually not voting.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay.

YESIM SAGLAM: So, we are not, I think, trying to achieve 100% here.

JUSTINE CHEW: Sure. So, Yesim, if you get a sense that the non-staff participants have voted in a high percentage and you can just close the poll and then we'll see the results.

YESIM SAGLAM: Okay. I think the call has been, it has been open for almost two and a half minutes and yes, the best majority has voted. So, if you agree with it, I'm going to close the poll and share the results.

JUSTINE CHEW: Sure. I'm going to need your help to sort of keep time as well. So, as long as you see the participants have voted, then we can just keep moving.

YESIM SAGLAM: Okay. Sure.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So, clearly, 59% says we should keep all three. But interestingly, there's a split between the IDNs, the DNS abuse and the third one. I'm hoping that people understood the question and not to say that someone who voted for IDN things that this is something that we need to change as opposed to keeping. Okay? So, hopefully, the way that the poll is crafted doesn't confuse people. Zoom poll, it's limited in terms of how you can structure the answers. Okay. Good to know. So, I take it that most people are comfortable with the three that we have at the moment to keep at least.

Okay. Good. So, moving on to the next poll, and this is where you have an opportunity to tell us whether we should be adding to these three existing topics. Okay. So, in addition to the three, the IDNs, UA, DNS abuse and then monitoring, I will just short term it to say shortcut it to say monitoring Global ICANN Governance and public global public interest monitoring, those three that we have already, on top of those, what do you think, if at all we should add in terms of policy topics that that we should be exploring from time to time.

Again, if there are questions, please feel free to post in the chat. Sorry, Nabeel. I'm reading your chat and say the poll is a bit confusing. Yes. So, I'm also trying to provide some commentary as the poll takes place so that you don't end up putting in the wrong answer so to speak, but that's fine. If it's happened, it's happened. We can't do it. Come back to the second session and put in the right answer so as speak. You can always do that. There's always an option.

Okay. So, again on top of the three that we already have, what do you think we should add on to? All right. And you don't have to choose one, you can choose more than one. Yes. Of course. Yeah. So, good point, Shah. Thank you for that. If you had chosen other, please put a pin on that because we will come back to that at the end to discuss what you mean by other. Okay. Yesim, how we're doing for time? Okay. Good.

YESIM SAGLAM: I think we need to wait a bit more. I'm trying to get the number of participants who have participated. Currently, we have 61% participators which is 22 out of 36. Just waiting a bit more. it's two minutes. It has been two minutes. And Okay. But seems like we are not having any more responses, so I am going to end the poll.

JUSTINE CHEW: I'm sorry Gopal, that you're facing technical difficulties. I'm not sure whether that's on your side or on our side, but again, if you have time, come back for the second session and then hopefully that will sort out itself. Okay. So, what we have is.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: My responsibility. I'm sorry. I manage somehow. Yes.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Sure. Again, as I said, there are other avenues where you can provide input. Doesn't have to be instantaneous right now. Okay. So,

looking at the result we have, quite interesting. So, we obviously have to pay a bit more attention to Internet fragmentation, that topic and also the next round of new gTLDs, which I would happily say that we are kind of doing already. Okay. But Internet fragmentation, that's an interesting one. Okay. Registry data accuracy also and I'm looking forward to what other people have in mind when they say other.

Okay. Moving along. Next poll. This one is about activities that we have run so far in our goal to achieve the objectives of the policy forum. So, I'm pretty sure that some of you at least if not all of you would have attended, some or not all of these activities that we have run-in the past, if you have, then I'm sure you know what I'm talking about. If you haven't, then by all means, let us know too. We have an option to say that I'm sure or I'm new to ICANN, APRALO so I have not attended any of these activities before. But, in the next round of polls, I would also suggest that when you see for example, single topic consultations a lot of these things are not rocket science.

It is what it is described, webinars are kind of like online lectures. And typically, they come with like Slack deck and someone's speaking to you, and then there's a q and a at the end of the webinar. Fireside chats are more informal. They typically don't have slides that come with it. It's just one or two people chatting to other and then other people looking on to the conversation and then try to participate in the conversation somehow as well. ICANN meeting readout is the latest activity that we rolled out in July after the ICANN77 meeting. And surveys are like the classic example that I used earlier, which is the topic survey 2022, so, that normally we conduct by a Google form, which we circulate to all of all the rail members and you can answer questions based on the survey.

YESIM SAGLAM: And if I may take the floor, 61% of our participants have completed voting, which is 22 out of 36. And Since I'm able to see the results already, it seems quite close to each other and it has been two and a half minutes already. So, now we have 72%.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Let's see the result then. Okay. I'm trying to save time off the polling process and give more time for discussion because I'm hoping that people will take the mic. We'll be brave enough to take the mic and talk to us. Okay. Quite a good spread with typical, not typical, but, extra points for ICANN meeting readout. So, that's interesting. Okay? At least it's interesting to me. The other ones are kind of, I would say expect it. So, it looks like we should focus on the top four surveys, maybe not so much, but the survey is good in a sense. It may be time consuming, but you actually get more qualitative responses. Qualitative Yes. Okay. Cool. All right. So, we will take note of these.

So, having thought about the fact that you think some of these things have actually worked and it served its purpose. My question to you now is going ahead would you still participate? Would you come for these things if we were to organize them and would you actually participate in them more? So, Yesim, if we can have the next poll, please. Oh, hang on. My apologies, I skipped the question. Sorry. So, let's rewind it a little bit. The next question is actually about key challenges.

So, we want to know what sort of key challenges you are actually facing when it comes to participating in our activities. Sorry for the confusion, my bad. And the reason why we're asking this is because we need some input in terms of the activities, the timing of activities that we run, whether timing suits most people or not, not enough people kind of thing. which is also part of the reason why we decided or run this meeting in two sessions.

So, we want to see how many people actually feel more comfortable turning up to the 6 UTC time slot and a second UTC time slot, which is 10 UTC. And that's my fault actually. So, the idea is that if we see a fair share of people turning up to both times, then we may need to consider in some cases running the event twice, in two different time slots. That may not always be feasible bear in mind because for example, if we're going to be running a webinar and we invite a speaker, that is subject to the speaker's availability and we don't really want to impose unduly time zones on people who are kind enough to come and talk to us about something.

So, in some sense, we would be restricted in terms of the ability to run events over different times or even repeat the events. Okay. Right. So, it's also about if a particular topic is very complicated, we might look at how we try to break down those topics even more. For example, if it's too complicated, we might do a fireside chat first just to introduce it at a very high level and then if we see the uptake on that, we can do a cup follow-up with a webinar where it's more detailed and we go into more specific elements of that particular topic. Okay. So, how are we doing for responses, Yesim?

YESIM SAGLAM: 65%, have participated which equals to 25 out of 38 participants. And it will be very shortly two and a half minutes till the poll has been open.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So, the other thing about the English, we do offer translation services. So, if needs to be, we can always have translation and we have, I believe, three languages for this region. so, we try not to exclude people on the language part of it. That's important to us as well, which is why you see ICANN has a practice of producing documents in 6 languages and having translation in all their public meetings. Okay. So, have we moved up in terms of response rates?

YESIM SAGLAM: Yes. It's 70%, and the top three is [CROSSTALK] I think we can end the poll.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yes, please. Question 4 should have none as an option. Okay. Noted. We can see, this is kind of the little bit of input set that help us as along the way as well. So, don't be shy about telling us things that it's on your mind. None. Okay. Good. Fair enough. All right. So, none of these challenges seem to affect you, Jay, which is good on you. Okay. So, it seems that it is the lack of knowledge on topics or complexity which is the one that we need to pay most attention to.

Lack of time, well, that's not something that we can do anything about, really. But it's good to know, because then we understand why people may not be able to turn up, always all the time. Okay. Good. Okay. Moving on to the next poll, which I inadvertently introduced earlier out of sync. So, going forward, absolutely, Cheryl. Yeah. Helps us to manage expectations as well.

So, going forward, I talked about the activities that we have run in the past and based on the fact that some of you have attended very clearly in the answer to the previous poll. My question now is, going forward, would you participate in any of these activities that we're trying to still engage you in. And it's a multiple-choice question, so you don't have to answer just one. Should be all. Yeah. I know, Cheryl. It's just that Zoom poll only allows us not more than six answers. But I take your point. But I definitely wanted the top five, then I would say the option of other in case somebody creative comes and says, oh, we should do, I don't know, something or rather some other event that we've not actually thought of. And there's nothing stopping you from clicking all of them, really. Just a bit more finger work, I guess.

Now the, I do want to stress on the point of one on one informal conversation and this is something that I am particularly interested in or at least keen on, which is due to the fact that I'm increasingly finding it more and more important to create opportunities where certain more experienced people than ICANN can share and transfer knowledge to people who are interested upcoming or even newcomers because we are very weak in terms of sustaining participation and interaction in our community.

So, we need to be able to for lack of a better word, train new people to take up the mental to keep the At-Large community vibrant and make sure that our voices keep getting heard. And it's becoming harder and harder to just rely on certain people to take up that mental. So, we need more people to get more actively involved. And for that, we appreciate. At least I appreciate the fact that you may need information and even mentoring to a point. But if you just want to start off with having a very informal conversation with any of, at least with me, I'm going to open up a channel on my Google calendar to take coffee session, 15-minute chat informally if you want to talk to me about anything. So, and I would encourage the other leadership team members if they have time to do similar things. And of course, this is based on demand. If people don't want to talk to me, then, hey. I got my Friday afternoon off. Okay. So, how are we doing for time?

YESIM SAGLAM: 77% have participated. And it has been--

JUSTINE CHEW: Only seven?

YESIM SAGLAM: 77. 77.

JUSTINE CHEW: Oh, 77. Okay.

YESIM SAGLAM: So, I'm going to end the call and share the results.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So single topic consultations, obviously, is the big hit. Yes. Okay. Good. Because that is the key way where we actually dive down into a particular policy issue, explain it and then seek your opinion on it really. Yeah. Okay. Good. Well, I'm happy to see that a lot of people still would be willing to participate in short surveys. So, we will certainly look at that. Okay. So, interestingly, 68% on five side chats. Okay. So, that doesn't seem to have carried much or lower popularity than the others. Interesting. Okay. So, 39% of voters want to talk to me in some way or other. Okay. Noted. So, I might start. And if those of you who have voted on the one-on-one informal conversations, and it's actually targeted at me, please, find a way to contact me, and I will send you a link to my Google calendar for booking times.

Right. Okay. Moving on to the next poll, which is the last one, I believe. And this will lead us into, hopefully, some discussion. Which is that, what further thoughts or suggestions on how the APRALO policy from can meet its objectives? So, those of you who have voted other in any of the other posts, this is your time to now tell us what you mean by other. Try to be as brief as possible, but still enough to be comprehensible. Otherwise, I may have to ask you to take the mic and explain yourself. Yeah. I find this RALO a very quiet one. People tend to just be quite happy to. Yes, Namra, please take the mic.

NAMRA NASEER: Thank you so much. Hello, everyone. I am Namra. I just have a brief output on this inquiry. And that's, I believe APRALO can really benefited from the survey also if they pick one specific issue to discuss in every session. And I know that APRALO also focuses on the ongoing project and initiatives on how they relate to APRALO in every session too. But I think there needs to be some kind of focus on one specific issue, and then you can allot another time slot within the same meeting to discuss the ongoing initiative.

The problem with people, for example, like me, is that when we join the meetings, we feel like everything is like it's in the process, and I do not really know how I can share my input without having any prior knowledge or what's happening or has it been discussed already and all of. So, that's one issue which it stops me from contributing because I don't want to jump in and say something that people have already done. It doesn't leave a good impression. So, that's my two cents about this. But, again, I believe, focusing on one specific issue also in every APRALO meeting can be really helpful.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So, if I may ask you to clarify a couple of things. One is, when you talk about focusing on one particular issue at a meeting, are you talking about an event, or are you talking about a monthly meeting, or?

NAMRA NASEER: Yeah. No. No. Like you just mentioned yourself, where there are certain issues that are of importance to APRALO. There was a new gTLD round is going on. Then there is a topic of Universal Acceptance.

There's a topic of, internet segmentation and all of that. So, you can pick one topic, have a discussion over it, and then within that meeting, there should be a slot where you can kind of discuss the ongoing projects or how they're relating to APRALO. So, there is like this distinction within the same meeting, but I think that provides more clarity and background. And it also is a kind of of a revision where a particular initiative is going on. So, that's also a nice little update from the community, and also, how it is relevant to APRALO. I think that's very important.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So, I have to say that a lot of things that we are trying to do is aimed at feeding into the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group because that's where literally our whole community actually comes out with position, policy positions that we take across to the other communities in ICANN and feeds into our statement. So, I take your point. Sometimes it's about maybe looking at intercessional activities that we can try and run-in order to explain or talk to people about the topic that is being discussed in CPWG. So, I will take an example of transfer policy, right, but it's not necessarily a good topic because not everyone is interested in transfer policy. So, that's the other thing about it is we also need to be flexible enough to cater for different interests in the group.

But going back to transfer policy, so transfer policy is one of the PDPs, ongoing PDPs managed by GNSO, and that is a recurring thing in the CPWG. And we ran a fireside chat to just bring people into the fold in terms of high-level stuff, what is transfer policy, and there you can get

an understanding of whether it affects you or not. If you think that I'm not interested in transfer policy, then you can drop out the loop, so to speak. Those are the things that we had tried to do in the year, yeah, in the previous year. Bibek, you have your hand up. Please go ahead.

BIBEK SILWAL: Thank you, Justine. I agree with Namra, but at the same time, I think we are not able to take all of the members on the same boat, I mean, in level of understanding what the process is about, what ICANN objectively are, what APRALO objectives are. So, I think we also need to focus on leveraging our RALO structures because-- I mean, we have to let people know about what we are talking in simplest terms, and then we invite them to participate.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Sure. I mean, that's the thing about running activities. We can't force or compel our ALS members and individual members to come because it's a question of time availability, timing of events, and it's something which is why I asked for feedback in the previous poll. But we can go so far as to run activities and have the activity structured in a way that we think would achieve certain goals, like for example, keeping things high level, allowing people to have the opportunity to ask questions and that sort of thing.

So, it's a combination and it's not a perfect science. Obviously, we haven't got it down pat. And we are also learning ourselves in trying to meet the needs of our members. So, it's a combination of things. And we the only thing we can do is just to run activities and run different

types of activities which serve different levels of understanding. If someone chooses not to participate, then there's only so much we can do.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: To add, everyone comes from different backgrounds and have joined these calls at different times. We also have to note that many of these processes are not new processes. They have been going on for quite a long time. So, many times when you get into it, you may feel overwhelmed, and that is why the reading part, etc. helps. And just like in a class, everyone may not be in the same level of understanding. So, it also happens here because everyone comes from different backgrounds, can give time or can give less time. But these are very important issues and for volunteers, these are concerning things. We cannot remove them completely, but we can see how best we can bring people up to date with information.

JUSTINE CHEW: Thank you for that point, Amita. Yeah. It's also hard on us who have been in the system for a while because Cheryl and I, we were involved in subsequent procedures and that ran for like five and a half years. So, we have the advantage of knowing bits and pieces of things that probably newcomers don't. And I fully appreciate that. But as some other folks have said, the agenda moves on with subsequent procedures and now into the new round. So, it's a little bit challenging to go backwards and then start from scratch because the policy has been

done already. So, we're not even talking about implementation. There are still gaps in the policy which we are trying to fix.

So, I think it will have to be a something like a combination. So, we might run an event. I'm just going to call it a clinic right now, whether it's a webinar or a fireside chat. It doesn't matter. So, we run a clinic where we select aspects of the next round to talk to you about. And then you may need to find other avenues to supplement your own knowledge, like read a read a document, like Amrita said, or even talk to me at one of my copy things if you have a specific question that you want answered. I think it's a two-way street. We need to be able to do something that would cater to a certain amount of people, and not specifically one type of, participant. And we need you to do the same that it's a two-way street that if you need to supplement, then you need to find creative ways to also do that.

And I'm not going to be around forever. I think Cheryl's going to outlast me in ICANN. So, I'm trying my best to make myself available as much as possible to allow a transfer of knowledge because I can't cope. Okay. So, Yesim, I think we may want to close the poll and see whether we have any interesting ideas.

YESIM SAGLAM: Yes. Sure. Okay. Just one second, please. I'm trying to-- Apparently, you are not seeing the results, right?

JUSTINE CHEW: No.

YESIM SAGLAM: Okay. So let me stop sharing this. I will try something else.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: That might have to be a report and share, share report rather.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So, that is a weakness of Zoom.

YESIM SAGLAM: Okay.

JUSTINE CHEW: Oh, can you enlarge it a bit more, Yesim? Thank you very much.

YESIM SAGLAM: Yeah. Sure.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay.   Determine priorities, ways to solve future communication, organize meeting online only. Okay. So more successful in face to face. Right? Okay. I don't know how to answer that because, obviously, face to face requires financial resources, which may not actually be available to us. But we are running the general assembly. So, that is actually, I would say, one black forest, gold star for it. We've been on capacity building discussion on ICANN business to see issues hot topics. Okay,

noted. That's a very general comment. Taking specific topics to address in every session, allotting some time to discuss and how they're important, okay, noted. IDN's gTLD strategy needs to drill down since APRALO has significant diversity strategies.

Okay. So, the IDN aspect of the next round, I guess, may be a possibility. Interesting because IDN have been around for some time now. The new round is actually attempting to introduce variance of IDNs, rather than IDN, IDN. Detailed background provided made available as supplement. Okay. Simplifying-- Yeah. And this is not judging. Yeah. So, I'm just reacting to certain comments in a positive manner. Typically, I would say like webinars would have slide decks that you can look at.

Simplifying complex-- Yes. Simplifying complex topic, it's a challenge. I can tell you for a fact it's a challenge. I have consistently had that challenge over the years that I've been involved in ICANN. And the challenge doesn't go away, by the way. But you get better. You get better over time at dealing with that challenge. Hopefully, at least. And, again it's one of those things that we can only do so much to keep things targeted at a larger audience. So, if you don't understand something, it's a question of finding out yourself or asking somebody aside what's going on really because it's very hard to target something that is time sensitive. For example, if we need an input immediately, which sometimes happens, then we don't necessarily have the luxury of spending time explaining a lot of things. And it's unfortunate, but it's the way some things pan out.

Collaborate with one or two ALSes to anchor topic. By all means, anybody, if any ALSes wants to stick their hand up and say, hey, we want to run something. Please come, contact me. I'm happy to facilitate and I think that should be the way because we are slowly trying to also identify subject matter interests within the community. And if you think you are in a position to run a fireside chat or run a webinar, get in touch with us, wet in touch with leadership. We're happy to try and facilitate something like that and help you shape the agenda even. So, yes, I welcome that.

More interactive. Okay. More interactive. Right. Right. Regular updates between meetings done via WhatsApp or Skype. Okay. So, that's something that maybe Shah can look into as our resident social media anchor. Should add more active members. Need to do meetings in local languages. Okay. Well, in terms of local languages, I already alluded to translation services. I think that is as much as at least I can do because I don't really speak any other languages fluently enough to run event, except in English. Show some ongoing PDP work to get engaged. Okay. I need to think about that one. Regular interaction among members. Conversation should continue. So, again, I suppose it's more, intercessional conversations. I think you guys are doing great. Oh, thank you so much. I feel kind of left out behind you to leave--

So, again like I said, if you think that you are lacking in knowledge in some particular area that you're interested in, reach out to any one of the leadership team, and I'm sure they'll be able to point you in the right direction. We don't bite. At least I don't think I bite. But bear in mind that we do have our day jobs, and we do have work that we undertake in ICANN as well. So, we may not necessarily be able to come

to you back immediately, but we are open. At least I'm open to having conversations. Demystifying ICANN APRALO objective working to commercial-- Okay. Have some local forums. Free expression. Okay. I think that's what we're trying to do here. And organize regular policy discussion. Okay. So, that's the regularity thing. That is the extent of our feedback, Yesim?

YESIM SAGLAM: Yes.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. Right. Anyone wants to make any comments to, the input that we received? And it doesn't actually have to be leadership. Cheryl, yes. Please go ahead.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Provided I can find my unmute button, which was a challenge for me. My apologies for that delay. Cheryl Langdon-Orr for the record, and I am not part of the leadership team. So, I'm not leadership. When people talk about leadership, they're not talking about me. I was a million years ago in the dim dark distant, misalistic period of ICANN but I am not now. I just hang around and make nuisance of myself. But in making a nuisance of myself, I also keep my hand in on a lot of policy things as well. To that end, some of what-- Google now thinks it needs to help me. Shush, Google. The interactive desks. It's where we all end up, I guess.

Some of the things that Namra was raising about the disconnect between an entry level confidence and understanding and the confidence to learn on the job and do all the things that Justine has put out. I'm pretty sure there's some easy ways we can get around that. And, yes, reaching out to leadership is one of them, asking for particular activities to be bring up more than one person at a time is another, but often just tapping into the existing resources, which we really don't have a good knowledge-based management system yet.

And so, talking to leadership, you may indeed talk to people who might know, or tapping into some talent that you recognize as supportive. Hopefully, one day I'll be one of those to many of you. Might mean that we'll just know where to look for things as well. And that's often half of battle. There's been some marvelous material put out over the years. It keeps getting reinvented, or worst of all, plagiarized and bastardized into something incorrect. That's when I get really irritable, and I may be tempted to bite. Incorrect information shouldn't be putting out.

So, there is a way, but even if it's just a back channel in Skype chat or in the actual these chats in these Zoom rooms and just say, "Cheryl, if I say this, does that sound silly?" And I'll go, "No. That's a really good question. Go ahead." Or "I'll talk about that to you later." So, you take that I'm going to be looking foolish, or I'm going to over set the mark risk away. And then with a little bit of that exercise, you will find confidence levels and information, resourcing will be easier. Thanks.

JUSTINE CHEW: Thank you, Cheryl. Any other comments? Come on. Don't be shy. We're supposed to have the conversation here. Okay. So, nobody else wants to take the mic. Any of the leadership team wants to make a comment? Hello, guys. You still with us? Okay. Thanks, Iris. So, Iris is one of those that are chatters. He likes to put things in the chat instead of speaking up, which is fine as well. As I said, we don't want to impose, but we really want you to talk to us. So, it's a two-way street. You have to find ways to reach out to us. And if you want to reach out to someone in particular, then find that channel. But we can only do so much as to convene these RALO white meetings to discuss things, because sometimes you may have good idea, which is worth sharing to everyone here rather than just to me or to Cheryl or to whoever that you speak to.

So, it's a question. It's a buildup. So, if you feel that you're lacking confidence in terms of speaking or not having knowledge, then I would invite you, I would implore you to take steps to rectify that. And as everyone in the chat and the leadership team, including Cheryl, which I consider as leadership, has offered, we are more than open to talk to you however way you want us to talk to you. So, please take up that offer somehow.

Oh, okay. So, I just read chats note about Nabeel, and Nabil has declined. So, Nabeel, can I implore on you to change your mind and take the mic?

NABEEL YASIN: Yeah. It's okay. Thank you, Justine, for [audio glitch - 01:08:41].

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. I think I got the gist. Your audio was kind of poor, but I think I got the gist of what you were saying. I will take that under consideration. The question always comes to my mind when somebody raises a topic is how does that relate back to what ICANN does. People think tend to think that Internet governance is ICANN when it's actually not. Internet governance is a lot wider than what ICANN does. So, we have to somehow maintain our focus on ICANN remit stuff, because I'm not seeing the value in discussing something that ICANN control within ICANN sphere. And so, it's just taking up valuable resources.

And maybe something like AI can be done at a global level by ICANN rather than at a regional level by APRALO. There's always that balance to be taken, but if, Nabeel, if you want to go into that topic and if you want to suggest like a fireside chat that you want to run, as you said, come and talk to us. We can look at it and maybe work out something. Okay? All right. So, I'm seeing no other hand. Gunela, yes, welcome.

GUNELA ASTBRINK: Hello. I just thought I would-- There I am. Yes. I'll just emphasize what a lot of us have been saying. I'm Gunela Astbrink for the record. I'm currently by vice-chair of APRALO. And sometimes, for new people, it is daunting, and we are at all different learning levels. So, that's always a challenge. And sometimes at the start, it might be what are these acronyms about, it might be who are these people? Who fits in where? And understanding that and knowing who to talk to and ask at various times.

I think, as we've already said, we all respect each other and we want to help as much as possible to have people getting involved. So, I'm always of a feeling learning by doing. So, if you have any interest in a particular topic, even if you think you don't really have enough expertise, maybe jump in and there will be people who you can ask and talk with and then see what happens if it's the right fit for you or not. So, it's a starting point. Thank you.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah. Thanks, Gunela. She makes a good point. There are certain activities where you actually have to spend time learning, listening, reading on your own, especially if you're going to be doing policy development work, or participating in any of the PDP working groups. A lot of times, the easiness is someone who's going to hold your hand lead you through things. You have to find your way and you have to read up and do the best you can. Cheryl, go ahead.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yeah. Just that you do need to get some sort of peer support or coaching if you're jumping in the deep end or something. Even if it's the beginning of some of these processes because there are hugely vested interests and considerable efforts that are often put in well before these things get to the type of activity that you'll be getting involved with if you go into a policy area. And to be aware of what that is, puts you on a smarter footing, because we even have rules in place, so just understanding those rules, which will be used to manage if someone is trying to regress a point or take things back or constantly block on a

particular point. So, there's a whole lot of tools that are available for the use in these activities, and it's important you understand those as well.

So, jumping in absolutely, but just make sure you either know where the edge of the pool is, or that where you can grab a lifeline from, and there's plenty of people who will act as a lifeline or a guide in those areas. But, yeah, stepping up and doing is absolutely what I think everything APRALO is getting to for the last couple of years in terms of policy and policy forums and trainings and everything else, to try and get more of us in more of those activities because it's all too few from our region doing it. Thanks.

JUSTINE CHEW: Absolutely. Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURYA: Thanks, Justine. Another thing which I just wanted to reiterate after what Cheryl said also that not necessary from day 1, you will be able to draft, write everything. You can follow a particular discussion, and you can make even one, two simple points. You don't have to be a policy expert. Our ALS and an individual member bring to the table, they know what happens on the ground. So, if there is, for example, an applicant support book, which is being discussed, etc., will some local NGO, civil society organizations or even smaller entities be able to apply. Will it help them? Those are the things you can bring from basically, the ground and feed it also. Even saying a simple sentence that look, this is where the concern is and saying the concern is due to so and so reason.

That is also valuable. So, it's not that you have to sit and draft the entire policy. You can just come and give a valuable input because those inputs from the ground is also very important.

And, Nabeel, just to respond to different things coming in. Yes. There are many things coming in, but, obviously, it has to be within the ICANN remit. And ICANN also have a process in which a particular issue gets into a public discussion or I would say there is a way in which it grows. So, I think there are certain ICANN Learn courses also you can go through, that how something gets the weightage of being discussed as a policy process, etc. So, there is a process and anything which we want to do, it has to within the ICANN sphere, it has to be within the remit of ICANN. So, for others, don't feel daunted. You can just give your comments on certain things. You don't even have to comment on all the things. So up to your interest levels.

And we have the WhatsApp group. You can communicate there, chat there, and no one is judging you. Some people like Cheryl have given decades to it, and some people like me have not given that kind of a time. So, it's not a rat race or a comparison race. You do at your own pace. So don't worry about it. But learn from them as in I know when I had to ask something, I can go to Cheryl or Justine or Maureen and may ask different things. So, know that your resources, go to them when you need. We want you to be resourceful. Thanks, Justine.

JUSTINE CHEW: Okay. So, I've just been reminded that this is a 75-minute call and so we have 4 minutes left to close. Sorry for taking the extra time for

discussion, but I think it's worthwhile really. So, I would pass the floor back to you, Amrita, to close this out.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Oh, you're now passing it to me. So, thank you so much, everyone. I hope you found it meaningful. At times, it is confusing, but don't worry. Within this confusion, also, you will find some way to navigate yourself. You can always, as Justine mentioned, message us directly, email us. If we can help you, we will or we will guide you to the person who can give you the information because we always do not have-- at least, I don't have all the information for sure. So, we would want you to contribute, even by participating in the meetings or even raising your question, that is also very valuable.

If there is something you've feel that you would want to discuss further, please raise it. You can ask that in the next call, we want to understand this aspect more. Just don't be daunted because people write so many-- if you are in CPWG, you will at times, see some 15 mails coming at one go. As in there are people who have the time, they can write. Not everyone can. Read them. Try to understand. If you don't ask our Wikipedia here, Justine too, for information. Why is it this way? So, use the people here. That is what I would say. So, thank you so much, and, Yesim, over to you.

JUSTINE CHEW: Sorry. Before I get Yesim to close the call, I just want to interject a little bit. I'm hoping that you folks found this town hall meeting concept useful. We will do another session at 10 UTC. Yes. Right? And perhaps

some of you will come back and talk to us a bit more. And I just wanted to mention that after the second session, we might look at producing some kind of very brief report on what we need to focus on so that people have a record on what inputs we gather and what inputs that we can actually try and work on So, thank you. Thank you all for coming to this call. And if you are joining us again at 10 UTC, then I will see you then.

YESIM SAGLAM: Thank you, Justine, 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]