

YEŞİM SAĞLAM:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO monthly teleconference taking place on Thursday, 16th of November 2023, at 6:00 UTC.

On our call today, we have Amrita Choudhury, Abdulrahman Abotaleb, Abhishek Gautam, Adarsh Bu, Ali AlMeshal, Ameen Sharif, Amin Hacha, Ananya Singh, Ashirwad Tripathy, Babu Ram Aryal, Barkha Manral, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Edwin Sandys, Eranga Samarathna, Gopal Tadepalli, Gunela Astbrink, Hong Xue, Juliana Harsianti, Justine Chew, K Mohan Raidu, Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, Nabeel Yasin, Naima Awan, Priyatosh Jana, Sarai Tevita, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Shreedeeep Ryamajhi, Suhaidi Hassan, Udeep Baral, Vesmira Harutyunyan, and Winthrop Yu. Just to cover our apologies, we have received apologies from Aris Ignacio and from Holly Raiche. And from staff side, we have Gisella Gruber, Sarmad Hussain, Athena Foo, Siranush Vardanyan, and myself, Yeşim Sağlam, present on today's call. I will also be doing call management for today's call.

Before we get started, just a kind of reminder to please state your name before speaking for the transcription purposes. And with this, I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Amrita. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Yeşim. Welcome, everyone, to this monthly call of November. This is a 75-minute call because we wanted to cover more. Can we see the next slide, please, Yeşim? Today what we would be covering is quite a lot of things. We have new leaders who are taking up

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the position. We would like to hear from them very briefly on what they plan to do. We have Sarmad Hussain here from ICANN, who will be discussing a bit more on the UA Day preparations and the funding opportunities available since APRALO and At-Large have been very active in this. We would be finalizing the Outreach and Engagement plan which we drafted at the General Assembly. And then we will be hearing from community members—Sarai, Vesmira, Naima, and Edwin—on what they plan to do after their ICANN78 Fellowship. And last but not the least, we have some updates from the RoP Working Group, Rules of Procedures Working Group, and the APRALO Policy Forum. We will be following it up with a feedback from you on what you want to hear in the calls. And with that, can we go to the next slide, Yeşim?

This is our leadership team. The new leaders who have come in is Ali AlMeshal as the vice chair, Shah Rahman as ALAC member. Justine Chew has come in as ALAC member and is also the vice chair of At-Large. We have Maureen Hilyard who has now taken over the position of NomCom delegate. And last but not the least, we have Shreedeeep who is managing the Fellowship from At-Large. And we have at our own level, Adarsh, who would be looking at the social media, since Shah has moved into ALAC. And with this, I would first invite Ali to speak in three minutes what he plans to do, followed by Shah, Justine, Maureen. Over to you, Ali.

ALI ALMESHAL:

Thanks, Amrita. Hi, everyone. My name is Ali AlMeshal. Most probably I know all of you and we have met as well. I've been there with the At-

Large and APRALO leadership for a while, both to the NomCom and back to the home within the APRALO team. So what we have all as common, I mean, there isn't I think specific from my end, we have a team plan and we have a team strategy that is already been in place. Some are in discussions for Outreach and Engagement and for other policies and part of organizing the Rules of Procedure as well.

So the most important message that I want to deliver here is our engagement and involvement and active participation, not only on delivery of At-Large and APRALO, it's within our local community because we are the ambassador to our local community. So the more we pass the message, the more we engage our local community and the DNS industry, then this is the responsibility of ours that we get them engaged and aware about what we are and what we are doing, and what ICANN is up to and how they can be active participants. In short, this is my message, and looking forward with working with all of you in your local events, regional events, international events. My contact is always available in my e-mail. So you can reach me in case you need any help or support. Back to you, Amrita. Thank you all.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Ali. Shah, the floor is to you and what you plan to do as an ALAC member, and then two to three minutes max.

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: Thank you, Amrita. I would like to thank all of you who, those who got the chance to go [inaudible] from APRALO. I really appreciate that you have supported for me. Being a newbie and all that, to be honest with

you, I perhaps [inaudible]. But yes, being at ALAC, I have two major responsibilities that I would like to share with my regionals. We are doing mostly the policy development work in our policies, APF Forum that we are trying to get input from our regionals. What could be the next issue that we need to raise [inaudible] as well part of that RALOs. I would like to tell all of you that if you have any questions [inaudible] you may have contact with us, and also you can contact with me. We have two other ALAC members, Satish Babu and Justine. We are here to help you, all individual members. We have also responsibility to [inaudible] the organization. We do our project plan to organize capacity building for us that we are every month we'd like to clarify [inaudible]. So if you can hear your [inaudible], we can uphold our regional [inaudible]. So I request all of you to participate on all those meetings and give your feedback. Only the participation [inaudible], not only that we did that call, individual comments as well, so that we can identify what are the regional that is the most important thing. And outside that, we have also some operational tools that I also like to consider to [inaudible]. So that is my plan. I would like to hear from you that we need to be at this, our regional. That is my part plan with other members. I would like to raise [inaudible]. Back to you, Amrita. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Justine, over to you. You were the vice chair and GNSO liaison. What are your quick things that you would like to focus on this?

JUSTINE CHEW:

This is way too much. I'm sure Shah gave a very inspirational report on what he intends to do. But I recommend Shah to get a headphone and a mic because you're very hard to hear.

I don't have much specifics to say. I have probably chewed off more than I can—I forget the expression. Basically, I think I may have taken a lot of things on, so I'm just going to have to navigate through all of them. That's right, bitten off more than I can chew. That's right. Thanks, Cheryl. I have too many things on my plate. I've had to get off some of them, and I intend to hand off some others, for example, the APRALO Policy Forum. And that won't happen until next year anyway, I'm going to hang on until the end of the year. But I would probably need to rely on my two ALAC colleagues from APRALO since I have accepted the ALAC vice chair position as well. So I have to look At-Large and ALAC on a more universal plateau. So I'll stop there. Thanks.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Justine. May I now come to Maureen. Maureen, you're wearing a NomCom hat, which is very important. What are your focus areas?

MAUREEN HILYARD:

Sorry. I muted myself. Thank you, Amrita for that. Yeah, I'm actually really looking forward to a new year of a new activity on the NomCom. This is a whole different type of role for what I've been involved in with the ALAC for the last 12 years. But at the same time, I will continue to be involved in APRALO as much as I can, and also continue to support the At-Large Outreach and Engagement Working Group, which I've been

involved in for basically all of my ALAC life. And Aris has been doing a great job as the APRALO representative on that group.

Also, one of the other groups that I've actually had a lot to do with and I will continue to do so is the Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group. This is the group that is not so much the policy side of things, which is the Consolidated Policy Working Group, which looks more of the operations activities that we are engaged in with ICANN. And we support the sorts of operational activities that ICANN does. I think that that's where we as a region can help ICANN in that way. But yeah, just to Shah and the others have said, I'm always available. If anybody wants some support in any way, I'm always here for you. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you so much, Maureen. Just for everyone, do remember that on the leadership team may hold different hats, but they are always there to respond to you, to help you, guide you whenever required, or even hear your comments on how we can improve. So we are not a very hierarchical body. We are pretty flexible. WhatsApp seems to be the place where most of us like to chat, communicate. So let's keep that rolling.

With that, we would now welcome Sarmad. Yeşim, we can take down the slides and bring in Sarmad here. Sarmad would be sharing more on the UA Day plan. Since there is an application process to apply for funding for UA Day activity, we thought it is very appropriate to have Sarmad here and speak on what are the criteria? What are the different

kinds of projects the UA group is looking at? And as well as if you have any questions, you can ask him that. So Sarmad, over to you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:

Thank you, Amrita, and thank you, APRALO team, for having me here. This is Sarmad. I'm with ICANN Org. I'm just going to take a few minutes to take you through the UA Day itself and the recent call for proposals for the UA Day 2024, which has been posted.

Just a bit of background as we start on UA Day, that basically that was started last year towards the end of 2022. That was when the first UA Day was announced to be held on or around 28th of March 2023. The main aim for UA Day is to get more community involved to create more awareness around the Universal Acceptance issues and also how to solve these issues by us collectively working together. Universal Acceptance of domain names and e-mail addresses, as many of you may know, means that all the domain names and e-mail addresses should be accepted by all applications. These include domain names and e-mail addresses and local languages and scripts, which we use a lot of these in the APAC region, especially the e-mail addresses in local languages. And scripts have currently a quite low level of acceptance across applications. So those are things we want to address by creating more awareness and more capacity. So that's a bit of a background.

Last year, we received a total of about 100 proposals from around the world out of Egypt, 41 came from Asia Pacific region. And obviously, because of funding constraints, the number of UA Day proposals shortlisted were about half of those which were received. Of the 41

proposals from Asia Pacific, they shortlisted 18 proposals which were eventually then conducted. So we got the highest number of proposals from the Asia Pacific region last time.

So now what we've done recently is release a call for proposals, which is in front of you. You can actually go to this call by going to the URL. I think that's important to share. So I'll type it in chat. It's simple enough. It's universalacceptance.day. So that's the website. You can always get to this page by typing that. I'm going to share the more direct link.

As you can see from this page, what I'll do is just go through it reasonably quickly, that the UA Day for next year is going to be again on 28 March 2024. But we realized that not everyone can actually align to hold the UA Day on that particular date. So, you can actually apply for organizing events within a three-month window from 1st March to 30th May. These proposals would then, of course, be reviewed, shortlisted. And then I guess we would announce the shortlist of these proposals. If you scroll down on this page, please.

We are looking for five categories of proposals. There are those which are just simply creating awareness. So just talking about what Universal Acceptance is and making people more aware. But we then also have a category of events, which are more, I guess, doing a deeper dive, and actually doing technical training. By the way, we supply or we make available materials for all these kinds of events. And also, in some cases where it's possible, we also make available resource persons or trainers for doing this either remotely or in person. But in any case, there are five kinds of proposals we are, I guess, seeking this time. In addition to awareness, we have technical training, which is a deeper dive. There are

two kinds of trainings which are available. One is for front end applications like to make a website UA already. And then there's a training which is more on for the back end kind of systems, especially related to e-mail. So you could do the front end website application kind of training on how to make front end UA already or you could do a training on back end on how to make an e-mail server UA ready. Those are the two choices.

This year we introduced a new session which is more focused only for academic institutions or universities. Because we think that it's important to include UA kind of training within the curriculum that creates a more sustainable model for capacity building. The aim is that a university or an academic institute actually can apply for an event where they can discuss how to integrate UA into the existing IT related curriculum in the university or institution. Again, we actually are developing some guidelines on how to do that, and we'll make those guidelines available for discussion for this kind of event.

Similarly, even a deeper dive, we want to now move more from awareness into actual adoption of UA. For that, we have introduced this new event this time, which is UA adoption. If you scroll down, if you look towards the middle of the screen, for UA adoption, we are actually asking three kinds of things. What we want you to do, if you're applying for adoption is that actually do some work up front by either making your website UA already or your e-mail system UA ready or your application or mobile app UA ready, and then share that experience in the actual event. So, for UA adoption, it's a little more work up front, and then actually use that experience to share that experience with larger communities so that they can also be motivated to see how to

make their own websites and e-mail systems UA ready. So that's a new event as well, which is more actual technical in nature.

Then finally, we also support regional events. We would support one per region where regional events mean three or more countries are involved, and so they're not just national events. They talk about more of a strategy of how to develop or promote UA adoption in the region. So those are five kinds of events which we are calling for.

If you scroll further down into the table, you will see that they are very specific. Like last time, you can plan based on your own requirements, awareness events, which are two hours or half day. You can actually plan adoption events, which are half day or full day. Or you can actually plan technical events, again, the normally full day or a strategy event. If you look at the third column, these are not linked yet, but we will provide you with materials which can be used for these events. So a lot of the preparation already goes into this material development, which can then be reused. We also provide some limited support to help with organizing that event. That level of support is also tied up with the kind of event you're doing. That sort of gives you an overview of what we're planning. If you go to the next link very briefly before I hand it back.

This is the form. This is linked from that web page. It's a reasonably straightforward form. It's just asking about the organization which is organizing the event, when the event is, how many participants, and so on. It's describing the event a little more. So that's a form to use to submit. Currently, the call is open until 15th of December for you to submit proposals. Once you submit the proposals, there's going to be a community-based group which will shortlist proposals received. They

look at, of course, the region where the proposal is coming from, the kind of event which is being proposed, number of participants reaching out, and the diversity of participants like whether it's reaching out to just community members or government or academia or technical community, so what is the variety of events or participants reaching out to, amount of financial support, and also the availability of any additional resources you're asking for. So all those factors actually go into the shortlisting process. With that, let me stop and hand it back to you. I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Sarmad, for this exhaustive giving an overview of it. We do have academics also within the APRALO, as well as people working on different things. Gopal did mention in the chat that he's already looking at the course, and perhaps Gopal may reach out and speak to you more on this as to how we can formalize it a bit more. So that is something which could be looked at. We have others also, like we have Sarai, etc., from the Pacific who may want to look at these things. We have Juliana, whose shared interest. We had a few questions while the UA Day has been actively celebrated in certain countries in Asia Pacific. From your perspective, are you looking at some specific countries where you would also want to focus? The reason for asking is we may have ALSes there who may want to participate.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:

So the criteria normally on shortlisting or is devised by the community group which looks at this, I can share that last time when they were

evaluating, one of the things they said and which was actually used as a criteria was, for geographical diversity, they didn't want to leave any country out of the process or territory. So at least one proposal from each country was actually shortlisted. And if there was only one proposal that got shortlisted, if there were multiple, then of course, they were reviewed to see which group could be shortlisted. So I think the community group, which is looking at it, is really in to encourage diversity and geographic diversity in this. So I think we are really looking for broader geographic participation and don't necessarily focus on any particular geography, but really do look for broader participation. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Sarmad. Are there any questions for Sarmad and for the APRALO members of the community members who are interested to at least look in pursuing for proposal? If you want, we could always have a separate call with you to discuss, brainstorm the ideas, but that is from APRALO's end. But if you have any questions for Sarmad ... Sarmad, I had another question. The people whom you supported last year, if they come up with a good proposal, would you be also supporting them? Or do you have a different criteria?

SARMAD HUSSAIN:

The people who organized the event last time can still apply for this year. So they qualify again. It's not that they don't qualify. But what we are, however, suggesting is that in a way they move one step further. So if they were doing just awareness events, they should really consider

doing events which are perhaps more deeper dive, like a technical training or adoption event this time. Because I think their community already has some level of expertise from an awareness perspective, and maybe it's time to move forward and maybe start looking at technical details. Or if you looked at technical details last time, maybe look at adoption this time. So that's the only thing that if you've actually already organized an event last time. If you're still organizing just an awareness event—and this is mentioned, the form is actually in the call as well—that awareness events are largely for first-time event organizers. And we encourage the second-time event organizers to look into organizing a more detailed kind of sessions. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Sarmad. I see Ashirwad's hand is up. Ashirwad, over to you.

ASHIRWAD TRIPATHY: Thank you, Amrita. So my question for Sarmad is about the UA Day. There's this event where we can do like integrating UA with curriculum or something. Is it only for educational institute or we can reach out to educational institute and do an event with them?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Right. It's, I think, targeted for educational institutions at this time, the way it's announced. So I think if you want to partner with them, we would strongly suggest that they are included as co-organizers. Because at the end of the day, I think they really do need to own up this for integration into the curriculum. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Sarmad and Ashirwad. Justine, you have your hand up?

JUSTINE CHEW: Yes. Thanks, Armita. Hi, Sarmad. Just a question. Do you have any idea what the total budget for this UA Day next year is going to be? And just a rough indication of how many projects it's going to support? Thanks.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: I think last year or this year, UASG, if you look at the FY24 Action Plan, has earmarked 100,000 USD for the events. I think, typically, the actual budget is slightly higher because there's obviously additional support which ICANN Org provides in addition to that budget for travel, for trainers, and those kinds of things, which sometimes don't get added on to that budget. So I think ballpark, we're talking about around 150,000. With that kind of funds, we were able to support around 56 proposals last time. So I think we're probably looking for a similar number this year based on the amount of proposals we receive, of course. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Sarmad and Justine. Just to answer your question in the chat, why you may apply for more than one proposal. Please do remember, in reality, since resources are less covered, not necessarily two proposals will be selected. ICANN has been supporting only one proposal from a country. It could come from any entity outside or within the ICANN community. So just be cautious that you may give

multiple proposals, but I think a quality proposal would be much better than quantity. So just be cautious on that.

Sarmad, this question came up last year from an ALS also like, for example, in a country where you have many languages, which needs to be integrated and having just one support given even to an industry association, many felt ... When there were other proposals in there, some discussion within the UA team, that if there is a country where you have multiple languages or scripts, etc., would there be more funding or would you stick to one country, one funding opportunity?

SARMAD HUSSAIN:

Again, this is something which is criteria is totally determined by the community-based group which shortlist these proposals. That may change over time as well. So once we formulate the team for this year, one of the first tasks of the team is to really determine what the criteria is. I shared some of the criteria which were used last time. Renewal diversity was one of the main things because the main focus of the event is to create awareness and capacity.

But having said that, I think there is no harm in applying for multiple proposals. Of course, we don't know what the committee will discuss and decide this year. It also depends on the amount of funds which are available and the amount of proposals which are received. So those are very dynamic variables. And it's sort of hard to predict at this time what will eventually be the criteria and selection process.

A couple of things to note in this case, at least last year, the team also, if you're applying for a proposal where you are not asking for funding, it is

approved by default almost. So eventually, if you're putting less, I guess, pressure on the resources which are available, there is a likely chance that it gets accepted. About more than one proposal from a country last year, the team was also looking at requesting multiple applicants from a country to maybe merge their efforts together, rather than just holding independent events. So that's also an option. But of course, there are geographies and countries where geographically they're very diverse, culturally, linguistically. So they can be real good motivations of having multiple proposals. Again, that's dynamic which will eventually be resolved by the community team which eventually decides on these proposals. So please, we encourage you to apply. Just don't hold back. And hopefully we will have the funds to support you. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you so much, Sarmad, for all this and patiently responding to the questions. For APRALO members and other community members here, if you think of a proposal and you want some help or if you kind of want to collaborate together within ALSes or individual members, please feel free. And if you want us to arrange another call to brainstorm, we from APRALO would be happy to do so.

I think we will go to the next phase, but before that, we would like to have a group picture taken because many of you leave early. So, Yeşim, if we could remove the screen and if we can bring everyone into the view? And others, would you be able to? Shah, would you be able to take some pictures? If you could, if possible, put on your screen so that we can have some pictures taken of everyone. We'll give you a minute to come online. If you can have your videos on, it would be great. We

would try to take a picture. I see Ashirwad is getting his hair tidied. Shah, are we good? Can we start taking pictures or do we wait for another minute? Anyone else wants to have their cameras on? Vivek, do you want to have your cameras on? Okay, I guess, Shah, let's go for it. Let us know when you are done.

YEŞİM SAĞLAM: Amrita, by the way, I took some pictures as well.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Okay, great. Are we done, Shah?

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: [Inaudible].

JUSTINE CHEW: Don't forget to scroll through the screen. We have multiple screens, okay? We've got more than 25 people.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yeah. We have it on 47-ish.

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: One more, the last one. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Okay. Thank you. Now on to our business. This is we will be discussing the Outreach and Engagement plan. Yeşim, if we could see the Google Doc in the screen, it would be great, the Outreach and Engagement.

So if you recall, people who had been in the General Assembly, we had a discussion with the GSE team on the Outreach and Engagement plan, and these were some of the activities which you as community, GSE and others, had agreed upon. So we are in the process of finalizing it and sending it off, but we wanted you to have a look also at it. If you have any comments, etc., you could share on it. Let me also open my sheet so that I can go through it. Or if you could increase the font a bit, that would be good.

For example, we have places wherein certain activities were suggested, like the inSIG, which have happened. There was a Root Conference which was suggested. Thank you so much, Sarmad, on this. ISOC Trivandrum had suggested on doing a DNS Security Workshop in November. There was a discussion on having the session on MENO23 on DNS Security. Then looking at the DNS Abuse material and trying to coordinate on it, continuing engagement with the government on national security strategy, etc., in some countries, Yemen and Palestine. But I'm not sure looking at how things are there at this point of time, whether that's going to happen, at least now, but it's June 2024. So at there's time. Attending events where telecom operators are targeted. Can we scroll to the next page?

The link to the document is there in the agenda so you can look at it. There was the Yemen Security Conference, Palestine Security Conference, which was spoken about. DNSSEC sessions at PacNOG.

DNSSEC presentation of International Festivals of Cybersecurity in Georgia. Then School of Internet Governance. Then attracting new ALSes, which is in progress. Samoa IT Association, I think Sarai is working on it. Tonga is also something which was suggested. And obviously developing information to ALSes and individual members on how to apply, I think we can work on it from the leadership team. There were discussions on the pKSIG, School of Internet Governance in Armenia, MEAC-SIG. More coordination with international organizations. PacIGF 2024. Participation in PacSON, PILON. I think that was something which Xavier had suggested. ICANN read-out for the Pacific.

If Sarai and others want to do more in the Pacific, we could do so, but we can add it later also. We did have our General Assembly so we will have the report out soon. Sabri and Vivek is working on the basic draft so that others can then comment on it. Those who had volunteered—can we scroll down a bit—promoting ICANN programs, Shreedeeep has been doing that with Fellows. I'm sure he would plan to continue. ICANN was promoted in IGF by Maureen. Ananya acceptor from the region. Then APRALO engagement event is building on DNS ecosystem. Raising understanding with Bangladesh Journalist. [Gautam] has to give some timelines. APSIG is in November. So I think Satish, etc., will be working on that. APriGF Taipei, obviously, we have Ashirwad, Aris, [Maye] and others who can look at it, engage in different Middle Eastern activities. PacINET, youth initiatives, increased diversity in Pacific Region, etc. Gunela wanted to focus on the accessibility issues within ICANN Org. She is going to work with the Jia-Rong on this. To promote the new gTLD round, obviously, we need to know more, but obviously, Application Support is something which we are looking at.

Contributing to the UA Day 2024 is something which we have been speaking about right now and we would have a particular lead for this. Explore raising awareness of IDNs in Taiwan. Louk Chi had suggested and he would be partnering with Yien-Chyn, maintaining close communication with ALSes representation as a focal point. IGF 2024, which would be in December at Riyadh. And obviously, UA awareness raising in Armenian IGF.

So these were certain things which were planned. Most of us were okay with it. There may be some tweaks which we could do towards the end. If any of you have any comments, you could share that, because we need to send it over, the finalized version, to ICANN for blocking it, because we will be reviewing it on those aspects. Any comments, questions, anything? Certain local activities were ones which you as a community had suggested. Any comments, questions? Radio silence sometimes is very concerning. It may mean that we do not agree, it may mean we agree, or we have doubts.

Okay. So I see a thumbs up from [inaudible]. But in any case, this is a dynamic one also, if you feel you would want to add some initiatives, you can always speak to us and we can add that over or we can edit it, that this could not happen but we could do so. If there is a political issue or crisis, certain things may not happen there. So we need to be realistic on those also.

Okay, I guess no one wants to say anything. Yes, it will be shared. It will be in the thing, but we are sending the finalized version. Sarai, for Pacific, we are looking at more active engagement from Pacific, from NOGs and [inaudible], so they're from PICISOC. And others are also

there. You've been to ICANN78. We want more activity there, and we would be happy to support everyone in that region. This would be shared with all of you also.

So yes, let's get to the next part of the business. Hi, Harish. We know you are here. We can see your name so you need not write your name here, but welcome to the call. The next part is let's meet our Fellows and community members. So we have four community members with us who are Fellows in ICANN78: Sarai, Vesmira, Naima, and Edwin. They are all dynamic active. What we would like to hear from you is now that you have been in ICANN78 participated, what is next for you, and how do you want to engage within the ICANN community? And obviously, what is the kind of support you are looking at from the ICANN community? We could bring the spotlight on Sarai now. Perhaps, Yeşim, we could remove this page and bring the person into the spotlight. Sarai, over to you first.

SARAI TEVITA:

Thank you, Amrita. Good evening from Samoa, it's 7:53 here. It's good to see some people I met there at ICANN meeting in Hamburg. Hello all. According to the three questions that Amrita sent to us to speak on today. Yes, participated in ICANN78, what's next? After the ICANN78, I was being overwhelmed with a lot of information as we heard from there, but it's good to be part of the ICANN78 meeting. I think it's about time for us in the Pacific to make a lot of noise about ICANN, what it has been doing. And yes, we know ICANN give us DNS and IP and all those, but it's little presence of the Pacific in this space. And for us being there, it's good to have our colleague here, Edwin. We were there as well and

give me support when we have the PICISOC meeting. And also good to have Maureen sitting there for a while in the ICANN, I know very well. So to support this idea of giving back to our community.

What the ICANN can do for the Pacific, what's ICANN for? So that's my first thing take is that talk more about it. Because if we don't talk more about it, nothing can happen. So find out for my country ... This is the first time I heard of our domain is not hosted locally, not hosted in Samoa. It's somewhere else. So it gives me that courage to come out and find out where is my country's domain? What is the status? Who are the registries and registrars? So that's my PIC assignment. I started talking to all academia as well SITA, Samoa IT Association, to look at these areas. Because we've been discussing the application level so well, but the physical level and the level one and two from the module, that's something that we need to look at. But being there in the ICANN, that gives me a big picture of it that needs to be done. And also affiliate more with those ICANN community and those ICANN people that we met there so that gives us a green light of what is happening out there.

And also consider using what is being practiced, I really liked the multistakeholder approach. That's something we need to look at. I've been involved currently with developing a strategy for our rural connectivity as a lead person here, and then looking at that. So thanks to the ICANN meetings because they were bragging about the multistakeholder approach. That's one of my takeaways from the ICANN78 meeting in Hamburg.

How do I now plan to engage at ICANN? Yes, continue collaboration and communicate with people that we met there, as well as APRALO, we

have you here. It's good to see them all, Shah and the team, and complete our application of Samoa IT Association as one of ALS. I also spoke to our academia here, something to look at, and it's all in the text that DNS being taught in the post grad program. That's really interesting. Yeah, that makes me I want to contact that person.

So the support from the Pacific? The credit support we want is some funding for people to travel when ICANN meetings or events occur, because that's the main. We are far from you guys. So it's so expensive for us to travel. That's amazing for us. And bring resourceful people to share the knowledge and provide workshops, especially if DNS management, that's something for us to look at. We are the Pacific and the PICISOC to host some workshops maybe by next year. The flaws we have is the funds, but it's good to see that with the UA event, that's something that we need to tap in. And that's something for our people to bring it together, those ideas. And also to revive this. We had the ccTLD team before, but then I don't know what happened to them. But it's good to revive that because we see the importance of knowing all this, especially the ccTLD. I think I'll say more. I can ask any questions that some other way. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Sarai. You have been very explicit and you've already started work on a lot of things. It's important. And experience does help. And Siranush is also there in the call to hear it. The other good thing is while we all aspire to go for the meetings, but these meetings are also online, anyone can join. I know it's not the same thing. But if people are interested, they can still join without technically any cost, apart from

the bandwidth cost. So that's something. But thank you so much. And any help you need with your application for Samoa, etc., we would be happy and we can speak offline on any support for the UA Day proposal from Samoa or even from the Pacific, we would be happy on that.

And with this, let's go to Armenia, where we have Vesmira. Vesmira, over to you. The same question, how you want to take it forward.

VESMIRA HARUTYUNYAN: Hello. Do you hear me?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yes, we can.

VESMIRA HARUTYUNYAN: Thank you. Well, greetings to all of you from Armenia. It's very nice to meet the APRALO new leaders. My congratulations to all of you. It's very nice to meet the APRALO new leaders. I'm Vesmira Harutyunyan, ICANN78 Fellow, board chair of Internet Society Armenia Chapter, public organization, and board member of Internet Society NGO.

So I want to start by expressing my gratitude to the Election Committee members once more for providing me and the other Fellows with the chance of participating at ICANN78 in person.

Next, about the future, I can say, it should be mentioned that I'm very excited today because I have been once again granted the privilege of becoming an ICANN79 Fellow Community Forum in San Juan which will

be focused on outreach and capacity building. Thank you for this opportunity. It means that the journey is going on. And along the way, there are opportunities to learn new professional skills, network with experienced professionals in the field, and take part in the sessions that are extremely important for both professional and informational purposes.

About the engagement in ICANN community, it should be mentioned that I do believe that the second opportunity will have even more tangible results for me. As previously mentioned, I'm board member of Internet Society NGO, which is the registry of .am and .huy ccTLD. And for this reason, I value the involvement in the discussion and communications of working groups, such as the ccNSO, Universal Acceptance, DNS abuse, and other thematic discussions that are highly relevant to my field of work.

Additionally, I would like to bring to your attention that Internet Society Armenia Chapter in our country organizes and hosts a number of events, which are focused towards the advancement of Internet such as Internet Governance Forum, Armenia School on Internet Governance, Girls in ICT, encryption, they have Universal Acceptance Day and other events. And being a member of Internet Society Armenia Chapter, I'm involved in the organizational part of these events. And when you witness how conference like ICANN is coordinated, arranged, and actually carried out, you are able to observe best practices personally and apply all these organizational strategies to plan such events in your own country.

What support are you looking from ICANN? I can say that participating as ICANN78, I realized that ICANN is the unique organization where each participant is given a very unique and direct approach. For ICANN, each participant is valuable and very important in the sense that they consider you as their continuation. You become an integral part of a big family. And you're initiated as a hardworking and active participation are welcomed with a great enthusiasm.

ICANN meetings are all about participation, collaboration, and finding solutions to the small and large problems that the Internet companies face. When you have a small problem, when you have a large problem, it doesn't matter. They are ready to help and support you selflessly. ICANN inspire by giving an opportunity to gain new knowledge, gain new friends.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Vesmira, we would have to cut you because we have lots time and we are running out of time. If you could just quickly conclude.

VESMIRA HARUTYUNYAN: Okay. At ICANN78, I just learned that ICANN is about trust and to trust ICANN. And that's all. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you so much, Vesmira. We move to Naima from Pakistan. And then we will go to Edwin. I beg you to stick to your three to four minutes. Naima, can you share what your next plans are?

NAIMA AWAN:

Thank you, Amrita. I hope I'm audible. So hello, everyone. I'm Naima from Pakistan. I'm a media and communications analyst and I'm working as a sub editor at one of the national newspapers of Pakistan. I'm also ICANN78 Fellow, first time Fellow. Attending ICANN was a truly rewarding experience for me with a week full of action-packed networking.

I'm going to be completely honest, coming to ICANN, I was actually very nervous, coming to ICANN from a completely non-technical background. But being part of this Fellowship taught me that irrespective of our backgrounds, we can contribute to shaping Internet policies. It's not confined to our backgrounds or our age groups, which I find really motivating.

Another thing, what impressed me the most about our Fellowship program was the possibility of ICANN's leadership. Especially during our networking hours, I found that the ICANN community, ICANN members, they are reaching out to us. And we didn't always have to go to them. They were taking the initiative to coming to us, asking questions, sharing their insights, providing guidance, sharing their contact details with us. I actually got in touch with some of the community members over the e-mail. I was really happy to see that they took the time to reply back to me. So did my colleagues, they provided me guidance, and it really helped shaped my ICANN Fellowship experience.

While there were a lot of interesting things happening at the ICANN, I particularly found myself drawn towards NCUC's work, and I'm looking

forward since we are now done with all the obligatory elements of the ICANN Fellowship. So I'm looking forward to joining the mailing list and want to explore what's happening there. Also, I'm interested in what is happening in ALAC. And I want to know how can we be more active part of Asia Pacific region. Also, I have a very specific interest in outreach, engagement, and capacity building.

Thank you, Amrita, for sharing the engagement plans for APRALO. It's really great to see a lot is happening in this area. And I wanted to ask a question during that session, but for some reason, I don't know why my hand raise emoticon was not working. So want to know, how can we contribute more effectively to outreach, engagement, and capacity building programs? And how can we more actively become part of this area. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Naima. Thank you for sharing. In terms of how you can be active, for example, the Islamabad ISOC Chapter, I think you're a member also of it. As participant, you can join the WhatsApp group. We have opportunities in case you want to do some activity. There is an option. You can always look at it. We are encouraging the young teams to work on things. So there are options. You can be in the WhatsApp group mailing list, you will get to know. And you can proactively also kind of reach out and we would be happy to help. Okay. Thanks a lot.

Let's move to Fiji, and Edwin is here. Let's hear from you now, the only man in this group of women.

EDWIN SANDYS:

Hi, everyone. Basically, I'll usher a little bit of what Sarai and Naima and also Vesmira said, the leadership that's within ICANN is very approachable. In fact, people were coming up to me, introducing themselves and say, "Hey, this is what I do," and stuff like that. So that really made us feel at home, Amrita. They were absolutely marvelous in responding to us in any queries that we had. So thank you for making our stay valuable.

Sorry, if I didn't mention, I'm also an ICANN78 Fellow. Some of the stuff that I took away from ICANN—and I've already provided most of that in my report—the biggest thing for me was just understanding ICANN structure and understanding how we as the Pacific relate to that. And with all the bodies that exist, like this particular body, how do we fit into that? Who's the appropriate people that go into that? So it's a mess and I tag team on trying to come up with a structure so that we can explain it to people. Like if someone picks up ICANN tomorrow from any of our organizations or from the government and they say, "Okay, where do I fit in this big picture?" we can actually see it and share their experiences. And that's really the strength that we took away from that.

I have a lot of recommendations that we really want to put in. But I think one of the one of the key aspects that I think we need to be more engaged in the Pacific is we need to attend these events more actively, even the online events. And that's part of the reason why I'm here today, so that we can build that understanding.

Travel is always going to be a challenge, and we understand that. But we also understand that as long as we have some means of accessing content online, it should be good. I find that our biggest challenge in the

Pacific is we've got to be able to come to events and come back and actually do something about it, and implement what we've learned.

There was a slide that was brought up earlier that spoke about PacNOG 32 in Tonga. So that was actually one of the events that I was going to present that, and I usually help out at those events. But I've had to pull out from that due to another work commitment I've had. But those sort of practical events, we've got to find a way of engaging people and getting them to come and do a training. But not only that, perhaps having a conversation with people and saying, "Hey, after this training, would you like us to actually help you implement this?" Because I think the confidence level is part or perhaps one of the areas that we can actually help out with. And if they're too embarrassed and they need someone from the Pacific, then let's reach out to each other and help each other. So yeah, that's basically what I wanted to share about my experiences from ICANN. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you so much, Edwin. Very practical things like help each other. If some external source is not available, if you can do it within the community, and knowing who is doing what, and helping each other is important, specifically in distant places or even in near places.

And with this, we may extend the call for another five minutes. We move to Cheryl who will quickly be sharing on the Rules of Procedures, working group, what has been done. So, Cheryl, over to you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much Amrita. I will indeed be quick, I can assure you. Those of you who are engaged with the General Assembly or have reviewed the records and the meeting record notes from the General Assembly will know all about our most timely review of the APRALO Rules of Procedure.

We formed a working group. If any of you have missed out on the opportunity to join us, feel free to let staff know that you'd be interested to do that. We've held only one meeting. Since the General Assembly and the huge amount of work, we covered then. And we're working currently in sections of the four major sections in the first and second section, which we will be going through and reviewing comments and agreeing on any changes if needs be from where we are now in our next call.

So it is one of those watch the spaces. My guess is—Justine and I haven't discussed this in detail—I think we're probably about three weeks behind schedule. But that's okay. We'll bring it home before the end of the calendar year. Back to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you so much for this. Shah, we will move to you quickly. Briefly talk to us about—I would say you skip the ICANN78 read-out and you come quickly to what is next in terms of capacity building.

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: Thank you, Amrita. In the next week, we have a project from our APF call that is organized by Justine Chew. It will briefly discuss some basics

of policy. And then we'll have Annabeth that will be [inaudible] to this very soon, but next one is already [inaudible]. So I would like to request all to join the next Policy call. It will be a brief discussion. Justine will share all those very briefly.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Shah. In case you could not hear Shah clearly, there is the APRALO Policy Forum. There is a webinar next week, Thursday. And if you could put it into the chat when it is, it would be good. If you want to build an understanding on the Applicant Support system, which is important for our region, it would be good if you could attend it. The APRALO Policy Forum works on other issues. If you feel that there is some policy you don't understand, you can reach out right there. And you can subscribe to the mailing list. It's all there in the APRALO Policy Forum document.

And with this, we move on to a feedback which we would want from you. Yeşim, if you could share the page. So if you could go to menti.com, we want the feedback on how you would want the APRALO monthly call, what you would want us to discuss. Go to menti.com and use the code 51960320 or use the link which has been put into the chat and put in what you would like to be discussed. We give you two to three minutes, and then we would like to see the word blurb. It would be great. We have some 45-odd people at this point in the call. If you could go into that link and put in your comments as to what you would like us to discuss in our monthly calls because we want it to be meaningful. Give me a moment I will share my screen so that you can also see what is coming in. Wait. Let me see how I can increase it. I hope you can see

it. We have had 10 responses. If others also put key in because this is your space and we would want you to say what you want us to discuss. It's at menti.com and use the user code.

Okay. So we see DNS security, safety, community engagement opportunities, improvements, end user issues observed, what's happening. If someone who's written about journalists, if you could elaborate what for journalists, that would be helpful. Do remember we work within ICANN's remit. There's someone who's talking about routing security updates, capacity building, cybersecurity, technical outreach.

Okay. We just have one more minute for this call. So in case you have anything else, key it in, we will be looking at it. Yeşim, until that time, could you share when our next call is?

YEŞİM SAĞLAM:

Sure, Amrita. One second, please. Let me pull up the calendar. Okay. So December it's going to be the third Thursday of the month. It will be the 21st of December.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

I hope 21st December is okay with you all. We have some 34 responses which have come up, which is great. And if you want to put in something else, you could. We would be sharing this word blurb also with everyone. But I would like to thank each one of you for participating in this call. I hope you enjoyed the call, you found it meaningful. I hope you would continue to engage. Let us know which

are the areas you would want to work on, if you individually want to reach out to us. Thank you, everyone. I think at one point of time, we reached more than 50 people, though we've had people coming and going, but I think we had a good turnout and hope we can have more people coming in. If you want, you can always invite your community members, your ALS members, to join into these calls. It is not exclusive. It's for the community, your ALS members, etc. So thank you so much. And thankfully, we finished on time. One minute more than our scheduled time. Bye and thanks.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bye for all. Thanks a lot.

YEŞİM SAĞLAM: Have a great rest of the day. Bye-bye.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, thank you, everyone. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]