CLAUDIA RUIZ:	Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to you all. Welcome to the LACRALO Monthly Call on Monday, 18th of December 2023 at 23:00 UTC.
	In order to save time, we are not going to do a roll call, but I'm going to mention the apologies that we received from Laura Margolis, Betty Fausta, Oscar Giudice, and Dev Anand Teelucksingh.
	Our interpreters today are Paula and Marina in Spanish; Esperanza and Bettina in Portuguese; and Jacques and Claire in French.
	Before starting, please let me remind you to kindly remember to say your name before taking the floor for the interpreters to identify you in the proper channels.
	Now, without further ado, I give the floor to Harold.
HAROLD ARCOS:	Thank you, Claudia. Welcome to you all, to all the ALS members, and all of you who have joined us today. We are going to close the year with the best energy level possible. So let me ask our secretary to let us know what we have on the menu today. What will the agenda be like today?
SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:	Thank you, Harold. In principle, we will give the floor to Alberto Soto. He's going to talk about the DNS. He will have 15 minutes for that presentation. Then we are going to have an update on public

consultation. For that, we will have a look at the At-Large policy advice development page. So the members ALAC will give us an update.

Then we have the report of all the chairs of the working groups. I will take care of governance; Marcelo, communications; Sylvia Herlein, Universal Acceptance and IDN. Adrian Carballo will be in charge of the update on capacity building. And then we will have the LACRALO Board Report. This will be presented by Harold and myself. This will take us approximately six minutes.

We will also have an update on the OSB Working Group. That is the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group for ALAC finance. Claire Craig and myself will be giving this report. Then we will have a report on CIP-CCG. Carlos Aguirre and Christelle Vaval will be in charge of this part of the agenda. We will also talk about the ICANN79 Puerto Rico Fellowship Program. Gerardo Martinez will speak about that for three minutes.

Then we have Any Other Business. If you have any other business to discuss, it would be good if you could raise it right now so that we can add it to the agenda. And then, acknowledgements.

Vanda, go ahead.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: I just want to remind you that for the AOB section, I would like to take a minute to remind you of the vacancies that we have in the NomComs, just for you to be aware of this.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:	Okay. So that will be included in Item 10. You will refer to the NomCom. So with this, we have gone through the agenda.
	Harold, I'll give you back the floor to see if there is adoption of the agenda.
HAROLD ARCOS:	I'm looking at the list of participants. I see Claire's hand is up. Go ahead, Claire.
CLAIRE CRAIG:	Hi. Good day, everyone. Under Any Other Business, if there's an opportunity, I would like us to consider possibly doing a rotation for the LACRALO meetings since there are some persons who will never be able to attend the meeting at this time. Thank you.
HAROLD ARCOS:	Thank you, Claire. Of course, we will add that item on the agenda under Any Other Business. I think that most of us could agree with that by consensus, but when we get there, we will see what the people's views are.
SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:	Just a point of order. I think the issue that Claire raised is very important. If we cannot discuss it today, my suggestion is that we also discuss it through the mailing list to have some rotation times for this meeting, in case we run out of time and we don't get to discuss it today.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes. Hopefully, we will get there. But if not, we can discuss it through the mailing list.

All right. So I don't see any other hands up. Let me check the chat. So I think that we can consider the agenda is adopted. So let's start.

First, let me say that we have become active now on reconnecting. Since the General Assembly, we decided to keep up with all the policy development work and to discuss these issues in this space, the monthly meeting. This is the natural space for us to have this discussion. Alberto made some significant contributions through their mailing list, and he suggested that we should discuss the DNS. And he also told us that this discussion was already taking place within the ALAC.

So Alberto is here with us. So thank you, Alberto, for talking about this. The floor is yours.

ALBERTO SOTO: Thank you, Harold. I'm just waiting for Sylvia to put my presentation on the screen. Please don't start keeping the time now. I'm going to talk about DNS abuse. This is a very important topic in my opinion. I'm not an expert, of course, but there are some experts and specialists who say that this is one of the topics that has great impact on end users.

And I have even had this discussion with some former chairs. Or even with the ICANN CEO, I had this discussion. He said all of us are end users, and I said, "No, this is not so much so." All of us sit in front of the computer, use a mobile phone and a tablet. But the end users that we

represent are end users who have no knowledge at all, or they don't have the same level of knowledge that we have. We can sometimes speak about ourselves, but not about those users. So we need to represent them.

So I'm going to talk about one of the types of DNS abuse, and that is phishing. For my English speaking colleagues, please read the print in bold. You will see that some parts of the text is in bold, and that is for you.

So this is an email message that I received asking me to check my account. This belongs to an American Express credit card account. It is telling me that I have some problems, and that I need to review my account.

So first, the first piece of advice is we need to check where the email is coming from. If you look at the address, the sender is quite well hidden here. When somebody receives this email, they may click on Review our Account Now. If you are unaware of this, you just go into this trap. But with this snapshot, with this screenshot that you see here, if I were to click on this, this will take me to a different place, and they will be able to take all my information away.

This is a bank from Argentina. It is telling me that my actions are dangerous. No bank is going to talk to its clients like that. And if you look at the sender's address, it is quite suspicious. So if a bank wants me to go into WhatsApp, then they would ask me to click on here, and you go into WhatsApp. But here, you [inaudible] click on this button. You won't be taken to WhatsApp. You will be taken to a fraudulent site.

We always say that HTTPS was one way of identifying that this site is secure, but this is no longer the case. So look at this. The address reads "HTTPS," and then it follows from there.

But please don't move the slides forward until I say so, please. Thank you.

So here, you can see the address, "HTTPS." And this is not the bank's site.

This is a court order. Of course, this is not coming from any law enforcement agency. The end user probably will not pay attention to all the details, or perhaps they may be scared because they don't know the legal jargon. This is quite a silly email message because I think that nobody is going to fall into this trap. But there may be someone who does.

Here, when you look at XML, there you can also see where it is taking you to. This doesn't make much sense. No one is going to open this file, something that says "Hello, how are you? I'm enclosing here the invoice for December." The address seems to be coming from a secure site, but look at what happens if you click on here.

This is quite dangerous because there are two companies that you see here, [Cubed] and Harde—I can't see read their name now. The print is too small here. But these two companies are legitimate webmail companies. So if somebody received this kind of email from the support team, supposedly, then they may be deceived.

Here, they are telling you that, for security reasons, they need to run this check. Otherwise, your access will be blocked, and you are going to lose everything here. So when you click here on sign in, if you see the image to the right, you can read the address that says "Support the [webmail] is—I don't care. So, clearly, this is not a legitimate site.

This is quite important, quite an interesting example. Why? Because if you look at the official webpage for the Argentine government, it looks quite similar. I knew that this was a case of phishing, so I opened up this site argentina.gob.ar, and I was able to access the official website. So somebody may click on that button, asking you to have a look at the details of a fine that you received. Some people may do that, and they may fall into that trap.

Of course, the government doesn't ask you to do that. So when you place the mouse here and you right click, you can see this address. And this is their secure site.

I run a search for the Internet email data. This is quite long to explain, but I just focused on the most important part, the one that I wanted to explain to you. So when you look at the IP address, here you find the sender, eximiamedical.ro, as you can see bottom of the screen.

And so I ran a search for Eximia Medical. That is a medical supplies company that exists in Romania. And there is a sender. The sender is real. So in this case, they have used real data for this phishing example. What is fake here is that there is a fine and that you can click on to see the details of that fine.

So there are DNS attacks. That is one form of DNS abuse. You have DNS spoofing. So here, falsified data is introduced into the DNS resolver. cache. So the user will receive an incorrect IP address for the domain that the user was looking for.

So you are going to be taken to a malicious site. Or perhaps this is just an imitation of the original site. I checked something that I received from Visa in a machine that I was using just for that purpose, and I was asked to provide information. And with that information, they could steal all my account details. But I can assure you that all the screens looked like the Visa official site, although it wasn't.

Then you can also have the DNS tunnel type of attack. Here you can Secure Shells, TCP (Transmission Control Protocol), or HTTP to cause this kind of attack. So here, there is information that is stolen through DNS queries, and most of the firewalls can't detect this kind of [inaudible].

Then we also have DNS hijacking. The attacker redirects the queries to a different domain name server. This can be done using malware or an unauthorized modification of a DNS server. The result is similar to what we explained before. It is similar to the DNS spoofing type of attack. But in this case, it is the DNS record on the name server that is attacked, not the resolver's cache.

Then you can also have the NXDOMAIN type of attacks. Here the attacker floods the server with a large number of requests for records that do not exist. If that attack is too large, the domain may be there. The records may be there. But these can also cause a denial of service.

This is a similar type of attack. It is called phantom domain attack. So here, there is a very slow response or no response at all. So there is a flood of requests. And this freezes the domain because the domain is waiting for responses. So this leads to slowed down performance and to denial of service.

I can't go over all the examples because 15 minutes is not enough time, but let me mention them. You can also have random subdomain attack, domain lock attack, CPE type of attack (Common Platform Enumeration attack). This is based on botnet. So this platform may be used by people who don't know that their machines are being used by attackers, and they may use botnets that may be placed anywhere in the world for this kind of attack.

The most common attacks are the following. You have typosquatting. Here this is a domain name record. Here they register a domain name similarly major domains, and they are waiting for the user to make a mistake so they can redirect the user to other sites where they can take all the information away from that user.

Then phishing. We have seen, already, several examples. Links or malicious files are sent to the user. Now files are not so much used because links are more effective. As I showed you in the previous example.

Cybersquatting. This means registration of domain names that later on are used to commit abuses and the resale of those domains. Or sometimes these domains are used as a platform to commit crime. Next, please.

There are some techniques that can be used to detect and identify these kinds of attacks. You can have DNS forensics. Since you have some level of knowledge about this, you can imagine what they include: threat intelligence integration, analysis of domain activity behaviors, activities on domain-owned IP address ranges. So if you have several IP addresses, you can review the activities.

Then, WHOIS data tracking and analysis and reputation scoring based on machine learning. Machine learning is done through support vector machines and artificial neural networks. Next one, please.

So by way of conclusion, let me say that DNS abuse is a crime. It grows day by day. I don't have the latest statistics, but, anyway, the old statistics that I was able to collect were very high. So domain abuse occurs when the domain name is used for an illegal purpose or a purpose that is inconsistent with the intended use of that domain name. And oftentimes, the owner has no intention or knowledge of such use. Banks don't know that their sites are being used for that. Next, please.

So with Lance, we had some exchange a few days ago, and he insisted on the need to increase awareness. And I fully agree with that. We need to be aware of three aspects when we talk about DNS abuse.

And once again, in my humble opinion, and others agree, the end users are affected by DNS abuse because they don't have the knowledge. So it is important to alert the end users. I have used very silly examples, and I've noticed that they are silly. But oftentimes, users don't realize, and

they just fall into the trap and they are disposed of all they have. So we have to make sure that end users are aware of this.

As ALSes, we have the duty to collaborate locally with the dissemination and implementation of DNSSEC. Why? DNSSEC is a [software] program that our [inaudible] can implement remotely or locally. So as an ALS at the local level, we can verify—at least this is something we can do. We can verify if our ICs have DNSSEC deployed. If not, we can contact them, and we can make the arrangements for them to be able to implement it. I have spoken with some providers, but they haven't paid much attention to me. Next one.

ICANN developed a system that is called DAAR. It is the Domain Abuse Activity Reporting system to identify and track various types of domain abuse. The system can recognize some main types of security threats. One of them is [inaudible] spam. That means using a domain to manipulate a search engine rankings create a low quality pages that link to other websites. There are many other examples, and you can find more information in ICANN's website because I've ran out of time now.

HAROLD ARCOS: Let me ask you if it's going to be your last night or what?

ALBERTO SOTO: Sorry, this was the last one. It was a very short time.

HAROLD ARCOS: Well, at the beginning when we discussed it, we thought it would be enough time. But as you say, many things to share. And I will ask people to share the recommendations so that we can have it in our action items. Because if we just make a presentation and take no action, there will be no change. So this has to set a line of work in our outreach activities for the future.

We have three hands raised: Alejandro Pisanty first.

ALBERTO SOTO: Can I say something before? There is a way of providing training to users through DNSSEC, which is through a camera which is provided by many providers. That provides a lot of information. We have to do something like that.

HAROLD ARCOS: Actually, that is a plan of GNT that is going to be conducted very soon, so we're going to take action on that. Alejandro, you have the floor.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: If you want, I can be the last.

HAROLD ARCOS: It's okay. The shorter the better, so it's the same. Lance, so you have the floor.

Let's wait for the interpreter to connect with Zoom, and we'll start to listen in to Lance. Lance, you have the floor.

LANCE HINDS:	Thank you, chair. First of all, thank you, Alberto, for your submissions. And also, maybe we can break this information down into smaller bits and start disseminating it on the mailing list over time. So it would be like tips, or it would be like tips and tricks or something like that. So we could be able to spread this information around within the RALO itself. To be able to allow the other members who might not be as familiar with this topic as others to benefit from that.
	So maybe Augusto could send this to us if he doesn't mind. And together, we can work on just breaking this down into smaller bits and put it on the mailing list, to start. And then look out afterwards for whether there is a possibility of conducting some training at this end as well or are at the level of ALS. And even if you do it at the level of the ALS, you can provide guidance in terms of what they would train the general public or interested users on. Thank you, chair.
HAROLD ARCOS:	Thank you so much, Lance, for your recommendation. I agree. I think this should be an action item for our members to be aware of this information and share this information about the newsletter as well because these little bit of information, it's an excellent input for the newsletter, for our monthly newsletter.
	Alejandro, is your hand still raised?
ALEJANDRO PISANTY:	Yes. Whenever you want.

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HAROLD ARCOS: Take the floor please.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Thank you so much. Alberto, what you have described is basic security on DNS. And not all the attacks he's shown are actually attacks on the DNS/ For example, there is one which is the name of the machinery store in [inaudible].com. The company's software has been captured by malware actions, and that's where they are resending the mails.

The same happens with WhatsApp WME. That's a different type of abuse. In that case, they are not stepping into the computer service, but they are using the messaging services for malicious deliveries. The DNS abuse problems are quite extensive and significant [inaudible] DNSSEC [inaudible] one portion of that problem in the resolution of the name. And that has been discussed over and over again for the past 15 years in ICANN. We should be made sure that if we are going to do some debate we should be updated first.

And we can be even more specific in our region, and it has to do with TLD registrations, both gTLD and ccTLDs. There is a very strong weakness with ccTLDs of our region. In the case of relatively small countries with volatile economies where the name registration are not able, from the financial point of view, to hire staff and to buy software and hire services for secure protection of their servers.

Let me give you an example. In the chat, it was a recent topic of discussion in our community. The registration of [inaudible] AI, which is

a national registry of one of the Antilles island nations. It was sold by two companies of an artificial intelligence. So this is a strong weakness. This is to say TLD has a software that has been invaded since July, and we have no use or any response to this.

So why is it important to mention this in this context? Because once the new gTLDs were established, some of them have shown to be very weak in their protection policies. For example, .xyz or, before that, .hk were hosting a lot of malware, many malicious sites. They allow bulk registrations of millions [inaudible] names with successive numerals that are used for forging and faking. And the gTLDs have a contractual obligation with ICANN, among other things, to protect the consumer, the domain name holder from making [inaudible] use of its registrations in a competitive way. And also security failure.

So the [inaudible] is found to maintain a high level of security. That is not the case with the ccTLD. So requiring a ccTLD to do the same thing as the gTLD could be harmful. As Alberto said, this might open up opportunities that are outside ICANN's control for abuse, such as the ones that have been already explained.

And to conclude, Leon Yvette, the country is [inaudible]. Another aspect is about price. ICANN does not make any control of fees. They are talking about [inaudible] the [higher] expense for renewals. We see that the registrations are exposed to not only the information, in the case of AI, there is a privacy issue that goes beyond our reach. But that will be attributed to the weaknesses of our region. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you so much, Alejandro, for clarification, for shedding light. And certainly, we have a full [stack] ahead of us. It is not randomly that we have taken the decision to discuss policy [inaudible] issues.

Now, for the sake of time, let's move on. We will assign two or three minutes to each. So once again, thank you, Alberto. And let's now continue with our ALAC amendments. I'm going to ask Marcelo and Claire to help me here. And if possible, the staff can show us the page where the public comment out of the posters so that someone can tell us what's on our [working table].

So who's going to take the floor? Claire? Marcelo? Any of you, please go ahead.

CLAIRE CRAIG: Hello.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: Can you hear me?

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes, Marcelo. You are loud and clear.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: Well, let me first check if I can properly see the page. On the At-Large Policy Statement and Advice, we have the advisory community and the At-Large community with the multistakeholder development advice on

the first side, then the development of inter-regional policies and the reference to each of the sessions that are being held.

We have the policy sessions, the abuse, the topic that has recently been discussed, the DNS abuse [inaudible] handbook, the content of the page. And below we find the open statements on which comments can be made with views and perspectives, of course, from the At-Large.

The open public comment is the At-Large Workspace: the draft of the PTI Operating Plan and Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The public comment will close on February 12th in 2024, and there is an email address where to send the staff—planning@icann.org. And then we have the At-Large Workspace with the Draft ICANN Plan for Fiscal Year 2025. So on the one hand, we have the operating plan and the budget; and on the other hand, we have the Draft ICANN Plan for fiscal year 2025.

And below that, we can also find the statements that have already closed and the advice [inaudible] that were already closed on December 4 and previous months, each for corresponding comment.

So in each of these workspace, you will find that draft. Some bridge work has been done, and meetings that have taken place throughout this month of December. This week, we will have a meeting. And also, you can see the steps that are going to be taken, the actions in case they are ratified, and also the final draft version that will be voted upon by the ALAC. This is what we can find here under Open Statements & Advice on this At-Large Policy Advice Development page.

I will give the floor to Claire if she's here so that she can expand on this [necessary].

HAROLD ARCOS: Please, Claire, go ahead.

CLAIRE CRAIG: I will just ask staff to scroll up to the top of the page. Scroll up. Okay. So what I wanted everyone to be aware of from the ALAC is that this is where you can go to find out exactly what is happening with respect to the ALAC.

Let me just turn my camera on so that you can see.

There is a lot that is happening in the ALAC, and so for us to sit here to go through everything will take a while. And I think it is also very important for all of us to be familiar with this.

So if you scroll down, staff, to—I just wanted to show you the tabs. So it says "At-Large participation in GNSO PDP 3.0 Representative Models." Now, you would see there, there is the Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process. That's the first tab. And for each one of these tabs, there At-Large representatives who are responsible for shepherding these subgroups.

And why this is important? It is because these are areas that LACRALO members can become involved in. This is not a closed group. As a matter of fact, is a very open group. And if we want to be involved in policy development, there are a number of areas here that you can lend yourself to. The CCWG meeting which discusses these things, Cross-Community Working Group, meets every Wednesday, and the times are

rotated. Staff could probably put the times. I think it's 14:00 UTC, and I think it might be [15]—no.

So there's an earlier one and a later one. I can't remember the later one at this point in time. But if you're interested—right; 14:00 and 19:00 UTC.

The next one is the EPDP, the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Internationalized Domain Names. So for those of you who are interested in the IDNs, this is a good subcommittee that you can get involved in. Then there is the Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team. And, again, it shows you the persons who are involved in that: Alan Greenberg and Michael Palage.

And you will notice that many of these persons are not actually ALAC members. They may have been previously ALAC members, but now they are At-Large members. And so I'm saying all of this because it is important for us as At-Large members to participate.

The fourth one is the System for Standardized Access Disclosure Operational Design Assessment, or SSAD ODA. And again, Alan Greenberg is the person who is shepherding this.

And then the final one, which many of you would probably want to know a lot more about is the application support, which deals with the whole application support for the new gTLDs.

If we scroll down a bit, staff, you will see there is also the GNSO small groups on ongoing discussions. Now these may be more specialized, and you may not be able to participate fully in them. But I also think it is

important to understand what goes on in these groups.

So we just had a presentation on the DNS abuse. So there is a small group that deals with that. Then there is closed generics. And Marcelo just spoke about the comments that was just closed for that one. Then you have Subsequent Procedure of SubPro, which is another big topic.

So I just wanted to share these with you so that you are aware and that you could make yourself—there is a lot of reading material. There's a lot that goes on. And these meetings are weekly, as I said, and so you can find an opportunity to participate and represent LACRALO at this level.

One of the things that I saw that has been in the chat for the last year or so or more was the fact that LACRALO has not been, for the last two years, very involved in policy development issues. And I think this is something that we need to really do something about it. Not just by having the chairs involved or the ALAC members because the ALAC members are part of these groups by default. We have to attend the CCWG meetings as well as the OSBWG meetings, which I will talk about later on.

But for the policy development in this piece particularly, I think it is important for LACRALO to be aware of it and to become more involved in it. So I will end. I will stop there. And if there are any questions, I will answer. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Marcelo and Claire. This has been an excellent demonstration of this workspace that is increasingly important. Nowadays, we can't spare efforts to make sure that people in the region are aware of information that exists there. Many people thought that was a page for internal information on ICANN and we just used the At-Large page and the mailing list. But this is a workspace where we keep a record of all the work that is done.

So I'm going to ask the staff to keep this link at hand because we are going to go into the working group reports, and then we are going to talk about the Board. And there, we may need it.

I don't see any questions or any hands up, but with this introduction, let me move on to the working group reports. Let's start with Sergio with the Governance Working Group.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO:

Thank you, Harold. I'm going to be quite brief. The Governance Working Group met. We had a significant turnout with the participation of many members of the group that worked on the operating principles and the Rules of Procedure.

But we also had some other new members joining us in the discussion on what we should do with the metrics document. We have a document that was drafted on the basis of the work done by Alberto Soto in the past, and that document was never actually put into action. And that had to do with some discussions in the region about the documents. So this document will serve as the basis for the drafting of a new

document. This means that we will include here the views of the active and non-active members of the region.

And I'm saying this because this is not something that the region can do. The region cannot [decertify] ALSes. We are just going to indicate whether they are active or inactive. And this will also affect for quorum purposes and for no knowing exactly how many ALSes are actually actively engaged. This will help us keep our expectations consistent with reality. We shouldn't expect more than 60 ALSes to do the work when, actually, we only have 15 or 20 active ALSes.

So we are going to start with that work in the early days of January after the after the season break. And this will imply work that will have to be carried out over the course of one month or two months for discussions. We will have a draft report after that. That will be sent to the region to have your input and see if we need to make any additions or modifications. This will be quite a simple document, and it will be part of the digest on regulations, on laws in the region.

So this is what I can report so far. We are actively working on this. We will also have to discuss some other issues after the metrics document, but for the first part of the work, our focus will be on the metrics document. So we are going to devote all our effort to that discussion. And then we will also address some other issues that have to do with the work in the region. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Sergio. Let me remind you that this [inaudible] work done with the metric document is supplement. Remember that in the Rules

of Procedure , we already have a definition of these two statuses: active and inactive. So this will serve as basis for this work.

And as Sergio said, this document was never implemented because we were in the period after the pandemic. And at that time, we were trying to get adjusted to the new reality. So once we have a draft document and the document is sent to the region, it's not that the Board is going to do that. But most of the Board members are actually involved in governance issues.

So it's not that we are skipping any steps. Rather, we are trying to optimize the process. We will have some previous discussion among Board members by that time.

Okay. Marcelo, let's move on to your working group on communication.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: As far as Communications Working Group is concerned, the newsletter has been released. This is the LACRALO newsletter, to be more specific. It was welcomed in the group. We thank all of you who gave us your positive reactions to this, but there was a request.

The deadline was set for today. We asked for some reports, perhaps a half-page report from the directors in the working group and also from the ALSes that receive the newsletter because we wanted also to disseminate some other information through the newsletter. And we want to relate this newsletter before the end of the year.

We want to have another issue containing the information since the Hamburg meeting in October to the last month of the year. So we

wanted to have this information. Of course, we want you to send information to us about the work that you do within the ICANN ecosystem.

We can wait until Friday for you to share that information. We already have all the programming for the newsletters, so we need as much information as possible on your activities and the work done in the working group. And, of course, there we will also include ICANN-related information.

So thank you for allowing me to share this report, and let me know if you have any questions or you need any point of clarification. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Marcelo. Actually, I put my hand up because I wanted to ask you to extend the deadline because we are approaching Christmas. But it's so good that you mentioned this. Okay. So we will have until Friday to share this information.

As we have already asked before, all directors should contribute to this newsletter. I don't know if we can have a just brief summary of the topic that Alberto presented today. If not, we can leave that for January.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: My hand is up. Marcelo, I already have an article written. I will share it with you right now so that you can start working on that. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: All right. Yes, please do it privately. Any other questions? Please, can we share the newsletter link? Because Marcelo doesn't have the link. I can't right now, but perhaps somebody else can share it. Alberto, go ahead.

ALBERTO SOTO: Marcelo, I'll try to prepare the summary for tomorrow. And I will share this with you tomorrow. Okay?

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes, that would be great. It would be great to include this topic and this newsletter. So you can call toll free to Marcelo to share information for the newsletter.

Now, let's move on to our next director's report. Sylvia, who is going to talk about Universal Acceptance.

SYLVIA HERLEIN: Hello, can you hear me?

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes. Loud and clear, Sylvia.

SYLVIA HERLEIN: I also promised Marcelo that I will share some information. I was aware of the deadline. There are lots of promises being made. Thank you for having me.

Since this is the last meeting of the year, I must say, by way of summary, that our Universal Acceptance and IDNs Workgroup working group has done a great job. We have worked very well with my co-chair, Gerardo Martinez. We were able to reactivate the work of this group in October of this year. And since we had a call for proposals for the UA Day 2024, we had an informal meeting on November the 23rd. Several ALS representatives were there.

We received the guidelines for these proposals, and the deadline was set to the 15th. And we had a significant level of participation. But let me also say that [Lucergio] [inaudible], our Ambassador, has received a new confirmation that he is renewed in his position. Ambassadors are renewed in their positions every year, so he has received an invitation to serve once again as an ambassador this year. So I wanted to mention this here.

And if you need more specific information about Universal Acceptance, [Lucergio] has a high level of knowledge, and he can help you. And there will be different events taking place between March and May next year.

It was very important for the organizers to extend the period of these events because in the southern hemisphere, it's quite difficult to organize events because most of us are close in our summer break in March. So the fact that, now, the period of events has been extended [today] has been very helpful because there will be a UA Day celebrated together with the Internet Day. There were a lot of proposals, a lot of ALSes that wanted to organize events.

Some ALSes, given the current financial reality to receive only 25% of the resources before the event and the remaining portion in a period of 60 days, some ALSes said that they wouldn't be able to work like that. And so that is why they have not sent their offers, their proposal. There were events scheduled in Colombia, Ecuador, two in Argentina, and one in Brazil. But because of those reasons, the proposals did not move forward.

But we do have the School of the South led by Adrian and Olga in Argentina that will organize a regional event, and that is very important because it is the only regional event proposed. And this is great because there will be only one event per region that will get accepted.

So Adrian and Olga are the ones who put forward this proposal, and that will liaise very nicely with other events because, usually, that call is quite appealing for many people. We will have, like, 300 in-person attendees. Then in El Salvador, we have a one-day event. This will be organized by Sandra Rodriguez, and this will take place in two different universities. There will be one in Uruguay held in the House of Internet, Casa de Internet. This is organized by Laura Margolis with Oscar.

In Chile, one event that will take place in the Coquimbo University is the path towards an inclusive Internet governance and Universal Acceptance. All of them will take place in May.

And now we also have ISOC [AT], and also St. Vincent and the Grenadines. I'm being reminded here. So there will be six events. The proposals have already been sent, and we are waiting for the steering group to confirm whether there should be any changes; that this will

happen in January or if they liked the proposals as they are now. But we will have six events in LACRALO for the Universal Acceptance Day.

That will be-all. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Sylvia. This has been an excellent summary. This was also presented in the regional leadership call when Sergio talked about this topic. I also presented something else. This is part of the agenda that we saw in ICANN.

So we have Claire and then Olga. Please go ahead, Claire and then Olga.

CLAIRE CRAIG: I understand that there was also submission by the Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society and Trinidad and Tobago ISOC. They're doing a combined half-day session, and I understand that they would have submitted a proposal as well. I don't know if it was received, but please confirm whether that was received. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Claire. Olga.

OLGA CAVALLI: I just wanted to remind you that there are some people on the steering committee from Latin America, so perhaps we can convey the idea that the region is highly interested in this kind of event and that we are making many efforts with several ALSes. So perhaps that can help us.

Perhaps the region is not the region that has most of the interest in this topic, but there's a high level of interest on Universal Acceptance. So it would be good to convey this message.

SYLVIA HERLEIN: If you allow me, Mr. Chair. I want to thank all Olga for her comment. It is important to mention that we are not the most important region in terms of IDNs and Universal Acceptance, but we have a lot to contribute to the discussion. And actually, we are doing that.

And, Claire and everyone, it would be very important if you could send to the group the information that you have about those events because we want to help the ALAC staff also to post information on the Wiki page for Universal Acceptance Day. We want to have the right title for the event, the kind of event. All the information that we are missing.

So, Claire, I wasn't aware of that event. So if you can share that information, especially [inaudible], I will kindly ask you to share it with me or with Gerardo because that will allow us to have a more general overview and also to talk to the steering group directly. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Sylvia. Sergio, is it about this topic? Can you hear us, Sergio? You are muted.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Harold. Along the same lines of what Sylvia has just said, I wanted to say that all of us are actively engaged in one or more working

group. In this case, we have an IDN and Multilingualism Working Group. They should be aware of this information.

Today, I provided a partial report because there were a lot of activities that are ignored that existed. The working group was not able to add that information to the list. So if somebody carries out certain activities, Sylvia needs to be aware of that so that Sylvia can keep a record of that. Otherwise, we won't be able to work properly.

If there is an activity and there is a working group, then Sylvia and Gerardo are leading the group, so you should talk to them. They will put that information on the list, and all of us will have reliable information. Otherwise, it seems that we are improvising along the way. So what matters the most here is that if we are organized, we are going to do a great job.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes, I agree with more fluent communication. I'm sure that the colleagues who are holding this information will make it available to all of us. As Olga very well said, there is a significant interest, but because of logistic reasons and administrative issues, we're talking with the steering group. Well, that was the reason why these initiatives have been on hold. Please bear in mind that in mind.

Adrian, you have the floor now because we have to move on. Let's talk about the capacity building.

ADRIAN CARBALLO: Thank you, Harold. The Capacity Building Working Group, or the Training Working Group has been working on finding new people to be trained with this group. We intend to work with the other directors in their respective areas of interest or topics. We also intend to hold monthly webinars with topics of interest in an attempt to increase communication with ICANN learn, and check which courses ICANN already has in the platform and do a greater dissemination of those courses amongst ALSes.

We are also working in increasing interest in Universal Acceptance. So though it's not so relevant for the region, it is a topic that deserves a lot of interest. We are also trying to work in a more coordinated manner with the CPWG group.

And this is basically the update I wanted to share with you. I'm here to answer any questions you might have.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Adrian, for your excellent use of time and for your report. Any questions?

Rather than a question, I will make a comment. Because of a change in the mechanisms, we have a meeting on the various Internet Governance Forums. Well, there is a schedule being developed to organize pending events and what can be done until June 2024. That's when the fiscal year '24 ends. And by that time, there will be a report for the next period. So this is for your information.

The call is always open, and it should be stated for the record that this call should be made over the regional list [inaudible] for each ALS that is organizing national activities to make them known through the regional list. So that it's added to the proposal calendar. And that is very relevant because there are many cross-cutting themes, such as communications, and also for coordination purposes.

In Latin America, Rodrigo De La Parra and Rodrigo Saucedo should have a clear view of the topics being discussed. And we, the extended leadership, could define the destination of outreach efforts until June 2024.

So that is key information that we should share and move forward with. So, Sylvia, thank you so much for the comment. We update our Wiki pages to provide a historical overview.

Okay. Before we move on to the next item, I will give the floor to Lance. Lance, go ahead, please. The rest, wait for the interpretation service to connect. Lance, you have the floor.

LANCE HINDS: The discussions that you have raised about the [Policy First] Working Group, it might be good to provide some information in that in terms of how important it is for the work of the RALO. Thank you, chair.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes, lance. Thank you. Actually, these are the key items noted for the next item, as our vice-chair has said.

Let's move on to the next item. It is related to what Lance has said. The report [to the] Board, as you are well aware of [inaudible]. In our working group mailing list, we have shared information, also over the chat system [inaudible] governance, communications, [Universal] Acceptance, and capacity building. You've heard about those.

The Board has also been working, and we have developed proposals to continue with the rest of the three R's, reconnect and reactivate. So that we can later go into revolution through capacity building so that we are more involved, as Claire was [inaudible] that this should be reflected in our specific involvement in ALAC.

So the Board, in addition to having invested in some special guests, we have a couple of major announcements. First, the review of the Rules of Procedure is required. Together with the Sergio, Lance, and the leadership team, we have been taking a look at which groups are going to move forward to the next stage, or else their topics can be discussed in a different space, or maybe they have reached their [ceiling roof] and has to be addressed differently by the region.

So we have these four groups, the four groups that have submitted their reports. These are the only four groups that are being actually active. So we are considering a new group on policy. This is nothing new. This is something we've been working on for some time, and it has been requested by the General Assembly working on policy.

So these are topics that were discussed with the ALSes [inaudible]. And there are some of us, such as Alberto, who's involved with DNS, and others that this is great.

And there is another working group space that aims at gathering the talents of all lawyers. And not just lawyers, but anyone who is familiar with contractual issues. Actually, this is one of the preliminary tentative names contractual [inaudible] that will allow us in the region to understand the contractual relations ICANN has with the [inaudible] in the [inaudible] community and how these relations [inaudible].

And this deals with DNS, with diversity, many things. So these are two major themes of groups moving forward. It's similar to what operations and CPWG are doing where [inaudible] are visited. So these are the two groups.

But we are facing a challenge, a pending issue from the court. And this is [inaudible] you can find this in the action items. For example, the letter we sent to the steering group on Universal Acceptance, it was [inaudible]. And that is already on the way.

Then another action item is for each working group, the current ones and the two we are proposing [to be] revisited, the Gantt chart and the outcome reports. I'm talking about the types of deliverables we should be [inaudible]. This a challenge [inaudible]. We are aware that this is something that we [have to] do once or twice a year for us to know how the work [inaudible].

For those of us who work on project management, we [inaudible] what we cannot measure, we cannot assess. So this is a way for us to know how we are [inaudible].

And then we have another challenge, which is from the operational point of view [inaudible] topics, past issues within the work should be

discussed, not necessarily over a Zoom meeting. [Inaudible] Board member [inaudible] n the monthly meeting. It is not a working meeting what I'm talking about.

So we will see [inaudible]. Why are we talking about [inaudible] operational Zoom meetings because this requirement from ICANN operations to be, one, is in the use of resources—having so many meetings, so many interpretive services means that [inaudible] that could be worked out during our day-to-day working with other working [inaudible].

There are other [groups such as] governance, Universal Acceptance [inaudible] members. Well, we'll see how we are going to work out this challenge [inaudible] new group of contractual [inaudible] and policy [inaudible].

So these are the two challenges. There are a couple of inactive groups. The topics have been taken by the other groups. And we'll be reactivating this new proposal.

So from now onward, the call is open for volunteers for this group. You can imagine that we have people like Alejandro who has so much specific information than a lot of people involved. But, obviously, we need more people to join in. Then for the Contractual Issues Working Group, Humberto will be coordinating that group. Humberto is on the call today. And as a co-chair for this group, we have Hannah as a candidate.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Harold, we only have five minutes left. This is what I wanted to say.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes, I know.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Come on. You can do it.

HAROLD ARCOS: That is just to give you an idea of the general structure of the Board. Unfortunately, we are running out of time. We have to cover three more agenda items.

Alberto, do you have any questions that are urgent, or we can put it in the chat?

ALBERTO SOTO: Regarding Policy First, remember that [inaudible] has been fighting for a long time to get this done with the end users. And if I understood you correctly, you said that things will get solved in the working groups. Of course, working groups have to discuss the topics, and these have to be submitted to the RALOs for the RALOs to approve them.

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes. I was talking about the resolutions within the working group that are later on submitted to the region as a whole.

Thank you, Vanda, for putting yourself forward for this policy group.

Okay. Let's ask our interpreters for a couple of additional minutes. So if you want to volunteer to be part of the group, please leave that in the chat. So that we can keep a record of that. So now let me move on to the next agenda item.

Claire and Sergio. Claire, can you just take two minutes for this?

CLAIRE CRAIG: Yes, I will be very brief. As you know, the second Working Group on the ALAC is the—

CLAUDIA RUIZ: I'm sorry, Claire. The voices are overlapping because Harold is asking whether you can also share it in writing instead of now verbally.

[CLAIRE CRAIG]: Not a problem.

[HAROLD ARCOS]: Thank you, Claire. Great, because we know that this is quite an operational type of report, and it is very interesting.

So now let's move on to Agenda Item 8 with Christelle and Carlos Dionisio. The CIP-CCG participants have been asked to be part of the OSB Working Group meetings because there, they discuss topics that have to do with ICANN's continuous improvement.

So, Carlos and Chriselle, please debrief and tell us what the purpose of this group is. We know that you haven't yet had your first meeting, that you have made arrangements for that. Please go ahead.

CARLOS AGUIRRE: Thank you, Harold. Can you hear me well?

HAROLD ARCOS: Yes.

CARLOS AGUIRRE: This Community Coordination Group on Continuous Improvement is a result of the ATRT3 Recommendation, 6 and it intends to become program for Continuous Improvement. This will be led by ICANN. There will be a group made up of 22 people who will report to who will include the GNSO stakeholders, the ALAC, and one member form the NomCom. So we have SOs, the ACs, and NomCom represented in this Continuous Improvement Program Working Group.

So the intention is to be a forum for exchanging best practices, lessons learned, shared information, evaluate the progress made in relation to other continuous improvement initiatives that already exist. And here we also want to have a shared definition of continuous improvement within ATRT3 3.6.

We want to identify existing continuous improvement activities to consider different methodologies for continuous improvement. So we will have a two-way communication with the region. So we will need the

region to be deeply involved, and we will provide this information to the region to get the region's input.

This group will start with its first meeting [inaudible]. We scheduled it initially for December, but we have moved it to January, and we expect to keep on working until 2030. So this will be a long-term effort, and we will try to improve on communication with the region. We will have a monthly meeting during the first year.

This is what I can share now. Perhaps [Chantelle] can add something else. [Chantelle].

CHRISTELLE VAVAL: I have nothing to add. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you for explaining to us the purpose of this group. In the interest of time, I'm going to ask Vanda and Alejandro to wait so that we can move on to the last agenda item. Remember that Vanda wanted us to talk about the NomCom vacant positions.

Gerardo, can you please just take two minutes to summarize your experience and the importance of participating in the [ICANN79] Fellowship Program?

GERARDO MARTINEZ: Good evening. I want to share with you my experience from ICANN78, now that we are approaching ICANN79. I think that we need more participation from our region [inaudible] Fellowship Program.

If we look at ICANN78, we had seven people from the region, and I think that we can increase that kind of participation. Perhaps a week can focus on active ALSes. That can be one way of encouraging people to apply for the Fellowship Program.

Why is it so important? Because we know firsthand how ICANN works through that program. We can get to know or to meet people that we only see in Zoom—Olga, Vanda, Adrian. We can talk to them. We can meet them in person, and we can have a better understanding of the large world of ICANN.

I also think that when we encourage people to participate in the Fellowship Program and they do not succeed the first time with their application, that they shouldn't get discourage. Language is not a barrier. It is not a limiting factor. Of course, it increases your chances to be on the program, but it's not a limiting factor.

Because this is an inclusive program, you get to know people from all parts of the world. And not all of them speak English. They speak different languages. But we do have a language in common. That is the ICANN language. So it is important to participate.

And then there are mentors. With our chair and our chair elect, perhaps we can promote the mentoring portion of the Fellowship Program so mentors can provide support during the meetings.

And they can also help you navigate through everything so that you don't feel overwhelmed because it happened to me. I didn't know anyone. I was in trouble because I didn't know what to do. So mentors can help you optimize your time. And they can also answer questions.

And I think it is important to encourage people to participate in the Fellowship Program, also, as mentors practicing empathy. That would be-all. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Gerardo. Thank you for your comments. I know that you usually have to fill out a survey. Lilian used to be a mentor. She is not disconnected from the program. So it is key also for you to work with her in order to convey this message with our support.

Now, Claire suggested that we consider rotating the time of the monthly meeting, but we can do that through the mailing list.

So this gives Vanda 30 seconds just to talk about the open positions on the NomCom, and then to close the meeting. Go ahead, Vanda. Can you tell us what are the open positions on the NomCom?

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Yes. And I have also included in the chat what I wanted to say with regard to [Chantelle] and Carlos Aguirre's presentation. We have three positions there, and we will open the application period on January 2nd, and the period will close in March.

So we have three members for the ICANN Board, or three positions for the ICANN Board. And we need two members for the ALAC from Europe and North America, one member for the ccNSO, and one position for a non-voting GNSO member. So if you are interested in applying, for instance, for the GNSO position, then it is a good opportunity for you to apply for that non-voting member position. That would be-all. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: I want to thank our interpreters. Please turn on your cameras so that we can celebrate the end of the year with health, prosperity. So let's bring this year to a close. We're full of energy. And let's give thanks for the fact that we are now living in the present. We can't go back now. We need to use the present time to build the [new] future of the region. So that is why we are so happy today, and this is one of the reasons that I wanted to celebrate with you.

I want to thank all the staff—Sylvia, Claudia, and all the staff members; Bettina, Paula, Claire, all the interpreters, I want to thank you, Jacques, Marita, and others. Claudia that was earlier this afternoon.

So greetings to you all. And let's have a toast, and we will take group pictures. So we commit ourselves to have good energy in the coming year. Merry Christmas to you all, and a great new year.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]