
CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Good morning. Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to LACRALO monthly call. This is our 22nd day of January, 2024. In today's call in Spanish, we have Harold Arcos, Vanda Scartezini, Antonio Medina Gomez, Betty Fausta in French, Chriselle Vaval, Gerardo Martinez, Gilberto Lara, Hannah Frank, Laura Margolis, Lilian Ivette De Luque, Lucia Leon, Marcelo Rodriguez. And in the English channel, we have Claire Craig, Noveck, and Lance Hinds. We have received apologies from Alberto Soto and Adrian Carballo. From the staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, Shayna Robinson, and myself, Claudia Ruiz, managing today's call. Our interpreters today with us are Marina and Claudia for Spanish, Bettina and Esperanza for Portuguese, and Jacques in French. Thank you all. And with this, I will give the floor to Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold speaking. Happy New Year to the entire region. And it's good to see that we've started our formal working year with this call. Let me first make some considerations. Let me check and see Sandra is already connected. She had difficulties in joining. She's traveling, so it might be difficult for her to keep connected. Let's go straight into the agenda.

We will start with a relevant presentation by Shayna. And let me take this opportunity to thank her for this time she's going to give us on a presentation on the grant program, the new program ICANN Org provides to the ALS and the development of new projects. The next item is a public consultation update by our ALAC members, as it is our routine. They will tell us a little bit about this. Then the board update. We can have it at this point in time or later on. It's mostly informational

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matters. Then we have the report on recent updates of the universal acceptance day. And then we have the update by the co-chair of the finance and budget working group on the funding request for the FY25, what this process is about, and how is it different from the previous process. And finally, an update from the staff, and I'm sure Lilian will make a contribution here as well, because we are going to have the preparatory meetings for ICANN 79. So let me ask you now if you have anything to add under any other business, either through the chat or raise your hand. I know the email list, the distribution list, has had an exchange of different matters. Let me know if someone wants to add anything else. I guess that Vanda has already posted something on the chat. If there are no other requests or hands raised, we will have our agenda adopted and therefore have a formal opening of the year 2024.

For this new year, I want to express my best wishes to all of you. And let me thank you once again, Shayna Robinson, who is the grant program director. This grant program has been developed by ICANN for the projects that ALS can submit. So it's extremely relevant for us to pay close attention. We have questions, but we will have a long time for exchange to present our views. It's relevant for us to participate and mobilize ourselves as a region. So without further ado, thank you, Shayna. And this is your time for us to share with us about the program. You have the floor.

SHAYNA ROBINSON:

Thank you so much for having me today. I really appreciate the opportunity to speak with you and share a bit more information about

the grant program and what we have been working on and what we hope to achieve.

If we can go to the next slide, there are a few things that we're going to touch on today, mainly an overview and the key elements of the program and then to open up for questions and answers, because I know there are lots of burning questions, I'm sure.

So if we go to the next slide, and again, the next one, I first want to talk about what the ICANN grant program is. And of course, many of you may have been involved in working through and supporting development of the program since the auction proceeds first came into existence. So I want to thank you all for your dedication and hard work on that. And certainly, what we hope to achieve now through the grant program is really an open call, a global competitive program that is open to support projects from around the world that are aligned to the mission of ICANN. We really hope to have an impact with these funds. They can be catalyzing funds. They can be activating funds that can really propel ideas and initiatives from around the world that really further ICANN's vision of a single, open, and globally interoperable internet.

We hope that by the end of this program-- and certainly, there's a few hundred million dollars available from auction proceeds-- we hope that by the end, we have a pretty significant impact in what the internet can do and what it looks like around the world. So that's really our hope for this program. It's not a program that's specifically for people already connected in the ICANN community. It really is about branching out, inviting new stakeholders, engaging new community members in what

we're doing, and trying to expand the reach of ICANN and further its mission and vision.

If we can go to the next slide, I can talk really specifically about some of the ways that the program came to be. And certainly, with the auction proceeds-- I'm not sure if you're familiar-- but they were earmarked. And through the work of CCWG, we're recommended to start a grant program. So this really represents the culmination of many, many years, many, many people working to make this program possible. Most of the elements that we'll talk about and that you see in the applicant guide come from recommendations directly from the CCWG. So we're very hopeful that we remain tied to those and that we conduct the program in the spirit of those recommendations.

If we go to the next slide, there are four objectives that we really hope to achieve and that we expect that any projects that are funded through the grant program would be related to, one or more. The first one is around benefiting the development, distribution, and evolution of the internet's unique identifier system. The next is around capacity development and infrastructure support in communities that need it the most. The third is around open access, innovation, and future-oriented developments and open standards. And the last is around diversity, participation, and inclusion.

Some things that aren't on here, things that you will notice don't exist that we've received a few questions about is really actual connectivity and a physical infrastructure of the internet. That is not necessarily a focus of this program. There are other funders and programs that support that work. I previously worked at the ISOC Foundation. I know

that they are supporting projects that focus on physical infrastructure. This program does not focus on that. It really is more about networking and routing infrastructure in the domain name system.

If we can go to the next slide. The grant program is scheduled to operate in cycles. So this year, 2024, will be the very first grant program cycle. \$10 million of the total auction proceeds will be available in this first cycle. Depending, again, we hope to learn a lot from the first cycle. And there could be updates to how we implement for subsequent cycles based on what we learn and the feedback we receive on the first cycle. So cycle 2, cycle 3, 4, and 5 may increase the amount available. Some elements, some criteria may change based on feedback and based on what we learn from this new program or from this first cycle. Initially, projects would be in the range of \$50,000 to \$500,000. And again, this may be revisited for future cycles.

If we go to the next slide, I want to speak a little bit about who can apply. And I want to say before we go into any of this that ICANN is based and headquartered in Los Angeles, California in the US. And because of that, there are certain regulations and laws that ICANN must follow in order to maintain its nonprofit status. So many of these things are connected to laws and regulations in the US. So it may seem in other countries or on the surface that it's just ICANN making these things up. But really, these are from the US government and how we have to abide by certain regulations to ensure that we maintain our nonprofit status.

The first one is around being a charitable organization. If you've seen the applicant guide, we will have some opportunities for folks to do an

equivalency determination. There's, again, some technical language that the US government requires of us to ensure that we are validating and verifying that organizations are charitable before we give them funds. Additionally, any applicant must meet all US trade laws and regulations and may not be the subject of any US sanctions. There are certain countries that the US is prohibited-- any US institution or organization is prohibited from engaging in any contractual agreements or must have a license to do so. So there are some instances where we will not be able to make grants, but there are some that we may be able to ask for licenses.

The third one is have no conflicts of interest with ICANN. This is a really important one. Again, this goes to maintaining the status or nonprofit status here in the US. There are certain restricted or disqualified persons that, as a staff member myself, I can't be affiliated with any applicants. Board members and such can't be affiliated with applicants. It's actually not allowed. And so we have to be very, very clear about who can receive any money or any benefit as a result of the program.

The fourth one is around meeting standards for reputation and background checks, so ensuring that we have all the standards met. And then the last is around having a bank account that can receive funds from a US organization in that organization's legal name, so making sure that financially we are able to transact and share funds.

If we go to the next slide, just at the beginning of January, we released the applicant guide, the English version, I will say. The additional translated versions will be available in February. And we are also working on a version 2 of the applicant guide with some updated

language and a few edits. So that should be forthcoming in February. We've also launched a grant program web page at the end of December, as well as we've started our awareness campaign and comms campaign to support the work that's going on. Next slide.

And then finally, I just want to go through a few key dates just to make you aware of what's happening. So here we are in January. Again, the guide has been released in English. In February, we'll have those additional translated versions. In March, on March 25, we will open the window, the application window, to accept applications. It'll be open for 60 days, and we'll close on May 24. We'll then go through some admissibility and eligibility checks. So these are really administrative checks to ensure that we're meeting all of the criteria that are required of us before we award any funds. And then they'll go through some independent application assessment panel who will assess each project. So it's not me making determinations on how well the project speaks to the objectives, but that really is up to an independent panel. And then finally, we can expect awards and grant agreement negotiations to happen in January of next year with an announcement of successful projects in early next year. So the whole cycle should take about a year for us to get through. And we're really, really excited and hopeful to engage you all as we move through this. We can go to the next slide. And I think that's it. Yes. So if there are questions-- and I think some things are happening in the chat, but not sure, but I'm happy to take questions.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you. Thank you very much, Shayna. Your explanation has been very relevant. Let me check in our list if there is any hand raised, if there is any comment in chat. I have myself a couple of questions. Antonio. We have already answered Antonio's question. This presentation is made available in the invite for today's call. You can download the presentation from the Wiki page. I have a couple of questions. I would like to refer some characteristics you mentioned. You said that the focus was not made in infrastructure. We work with community networks. Perhaps there is a need to make an investment a little in infrastructure to have base equipment. You mentioned networking and routing. I understood that that was the focus. For example, you referred to open standards, to further development of standards for other developments. Can you give us some examples? Can you give some illustrations of this networking and routing before we go to other questions? Can you expand on that? What type of projects? Could we give us examples?

SHAYNA ROBINSON:

So that's a good question. I think it's difficult for me to give examples, because then I don't want to have applicants or potential applicants then submit that as the project they want to do. But I think if you think about and if you read in the applicant guide, we have specific themes and work areas that are outlined. The two themes, the first one is the Internet's unique identifier system. So you'll see some work areas highlighted under that, again, related to open standards and things of that nature. And then the second one is around an interoperable or unified internet. And that's really about capacity building, stakeholders, and diversity and inclusion. So I don't want to give too much examples. I

know in the CCWG final report, there were some examples of things that could or wouldn't be funded. So I would direct you there. But I don't want to mislead anyone or to say specifically these things. But I think you can find the information in those themes and work areas and also in the CCWG final report.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold speaking. Thank you very much, Shayna. So before going to the next question, Alfredo is asking whether universities may participate. So can universities apply? Universities from our region, of course. And I want to link it to what you mentioned about the routing. Because we are developing some programs that wish to build capacities in communities where the youth live. And there are open software associations with youth people with this kind of program, specifically working or focused on women so as to include data protection and other tools. So when we talk about routing, can we speak about the programs we already have in place regarding safety of routing, how to apply security protocols, the network, and all those programs? Because these are programs that last between three and six months. So there's a group of people from universities or those that are already professional and graduated and may apply best practices. Perhaps these programs may go or may be part of this routing program that you mentioned. Is that right?

SHAYNA ROBINSON:

So to answer your first question around universities, yes, they may be eligible. But they should be, again, charitable organizations. So for-profit

universities and colleges may not be eligible. But again, these things translate differently around the world and in different jurisdictions. So we have a process for verifying when we say charitable what that means. But I would say that sometimes, yes, universities are eligible. But again, it depends on how they are organized and structured in their country, because that varies.

But in terms of the actual projects and programs, one of the things that we've done in the applicant guide is to provide the actual scoring rubric. So this will be the sort of rubric that the independent assessment panel will use to score each application. And so if you follow some of the rubric and some of the language that's there, it really does sort of outline exactly what we're looking for and will tell you the types of applications that will score a bit higher versus those that wouldn't. So as long as you're responding to the criteria, as long as you're demonstrating your expertise, you're proposing something that's feasible, that's going to have impact, and also something that's relevant and aligned to the objectives and to the mission of ICANN, then I think the chances of you having a good score are pretty good. But again, it's hard to know. I'm not the person making the decisions on who receives the funds. I'm just managing the process and making sure it's as fair and transparent as possible. So I would encourage you to look at that rubric in the applicant guide and to see if that can really help you determine the best way to position that project to be competitive for funding.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you very much. So now we're going to give the floor to Yoselin, so that Yoselin may ask something.

YOSELIN VIS:

Hello, good evening, everyone. I hope that you are okay and your vibes up for this new year. I have a doubt. Perhaps, Shayna, you have already answered my question and what you said to Harold. But I would like you to expand a bit more. I know that you're not the one in charge of assessing the applications, but when we talk about security for certain areas or cybersecurity for young people, we have carried this type of program to the homeland and to the inland, I would say, because young people do not receive this type of information. And we are a country that has many provinces. So certainly, we observe something of that sort, that they are interested in this type of program, particularly when talking about indigenous peoples. So is it possible to apply presenting a cybersecurity program for young people?

SHAYNA ROBINSON:

Yes, it's possible. Again, I couldn't tell you how the panel would assess that and how that would measure up to other applicants and other proposals and projects. But I think, again, if you look at the themes, I think that seems well aligned. And I think if you look at the scoring rubric, to make sure that your project and what you're proposing is responsive to all of the things outlined, we've even provided some application questions. So you can look at those questions. You can start to assess and think about how you would answer them in the application. So I think in terms of just very broadly, do I think it is something you could apply? Absolutely. Do I think it would be awarded? I don't know. That's a different question. But I think that as an example of something to submit, I think would be appropriate.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you for that, Shayna. I see Claire's hand up. So Claire, go ahead, please.

CLAIRE CRAIG: Hello. This is Claire for the record. Thank you for that presentation. My question is around the persons who may not be eligible to apply. You spoke specifically about ICANN staff, members of the board. And in reading the proposal, I saw where persons who may have been involved in the CCWG AP process are not eligible as well. Are there any volunteers, such as persons who may be in positions-- let's say if I were the secretary of LACRALO-- am I eligible to apply? And am I eligible to be paid some kind of consultancy fee as part of that program?

SHAYNA ROBINSON: That's a great question. So currently, the conflicts of interest are limited to what is described in the applicant guide. I do know that there are many relationships that folks have to ICANN. There are contractual relationships. There are paid and unpaid relationships. There are chair people. There are all kinds of things that happened in the ICANN community. But for now, what is detailed in the applicant guide, that is what we're looking for. So those persons and those scenarios that are outlined there would make an applicant ineligible. There may be other instances-- I had a question last week about someone who was working on a specific project and was a contractor for a specific project. So if there are specific questions that you have related to your position within ICANN or with an organization as a part of the ICANN community,

please feel free to share those directly with us. We can do a bit of an assessment at the beginning to let you know. But again, as of today and as of right now, it's really limited to what's indicated in the applicant guide.

CLAIRE CRAIG: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you very much, Claire. Thank you very much, Shayna. I have another question for you, Shayna, because I don't see any other. So we'll take advantage of that. You mentioned countries with sanctions. Recently, we have received an ALS Cuba organization. Apparently, they have made lots of efforts in their space and their region. And we have Venezuela. Some of the sanctions have already been lifted. But, well, I don't know. You know that the appointments for visas take 12 or 18 months. So there are some other sanctions. Unilateral sanctions. So you mentioned that if the organization or if the country is subject to sanctions, you may apply. That will not be eligible because there is no way to transfer the funds. But you may ask for a permit or a license. What is a license? Would that license allow for the transfer of funds to an organization that, of course, meets all the requirements? An account in the name of the organization? Can you please expand on that?

SHAYNA ROBINSON: Yes, that's a great question. So certainly for the US and for us here based in the US, as ICANN is headquartered here, we have to really be

careful that we follow all US regulations with regard to sending money around the world. I will say the sanctions list is very specific to certain countries. And even in certain countries, it's specific to certain industries. So it may be related to mining or agriculture. Or there could be a specific industry that that sanction or certain person or people identified in the country. So it's not always a blanket, "No one here or no organization can receive those funds." But it is a delicate situation. And so we'd have to look at those on a case-by-case basis. If it is possible for us to make those awards, we will do that. If it requires some licensing or other certification in order to do that, that would be at the discretion of ICANN to decide if they want to do that. I can't answer generally. But it is, again, in the applicant guide, we describe it that it is possible in some instances for us to do that. It's not always possible. But it may be possible in some instances. So we just have to take those on a case-by-case basis as we assess the projects and the proposals.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Excellent. Thank you very much, Shayna. I'm just checking that we have some other questions. Do we have-- I think there's no hands up, no questions on the chat. So we have to thank you very much for your presentation. That was really a [inaudible] presentation. And thank you very much for all your answers and clarifications because now we are ready to convey the message to the rest of the region. And thank you very much for your time because we know that you have a tight schedule. And I know that we have to leave. Thank you very much, Shayna. And thank you very much to the staff for coordinating this presentation.

SHAYNA ROBINSON: Thank you. I appreciate it so much. Thank you for having me. And please feel free to send any questions if you should have them. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold speaking. OK, let's move forward. In our agenda now we have Claire, Lilian, Marcello, I think. It's complicated because he's not in the call. So I don't know who wants to start with the update. Why don't you tell us about the beginning of the year, if there have been some topics of the agenda that we closed last year. So you have the floor.

LILIAN IVETTE DE LUQUE: Lilian speaking. Thank you very much. Very brief. The meeting of the CPWG started in the first week of January. In essence, I'm going to tell you about the statements, the statements that are open for comments. This is the final, the draft final report of the African market study about the domain name system. It's quite an extensive document. And the draft report of the NCAP, that is the name collision analysis project. These are answers to questions about name collision. This is open. This is resolution that is being reviewed. And we're also working on the topics that will be discussed during ICANN 79. This is a final report of phase one of the EPDP about IDNs. And on January the 24th, we have a meeting. You may be part of that meeting. With respect to ALAC, tomorrow we have our first monthly meeting, monthly call, I would say. So Denise Hochbaum was reappointed as mentor for NextGen and [inaudible] for a second term as mentor for the fellowship program. Tomorrow, there will be an update about how the region is working

with our plans, a work in progress. And today, we held the very first meeting of the planning committee for the Adler Sessions in ICANN 79. It will be quite an agenda. There are five proposals for plenary sessions. I think that three of these proposals will be discussed on the plenary between 75 and 90 minute sessions. Saturday and Sunday are quite busy days. And apart from the joint meetings, so the bilateral meetings that will be held, we're also working on certain topics to be discussed with GAC. Joanna Kulesza spoke about that. So there will be meetings with SSAC. The grant program will be discussed. Also, there will be meetings with the GNSO, etc. So I am going to update you on the schedule. So if you won't be able to attend, please attend the meeting virtually. And thank you very much, Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold speaking. Thank you, Lilian. So let's now go to Claire. You have the floor, Claire.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

I think Lilian did a good job of describing what has taken place. So in the interest of time, I wouldn't add anything. I'll wait until -- to give an OFB working group report. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Claire. Yes. So in the chat, just as a reminder, we have shared the link to the report on the domain name system in Africa that Lilian referred to, as well as the workspace for ICANN 79 and the proposals from ALAC. We are certainly all invited and we should get

involved with the update. As you will recall, in ICANN 78 in Hamburg, very relevant issues were discussed on the Internet Governance System and this has been a topic of discussion in the email list. So it's very important for us to get involved. For the sake of time, as Claire says, let's move on.

We will now talk about the board update. One of the topics of analysis is the meeting with the GSE team members, Rodrigo de la Parra and Rodrigo Saucedo. They are holding an [interim] meeting of ICANN staff working on this program.

For those of you who are not aware, this program allows us to know which activities take place in our region that are, so to say, potentially eligible for our participation, either representing LACRALO or making use of the CROP program. This program, before the pandemic, we have four slots. Slots that could be used for ICANN meetings. That is to say, if any of our colleagues needed to attend any ICANN meeting but it was not a funded position, well, we could use these slots. At present, this CROP program has three slots. We have used one of them already, and in June 2024, we should be using the remaining ones. This list of activities will be disclosed in our next meeting with GSE. We're waiting for their internal meeting to conclude to have more information, which we will probably have by the end of January. Then, once the calls are released, you are invited to become members of the workgroups. Several have already expressed their interest in getting involved in the LACRALO Policy Group and what we call the Lawyers Group. There are already some proposals that will be posted on the wiki. Let me thank Lilian here because she's produced a very good summary of the policy work. ALAC and from the other RALOs as well, it has already been

posted. You can check it, and we will be sharing the links on the chat. The other groups are in consultation with the board members, for example, the Capacity Building Group. We've had an exchange on the topics to be discussed in the webinars. And one of the most active areas has been the Universal Acceptance Day working group or activity. Silvia apologized for attending this meeting because she had a prior meeting, and that is why we have the co-chair here with us.

So let us move now to the update on the Universal Acceptance Working Group. Gerardo is the co-chair. He will share with us the expectations of this steering group. What has happened about this? Gerardo, can you give us some information about this? You have the floor.

GERARDO MARTINEZ:

Hello, good afternoon. On behalf of Sylvia Herlein, the chair of LACRALO's Universal Acceptance Working Group, I'm Gerardo, the co-chair. Let me report. As of today, in our region, there are 11 requests for events pending approval, considering the deadline is past due. It's elapsed on January the 20th, so we're waiting. We're waiting for the director to give us further news.

And I will take this opportunity to make an announcement. An announcement on behalf of the working group. I want to invite you to a workshop on universal acceptance. I will post the registration link to this workshop on the chat. Those of you who would like to learn more about universal acceptance in the region, that's for you. So here we are, providing full support to those organizations that are happy to organize universal acceptance activities within LACRALOs. That's all on my side.

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold is speaking. Thank you, Gerardo. Let me highlight this comment of yours, that 11 proposals have been submitted from sub-regions. I see Alejandro has raised his hand. Thank you for sharing the link.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Alejandro is speaking. Thank you, and good afternoon. Well, in addition to what has already been said, another important news I posted in the chat is that ICANN has taken the first steps to send and receive internationalized domain name email messages. This is a problem, which is the internationalization of domain names and emails. And this is very important, because it shows a highly present [inaudible].

HAROLD ARCOS: Harold is speaking. Thank you, Alejandro. This is very interesting. You're very well said. And in my opinion, since it started these groups several years ago, I remember one of the first meetings when they said that we were going to start with the internationalization, and we have to take a deep breath, because this is hard work, long term. This is not something that can be addressed on fast track. And another aspect, as you said, is training. This is a key aspect in this group. Fortunately, we know Raitme is here, but it has been difficult for the members and their time availability. So I think it is time to make a new call, because this is a topic that should be in [inaudible]. Adrian, who has not been able to attend this call because of family reasons, has been following the matter. He has told me that he has taken note of this need to include these topics in 2024, like value capacity building prospects. So we will be very active

here. To bring the speakers, not just for this one day, but for the IDN workgroup to gather the necessary force to discuss this matter. As Gerardo said, a significant number of proposals has been made. Let me make a note that this number is not from just one subregion. All subregions, not just Brazil, Argentina, but all subregions. All subregions have joined this call for proposal. So we hope we will have a quick answer on this.

As we've noticed this year, we have made progress. I wouldn't say slow progress, because we do not have any comparison. But I guess that the internet governance ecosystem and environment has enabled us to make cautious preparations for progress. So let's move forward in our agenda. Now we will have Claire's presentation. She will give us very significant information about FY25, what is happening in the OFB working group. She will talk about funding requests, the funds for new projects. So Claire, once again, thank you. And please take the floor.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Hello, everyone. Again, Claire for the record. I just wanted to thank you, thank you to LACRALO for submitting four proposals for the additional funding requests that we just completed. Now first, let me say that we received 10 requests in total. And six of them were received on time. The four that we received from LACRALO, unfortunately, they were late. And also, they had to be translated from Spanish into English. And as such, they did not make it to the OFB-WG working group meeting last week. However, they are listed in the wiki so that the members of the OFB-WG can review them.

Let me give you some updates on the 10 proposals that were received. What we found is that at this time, persons who submitted proposals are still unclear of the difference between the additional funding requests and the additional budget requests that has now been discontinued. One of the key elements of the additional funding requests was that they were not supposed to be for outreach activities or for any specific global, any specific region. They were supposed to be global and for all of ALAC and At-Large in particular. So all of ICANN could benefit from them.

So of the six that arrived on time, none of them were selected. All three of them, the committee felt that they were of a regional nature. So just to give you an example, you know, to tell you some of these proposals so that you have an idea. One proposal was to observe-- let me see the name of the proposal. I'm not seeing it here. The proposal, journalists gathering for the briefing-- sorry, it's moved-- journalists gathering for a briefing of the internet ecosystem and ICANN. But this particular proposal was scheduled for Bangladesh. So right away, you know that it is not aligned to the entire At-Large community. The outcome was that it was not accepted.

The second one was a training of multi-stakeholder members on a [mission policy issue] and how to engage the ICANN activities during 2025 Ghana [ISG] fellowship. So once you-- even in the title, it specifies that it is for a specific area, and it is not a holistic proposal. And so that was not approved either. So I hope you're understanding what happened here.

The third one was an open data hackathon, and this one as well was not accepted for similar reasons. I'm trying to see where it spoke specifically for the region. I'm not seeing it here. Anyway, when we viewed it, it really was not totally aligned to the ALAC priorities at this time, the three priorities that were identified, and so this one was not approved.

The fourth one-- let me go back to the one before. There's one-- sorry, just go right up-- back up a little bit. There was one that was-- right. There was one activity-- this one for the Ghana SIG. Even though it was not approved, there was a lot of discussion around it because the person felt that there was merit to something like this, and maybe ICANN should be looking at helping to fund some of these schools of Internet governance. So it was not accepted by ALAC to go forward as part of our additional funding request, but a comment would be put in the budget comments to state that this is something that ICANN board should look at. Yes, can we continue now?

The fourth one was another one that was an outreach-type proposal which, again, spoke to enhancing the At-Large engagement in Africa-- scroll up a little bit, please-- enhancing the At-Large engagement in Africa through regional knowledge hubs and capacity-building workshops. So you would see that all of these were not approved.

The other one, the next one, was submitted by the chair of ALAC, and this one was an At-Large leadership strategic meeting, and this was where--because at ICANN 78, there was a session to have such a meeting, but the time was too short, and so it was felt that if we can have a separate day at one of the ICANN meetings to meet with the entire At-Large leadership to have a strategic meeting, then this is

something that would benefit all of At-Large because it includes the RALO representatives as well as the 15 At-Large leaders and the liaisons. So this was recommended to go forward in our comments.

The next one, also by Jonathan, was the global end-user survey. This one had a lot of comments, and in this one, it was also felt that this was particularly targeted for the next ATLAS meeting. So if this survey can be done in 2025, then the data that is selected from the ATLAS meeting-- the data that we get from the survey can be reported to the ATLAS meeting. So this was approved for moving forward.

Now if we move down to the four from the LACRALO, this first one was the governance DNS data security. This one did not seem to be regionally specific, and it seemed to tie in and align with the strategic priorities. However, as I said, it did not make it to the OFBWG meeting, but we do have an ALAC meeting tomorrow, and I hope that some comments will come up concerning this. The budget, however, seems to me--and this is my personal take on it-- seems very small for something that is intended to be a regional event.

The following, the next one--can you scroll up? Right. Revolutionizing Internet Governance, New Uses of DNS and Their Challenges. Again, this one did not make it to--this one seems to be a training-type event, and it did not make it to the OFBWG. It's looking to train 500 persons online and 100 in person. That appears to me, just by looking at it, that it seems to be limited to regionally, but I don't know. Again, the ALAC may give their comments on this one.

The other two--scroll up, please--the DNS is vital to each of us. This one was specific for a region, for the LAC region, and so this one--again, it did not make it to the meeting, but just my reading of it, it was regionally aligned, and so this one may not make it for consideration. And the final one from LACRALO--scroll up, please. Right. This one is, again, DNS, what it is and how to minimize risk. This one was also a training proposal. It also appeared to be regionally focused, and so this one I do not think it would make it to move forward. So that's my comments, and I don't know if-- so there are two proposals of the 10 which were approved, and that's the decision at this point in time. Any comments or questions? Yes, Lance. Go ahead, please.

LANCE HINDS:

Thank you. Clare, I sat in on the deliberations concerning the submissions and I guess the question is that if six submissions--if they have six submitted and regrettably they don't make the grade, was it clearly understood what the criteria was? Is there a feeling in the WG that they didn't understand or they just went ahead and submitted anyway? Are there any issues that were discovered during this process?

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Thank you so much for that question, Lance. I'm glad you raised it because it helped me to-- there was something that I meant to say. I really believe that people are still aligning these types of proposals with the old AFB proposal, the additional budget request type funding, which dealt with outreach activities. Now, what we did suggest is that we would advise the persons who made the request that they should go

back to their RALOs and make the request through the RALOs so that the RALOs can then speak with the GSEs in their region so that they can get funding for these. It's not that they were bad proposals. They just did not meet the requirements for the additional funding request. And you are correct. Maybe people did not--either they did not read it properly or they did not understand it, but there did seem to be some misalignment with what was submitted and what was required to be submitted.

But again, as I said, all is not lost. A lot of these proposals, because they are outreach and they have a regional component, they should be able to be funded through the RALO and through working with their GSEs.

LANCE HINDS:

Thanks for that, Claire. I have one more, which brings up another matter in my head. What percentage of the ALAC--and I'm talking about the organizations and the various RALOs--and I suppose one has to wonder as well whether these organizations have the capacity to submit proposals under the AFR just based on the level that they are at the moment. RALOs in Africa and Latin America, the Caribbean, are still in that stage of doing outreach and doing training and capacity building, and all of those are regional in nature. The question, I suppose, is whether these RALOs would be able to qualify for the AFR or they need some more training or briefing or something else for them to be able to do it, because all of the ones except for two were regional. So the instinct seems to be submitting proposals for that.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

I agree, Lance, that this is the first time that this is being done. So as we go forward, I guess more work has to be put into it. But again, the other thing I would like to stress is that these proposals did not have to come from the RALOs. These proposals could have come from anybody in the At-Large community. So if there are persons--and a lot of these proposals, even the ones that were not accepted, were submitted by individuals. They weren't submitted by an At-Large organization or any of those things. But again, as you said, and I hear you, maybe some more--we have to start earlier and do some more work on training and helping people to understand the difference between the ABR and the AFR. Laura.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Good evening, everyone. I'm Laura Margolis for the record. Thank you very much, Claire, for your explanation. And following up on Lance's questions, what is the exact difference between the proposals submitted for the ABR and the proposals that are directly analyzed nowadays by the OFB working group? Perhaps there is a document written down that I didn't have the time to read it, so I apologize for that. I don't know. Those who made the submissions, these requests, if this request would have been ABR based on the previous procedure, would they be right or not? Perhaps my question is a bit confusing. But perhaps, Claire, you may clarify what I'm trying to say. Thank you.

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Thank you, Laura, for that question. They do seem to be -- I don't know if staff would like to contribute, but they did seem to be very much

closely aligned to ABR type requests or outreach type requests. Now, remember, though, not all ABR requests are successful. So the idea is that requests were sent through in previous years, but it doesn't mean that it will be successful. So what we were also aiming to do was select requests that when it goes to the next level for the review, that they would be successful. So these requests, of the 10 that were submitted, two have been selected to go forward. But at this point, these two have been selected by the ALAC to send forward, but they have not been approved as part of the FY25 budget. So we are hoping that they will be approved. But again, it does not mean that because they have been selected to go forward that they will be approved. But we were trying to get proposals that had a higher chance of getting approved. I hope that answers your question.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Laura speaking. Thank you very much, Claire, for your answer. As a matter of fact, the answer -- or your answer does not completely answer my question, because I understand about the proposal that have to move forward. But what's the difference between submitting a proposal for an ABR in the previous modality and the current one? I mean, the requirements for the submission are the same, or are they different?

CLAIRE CRAIG:

The requirements are very different. So there was a list of criteria that were also included on the form for submitting the ABRs, and these included -- and they are on each of the -- they are, if you look at the --

can you bring back up the proposals? Each proposal asks not just for the name of the proposal and the person submitted, but there was a description. And it said, if you look here, it says, "The purpose and scope of the proposal," and the proposal -- this was the biggest change. There had to be an alignment of the proposed activity with ICANN mission, ICANN strategic plan for the fiscal year '21-'25, At-Large three FY25 operating plan and budget priorities, and the FY25 At-Large strategic priorities. So that's one criteria.

Then in another, the objective, it also spoke to these activities, how are they related to ICANN and ALAC's policy work? It also dealt with the outcomes of these activities -- no, sorry, let me just look at my screen here. So there were some specific criteria that had to be met in reviewing and assessing these proposals, which were different from the previous ABR. And I mentioned it at the ALAC meeting -- sorry, at the LACRALO meeting back in December, because we went through some of these. And again, they were listed on the application form for the proposal.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Laura is speaking. Thank you very much, Claire. Now it's clear for me. So thank you very much for your explanation. I think as Lance mentioned before, perhaps these new criteria were not properly understood, and this is why we are not able to meet them. Perhaps these new criteria were not properly understood, and this is why we have these results that you are sharing with us. So thank you very much. And, Harold, Claire, you have the floor.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold is speaking. Thank you very much, Laura. Thank you very much, Lance, for your questions. And thank you very much, Claire, for the update. I would like to highlight, as Laura asked and as Lance mentioned, it's important to reflect on this so that it is recorded for the whole group, because out of 10 proposals, only 2 were accepted. So as [inaudible] was saying, if you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it. We are speaking about 10 proposals. Only two were accepted. So figures speak for themselves. As you mentioned, Claire, let's say that we have to improve. We have to improve. Absolutely. So the criteria have changed. We have a new criteria, and only two proposals were able to comply with this criteria. So we have to review this. Of course, 10 out of 10 or 9 out of 10 would be great, but it's not something in the communication. I think that this is related to the procedure. So it's good that we have this. It's an experience, quite painful, but thank you very much. And thank you very much, Heidi, for your recommendation, because this is part of the new criteria. So these are topics or proposals that are not left aside. And as Claire mentioned and Heidi mentioned it in the chat, these proposals may and should be discussed with the group of -- or with the GSE team. So we hope that for the end of this month, we may discuss this, because we have the proposals. We want to generate these spaces. And so this may go across the borders of our regions. We may receive funding from some other sources. So it's great to have this five minutes so as not to rant or prevent anyone from speaking. Now, any other business? Because you have 10 seconds now. A bit more, a bit more. I was joking. We are closing our meeting, so I don't see any hands up. You know that there are many topics that are

open, so we have a regional mailing list. And the idea is that you keep on discussing over there. This is something that we have to do. We are going to share the links of the working groups so that the policy first and the other working groups and the lawyers groups that are having their groups and are discussing, help us build up the LACRALO that we want to have to overcome all the problems that we may have in our ecosystem. Alfredo, your hand is up. So please be brief and tell us what you want to say.

ALFREDO LOPEZ:

Alfredo Lopez is speaking. Thank you very much. I would like to invite all of you to something that we are having, an Internet Day. We celebrate it every year in Colombia. LACRALO has participated in that. And it's the second Tuesday of February. So if you are willing, somebody from LACRALO to participate in one of the conferences to be held, you are invited to be there.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold is speaking. Yes, you're right. Because we have committed ourselves to that. So we have to congratulate the ALSes because these are the organizations that try and participate on a specific day. But at the same time, they are keeping it year after year. So when we organize an activity, we know that to organize an activity, to organize an event, it's certainly very difficult. So if you keep on doing it year after year, it means a lot. So we want to congratulate you. And you are a very good example that should be shared and should be followed and imitated as well. Great. With the link, this is it. And so have a very good week,

everyone. See you. Bye, everyone. So keep on discussing on the mailing list. Thank you very much.

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