
YESIM SAGLAM: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the LACRALO Board Members Call taking place on Thursday, 18th of January, 2024 at 12:00 UTC.

On our call today on the Spanish channel, we have Harold Arcos, Silvia Herlein, Hannah Frank, Lilian Ivette de Luc Bruges, and Humberto Carrasco. On the English channel, we have Claire Craig and Lance Hines. We have not received any apologies. And from staff side, we have Silvia Vivanco and myself, Yesim Saglam, present on today's call, and I will be doing call management. As usual, we have Spanish interpretation provided, and our interpreters are David and Veronica. Just to correct myself, we do have Spanish and English interpretation, two ways, provided for this call. And before we get started, just a kind reminder to please state your name before speaking, not only for the transcription, but also for the interpretation purposes as well, please. And with this, I would like to leave it back to you, Harold. Thank you very much.

HAROLD ARCOS: This is Harold speaking. Thank you, Yesim. I hope So, first of all, welcome. Happy New Year to all the board, to all of us present here today. Let's review our agenda for today. I wanted to, first of all, confirm if Sandra has been able to connect. Okay, so we don't have Sandra yet. I think Sergio had some issues in the morning. He had some engagements for today. It's a bit difficult in Argentina as well. So he hasn't sent his apologies, but I think it will be difficult for him to attend this morning.

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So, let's review our agenda. We start with our welcome, then we need to review the action items from the last meeting, our classic board review to see how things are progressing. We will have a policy first presentation and then check what we usually call the lawyers group or the contractual issues group. Then there will be an item with the ALAC member comments, which are the ones that are suggested to be addressed first. And then we have any other business. There will be a few issues within our own board summary, such as the recent proposals that were sent for universal acceptance. This will probably be discussed there. And then there will be some other issues. If so, if you consider that we need to deal with other issues, we can add them to the agenda. All right. Let me check if we have any other messages now. Aside from saying congratulations to our member, Lilian, who is having a birthday today. I see no more hands up or nothing else written on the chat. So we can then start with our meeting. Once again, Lilian, happy birthday. We hope you can start with the right foot this year.

Let's then review our action items. Maybe Yashin or Sylvia can help us so that we can see those action items on screen. I think the link was on our agenda right there. There were a few of them that we had read already. One of the items we had was it has been decided that the group that was originally called domains and their relationships with users, I think that name is interesting. So both that working group that dealt with domains, domain names and users, as well as the WHOIS working group will be archived. So whenever staff considers it fit, we can consider it that this has already been done.

Then we need to create the policy first working group. That wiki has been reformatted. We have a webpage for this. So what we need to do

is to create the right link to the correct main page. And in our directory summary, maybe our board summary, we can have a look at the focus that we have here. Then Gerardo or Sylvia Herlein will work on the request sent to the region. This is for universal acceptance. Sylvia will talk about this in the summary, but I think it is important to add that this item has progressed. There has been a communication that was sent to the director. Are there any questions so far? Anything that is still pending that you'd like to mention? I'm checking the chat as well. Is there anyone else who would like to add anything else regarding these action items?

All right, then. So I think with this, we have progressed then with our action items. Silvia Vivanco, I would like to ask if you have the link so that when we provide the board summary, we can deal with this.

SILVIA VIVANCO: I'm going to look for it right now.

HAROLD ARCOS: So let's start then with our board summary. Maybe Silvia can help us see how things have progressed, what has the region said, what was sent, what is the status right now as of today. Maybe we can start with the universal acceptance and multilingualism working group

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Thank you, Harold. It is really nice to be here today. I'm sending a warm hello to all of you working with LACRALO, all of us here. The time doesn't really matter. We have a to-do always, and so there's a lot of

energy for this first year. On the chat, there is a link with all the requests that all the RALOs have sent to the universal acceptance steering group. As you know, on December the 15th, well, this was the deadline, LACRALO has sent 11 proposals with a lot of enthusiasm. We are the ones who sent the most proposals. And then for the second week of January, they are supposed to answer which are the ones that are accepted so that we can have financial support and funding. I have talked to some of those who are in charge of the ALSes who sent the proposals and they have not received any communication from the steering group. And when they sent the proposals, they were just told that they received nothing in January. But then from extra official sources, I know that they have not created the committee that will be in charge of analyzing each of the proposals. They will analyze not only the proposals coming from the ALAC, but from the whole of the ICANN community. And I believe that this is the reason why they have not sent any information yet. So we are at a standby point right now. And we then need to wait for them to be in touch with us. In my experience, it is very likely that not all the 11 proposals will be approved. They will analyze. Well, we have one proposal that is regional. It depends on the region, et cetera. But I am just providing my own intuition here. We don't really have anything else to report because they have not started to decide which are the proposals that will be approved or not. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

This January, well, everything has started at 100 percent. So maybe next week we can have a reply from them.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Yes, because Universal Acceptance Day will happen in March. This is really close. It seems far, but there is a lot to organize an event. So it would be great if we could have a response as fast as possible

HAROLD ARCOS: Of course. Thank you, Silvia. We need to be on alert because there has been no response on whether the proposal has or has not been accepted. We do not know how they will be managed. And then there is the supplier's issue. There are always adjustments and changes in prices in January. And there are a number of things that the organizers will need to consider and address in terms of budget. So perhaps we can send a query or a question, maybe Sylvia Herlein. We can prepare something similar to a letter that we prepared in December. You can send it or I can send it myself to check what is the state of all of this and then request an answer as fast as possible. It is really typical that in this first quarter there are adjustments, there is a budget review. One thing is the projections that the coordinators created and then the reality may be different when all of these events are approved. So this can be an action item for us to solve when we approach the monthly meeting, maybe this Monday we can send the letter so that we can get a reply from them. And then Lilian maybe can tell us. She is within the communications committee. And so when there is an exchange of emails in terms of universal acceptance, we can get a signal from them.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: I agree. This is what we can do. This is not only because it is the beginning of the year and they are a bit behind. This is not supposed to happen but it is really easy to send a query or a question. It is always interesting to do that.

HAROLD ARCOS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you then to our universal acceptance team. Let's then go on with our agenda. The next item is the governance working group. This is the governance working group. Well we need to make a review. There is a Google Doc with all the metrics on this issue. I think Sergio could not tell me if they could or could not make any new contacts but then aside from the informal contacts to discuss the issue and those who wanted to participate within the metrics review specifically there is no other meeting at least in January so far. As we all know and for the record, metrics will be the main item of this agenda at least in terms of the governance working group so that we can update this in our institutional documents. I think there should be a first call probably in February at least for most of the working groups. There is nothing else to add then. Let's go to the next item. I think we have Adrian or Marcelo. I think Claire has raised her hand. Go ahead Claire please.

CLAIRE CRAIG: Hi. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening everyone. Claire for the record. I just wanted to ask a question with respect to the governance working group and the application form for individual members. Has anything been done with respect to creating that form so

that individual members can apply to LACRALO? If not, what is the status and when is that expected to happen?

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you so much Claire. When it comes to the individual members of status, this is a document that is a document that was revised and was sent to the region for this document to be revised. It contains basic principles and this is what we have in the internal LACRALO rules that are the basic criteria for being individual members. After the review and after our rules of procedures, we need to wait until we can create a group of at least five people. They will be members of the region. One of them will be Laura Margolis. She is in the governance working group and she worked together with Sergio to submit the document. And based on that and based on the statements of interest, we will create this group of five people and after the creation of the group, the group will work on the internal rules for the creation of the individual members ALS for LACRALO. As it is stated in the LACRALO rules, this has to be adjusted to the main criteria and principles that are set forth and the board, all the members of the board will accompany that process. So this group, five people group has not been created yet. There are some people who have manifested their will to be part of it and as I said, we had Laura and the governance working group will review whether the people meet the basic requirements to be part of the ALS and the group. So this is the last report that I heard from Laura and Sergio. I think this was an update. There was an update in November. We didn't speak about it in December. I'm not remembering it right now. But this is what we know so far. It has already been reviewed by the region. So the door is now open for proposals and for improvement

to the document. But this is the work of this individual member ALS committee or group. So we are waiting for the group to be created. This is what we expect. This is going to be, as I said, a group of five people. But as far as I know, we do not have more than three so far. Laura and Sergio may have a new call for volunteers to see if there are new members or people willing to be part of the group. This is the status. This is the update I have so far. And I don't know if this reply is clear for you, Claire. Do you have any further questions? Have I replied to your question, Claire?

CLAIRE CRAIG:

Thanks, Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Okay. I'm reading the chat. Let me very briefly talk about the capacity building working group. The capacity building work works closely to the GSE team, Rodrigo de la Parra and Rodrigo Saucedo. There have been some activities in Colombia last year. And as far as I know from Rodrigo Saucedo, they are working on the activity schedule. And this is what they have been doing so far, at least during December. They're working on these activities. And on this schedule, they are working and they're organizing all the activities, direct or indirect activities. That idea is to participate in ICANN-related or ICANN mission-related event. So that schedule will contain the events. And the events will be classified into colors, red, yellow, or green. Green will be those events that are recommended to attend. The activities highlighted in red are not suggested for participation because they are not related to ICANN

mission or they are not suitable for the region. So this schedule is not yet done, it's not yet finished. And today, Thursday, we have no information. I don't think we will have that information available for our meeting. So we will see if there is any further information on Monday for our monthly meeting. But it is important to have these schedule of activities in mind at the board because there are interesting proposals that we need to coordinate. For example, some university-related events. So this is part of the 2024 agenda. In the strategic plan for the fiscal year 2024, the capacity building working group is working and they're working on the topics up until June. So this is the general status of the capacity-building working group. There are no further updates so far. And we need to wait for the GSE team to finish their activities in order to keep on working. And we also need to see the CROP issue. We only have one CROP available and we need to see the events that will be available up until June and see if we can participate. And of course, the projections of the 2025 agenda. So for our next board meeting, we wait to have a clearer overview of all these items and activities. Let's now continue.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Regarding the capacity-building webinars, I remembered that there was a sort of table and in every LACRALO monthly meeting, we have enough time because they are 90-minute meetings. We have enough time for the webinars. So once you have the topics defined, we can start looking for the speakers in advance. And we can also create a promotion poster or we can promote the activities on social media. Let's say we can have February, March, and April. We can choose to have a speaker and we can start promoting the event on social media. So the sooner, the

better. And next Monday, Shayna Robinson, our colleague from staff, will participate in the meeting. She will be delivering a presentation on the grant program. This is going to be next Monday.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Silvia. You mentioned several things. We have 90-minute meetings, but I believe that in some of the meetings, we will be discussing other topics. So we will have to see. And when it comes to the webinars, the LACRALO webinars are being held on a bimonthly frequency. So if there is any comment or any question, please let me know. But the idea is not to exhaust people. We may have enough time for the webinars. But of course, we will need to check whether the information we will be providing will have an impact. So we have six webinars planned. We may have, for example, a long presentation as the one that Humberto delivered in the past. It was a webinar, but it was a very interesting and important presentation on a particular topic that was presented in our mailing list. And we also had a discussion. So that's why we had to deliver a presentation. So probably we will have topics to be discussed. But when it comes to the webinars, these are bimonthly webinars. And for this very first meeting of the year, there are topics that are being discussed at ICANN in the CPWG. So it is important to coordinate with staff. And this is something we will continue to see. And we want to be up to date with ALAC topics. Next Monday, as you said before, we will be talking about the grant program. We shared the information with the ALSes.

So with that, let's now continue with the communications working group. I got a reply by Sergio, but I don't see him. Marcelo, I don't see him connected. Is Marcelo connected? Okay, I see Marcelo.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ: Hello, everyone. We had some informal meetings. And we worked on the different updates and reports. Some board members sent their reports. Some others didn't. I had a family issue, a health issue with my family. In the city where I live, there is a dengue epidemic. So I had to care for my family, particularly my mother, because she's in a delicate condition. So then I had to continue with the activity on social media and with the discussion. So Silvia asked me to provide a YouTube link in the prior newsletter. This is something pending. I will be sending that information shortly, Silvia, so that you can publish that information on the Wiki page. Do you have any questions or any comments? And you still have time to send reports that are pending so that we can finish and conclude our activities of last year.

HAROLD ARCOS: Silvia, please go ahead.

SILVIA VIVANCO: I have a question with respect to the newsletters. Are they going to be bi-monthly, three or four times a year? What is the schedule that you are considering? In some regions, in Africa, for example, they have four newsletters a year, not one each month because this implies a high amount of job, editorial coordination, compiling all the reports. So my

question is whether you are planning to do this every three months. And my suggestion is if you are going to make those newsletters, then maybe they can be shorter and you can use social media to replicate whatever you are going to publish on the LACRALO social media channel can be replicated in the ICANN Org social media channel. And these are my comments then. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Silvia. Marcelo, are you there? Let me also say that we did consider to have those newsletters on a bi-monthly basis. We just considered this after the ICANN meetings. We wanted to do this after the ICANN meetings. Marcelo, go ahead, please.

MARCELO RODRIGUEZ:

This is Marcelo speaking. I wanted to clarify that the idea with these new board members was to do this bi-monthly and to include whatever was pending from the prior meetings and to add whatever happened in Hamburg and some more interventions that we still had to send. But then, yes, our idea is to do this on a bi-monthly basis, at the most every three months if we don't have a significant number of collaborations. And we would like to have at least half a page with some information on the issue to be published. Of course, the social media idea is a good one. Once I have corrected whatever Silvia had told me last time, I will add it to social media.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Marcelo. Yes, I think it is important. When we consider our action items from the communications working group, it is important to send the user, the Instagram and Facebook user, to all of the mailing list members. There are some elements that are replicated, but others are not. So it would be good for each ALS to know which is the user that is going to be mentioned on the social media so that this doesn't need to go through WhatsApp. And when each ALS publishes whatever they are doing, when mentioning this from the communications working group, we can repost, know that this is there, know that at least for the next three or four days this can be reposted. And what's important for me is that the same LACRALO user can drive the visibility of each of the ALSes so that we can see that this LACRALO account can help connect more people in the region. I think this call is important, but more than calling, it is providing the region with the user, telling them that we are on Instagram, that we are on Twitter, that these are the calendars, that we are on Facebook, sending them the calendar with all the events. When I was secretary, I did share it last year, but it's good to refresh it so that each of us can have it on their cell phone and know that whenever an activity is going to be connected, we can add it to the calendar.

So this is all for communications. We can now go then to the next item on our agenda. So these are the new groups. I think what we're missing here is the lawyers group. Policy First is there. Hello, Sandra. Sandra is saying hello on the chat. It is nice to have you here. So our next update is the Policy First one. This is the working group that, as I said, has had a mandate for several years, and we are focusing on improving participation. We cannot improve participation if we're not informed, and a good space was the Policy First working group that was created

here. We would like to thank for their participation. There have been many emails sent manifesting support to the working group and also expressing their wish to enroll in the group to start working and review a few issues. There have been also some other issues on the mailing list, and we want to thank Lilian because she has provided us with a review of how this is handled in other RALOs. And she has also provided us with the first draft. We are going to share the draft on Monday. This deals with the purpose of the working group, which is nothing more than reviewing all of the issues related to end users and their relationships with ICANN, where we as a region can and must have an opinion. Of course, to have an opinion, you need to be informed. Policy First will not only promote the list, but it will also have a mechanism to review the issues and will work on the tool that we have on our drive. And as we have done on other occasions in LACRALO, I'm sure you remember that the .amazon issue was the one that we dealt with the most. And so when we had our general assembly, we provided a draft. And with that draft, we had some very key informed decisions, and we could reach a consensus very quickly on what we can express as a region. Our goal, our expectation is that maybe not immediately, but after the third and fourth quarter this year, we can have an opinion at least once a month. It is key that one time a month, LACRALO can call the attention on the impact these issues are having on users and how can we progress. And then we can have a statement. Before having the .amazon statement, we set a number of positions in different meetings, and this is key. There was a consensus opinion, and then through our ALAC members, in this case, Claire, Lilian, and Marcelo, we would ask them that in the ALAC meetings, in the specific spaces, this opinion can be brought, it can be expressed as an ALAC member, and the same happens in the

secretary and the presidency. So we would bring this before issuing an official statement from LACRALO. So this is an exercise that should not be foreign to our daily dynamic as a region. It's not invading the will. We have the capacity, we know this, we have some important contributions and input from different regions, and of course we can do this. So this is our expectation. We are going to issue a new call. There are a number of members who have expressed their intention to participate in the group, so we would then issue a new call, and the next step in Policy First is to conduct the first meeting to check that this schedule is working properly. I think there's nothing else to update there. We have provided a Policy First presentation, and we're going to send a list of members, of people who have expressed their interest, so that we can add this to the wiki. So we can have a table with the members as we have done with all the rest of the wikis. Since we have Humberto here, tell us a bit about the view of the Lawyers Working Group, the Working Group's proposal. What is your proposal and how are you progressing? Do you think you could tell us something about that?

HUMBERTO CARRASCO:

I haven't really had any discussion. I haven't talked to Hannah. I am not updated on this issue. So I commit to providing you a more detailed review at the next meeting.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Okay.

HANNAHA FRANK: Hi. As Humberto has just said, we have not had the opportunity to meet to reach a consensus and see what will be the line of the Working Group. But we are committed to provide you with this information on the next meeting.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: This is Humberto speaking. I will have an internal meeting with Hannah and we will just discuss the internal issues.

HAROLD ARCOS: And please let us know so that we can know about this because this is key to progress.

HUMBERTO CARRASCO: Yes, I will do that.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Humberto and Hannah. Let's remember for the record that Humberto is the director that has been proposed for this Working Group and Hannah is part of the team. And if I'm not mistaken, she is also a co-chair. It is great that you can have this internal meeting so you can check on the spirit of all of this. And I think in December, this task has been given as a task. Sylvia, can you please remind us of this Working Group? We had received some questions on the board. This is

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

With respect to the idea of creating a contract for the issues Working Group, we had asked what was the perspective in which this Working Group was with respect to the remit of ICANN and the multi-stakeholder model? What is the management of this group? How is this group managed with respect to the ICANN field, the ICANN area? And how to say this? And what are then the results or the goals that this group is seeking? I think it would be interesting to provide some detail with this so that we can identify what is the connection that this group has with ICANN. And I see a hand up from Lance. Go ahead, Lance, please.

LANCE HINDS:

Hi, Harold. Lance, for the record. What might be useful as well is not only the feedback on the ICANN side, but it might be useful to put a [inaudible] to get a feel for what other interests may be. So you have the DNS abuse, you have the gTLDs coming around. You've got a series of issues out there as well. And that ideally should also help drive some of the policy coming out of this group. So maybe put a poll out there and you've got about nine or ten current topics. And you could get a feel for what the RALO is interested in. And that would also shape some of the work coming out of this group. Also in terms of documents being sent to the meeting next week, I was wondering if it was possible for Lilian to send it to the board first before the meeting next week. So if there are any additions or any thoughts that the board might have before the meeting, maybe be able to articulate that. I know the time is short, but as a rule, I think maybe documents should really be sent to the board's attention and then from there submitted to the wider group. So at least the board is forearmed in terms of any information or

even ready, just like the presenter, to deal with any questions that come up during the RALO meeting itself. Just a thought in terms of how we operate. And also, is it the intention for the board meetings to be before the wider RALO meetings? That might be useful to consider as well. I'm not sure whether that happens, but we really should have that prep meeting before the wider RALO meeting. So, thank you, sir.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you, Lance. Carlos, before giving you the floor, let me make a comment to Lance. We hope to have the board meeting before the LACRALO monthly meeting. That would be the first or second week of the month because the monthly meeting is on the third week of the month. So the objective is to check and get organized and check the topics that will be put for discussion during the meeting. This may contribute to the monthly meeting agenda, but this is not necessarily the case for all the meetings because this board meeting takes place one week before. So probably we will have to make updates. The agenda is not set in stone and the board meeting may change priorities. Perhaps we will have to discuss topics in the other meetings or in the monthly meetings. But that's the spirit, Lance, and I believe that we are on the same page. We still have five minutes, and I see Carlos with his hand up. We are ending the meeting, and I would like to hear Lilian and Claire's comments as well. So Carlos, very briefly, the floor is yours.

CARLOS AGUIRRE:

Carlos speaking. Thank you, Harold. First of all, let me make a comment. We have this working group led by Humberto and Hannah, and let me

add the following. Within the ICANN policy framework, we have many topics that are contractual-related topics. And the first contract that we may start discussing and see whether there is any room for improvement is our MOU, our Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN. I mean, the MOU the region has with ICANN. And then we can also review or check contracts between ICANN and the registrar, so the registries. This is closely related to policy, so this is something we can do. And secondly, let me add that yesterday, the Continuous Improvement Program Working Group started to work. This is an ICANN-led working group. And this group will discuss the future of ACs, SOs, and the NomCom, and whether there is room for improvement. And we have plenty of work up until 2030. Thank you, Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Thank you so much, Carlos. Many colleagues from other regions mentioned this, and this is a very profound review. Let me check whether there is anything else on the agenda. Lilian and Claire, we have the final minutes of the meeting. Hannah, any comment, anything that you would like to add? Please let us know, because probably we will continue with the discussion in our monthly meeting. But now I will give the floor to Lilian and then to Lance.

LILIAN IVETTE DE LUQUE:

Lilian speaking. Good morning. Thank you, Harold. I had to give you a brief update on the At-Large Committee for the Puerto Rico sessions, but we will have our meeting next week. We are now receiving the proposals to organize the panel. We in Hamburg, in the Hamburg

meeting, we had a panel, so we're going to repeat that proposal. We are now working on it. So after the meeting, I will be circulating all the updates in our mailing list so that we can have plenty of information on the panel. Yesterday we also received an email. Shreedeeep Rayamajhi from Nepal was selected as a mentor for the fellowship program, and Denise was also reappointed for the fellowship program. So we will have a special guest for the grant program, and this is something important for the region as well. Thank you.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold speaking. Thank you so much, Lilian, for this update, and happy birthday again. Lance, the floor is yours. Please go ahead.

LANCE HINDS:

Thank you, Harold. I forgot to say earlier, it also might be useful probably either by the February or the March meeting for the working group heads to probably do a one-pager on the projected objectives for the year. This is something to check off on in terms of where we are and what has been done. I know the WG heads will report, but it would be good for them. So if there are four or eight activities that they expect to do for the year, it might be something for them to submit to the board or provide to the board, and we use that as some kind of measurement of success. Thank you, Harold.

HAROLD ARCOS:

Harold speaking. Yes, thank you, Lance. This is the coordination work we are doing with the GSE and the working group, and there are topics that

are already selected for the bi-monthly meetings. Claire, thank you for your comment on time. Let me also add for the records that we send at least four proposals for activities. So I would like to ask the ALAC members to check time. ALAC usually requests proposals at the end of the year, end of December and the beginning of the year, but we know in our region that in our region are months with no activity because -- and we end up checking all the information with little time. So it is very difficult for us to send that information during December. So the request would be -- and this is for the finance working group -- because we are planning and it would be useful to have deadlines that are not so close to the end of the year. We had a deadline that was met yesterday, and the different regions in LACRALO sent different proposals -- Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, and Ecuador also sent their proposals. So we need to wait for their response now.

Okay. Now, since we have no further topics to discuss and since we are over time, I think we can end our meeting now. And before ending the meeting, there was another item that has to do with the working groups that we're going to discuss, Humberto, Hanna, for planification purposes. You know, there are plenty of topics that will come up during the policy first sessions, and these are topics we will need to review. So this is something important to take into account. So without further ado, I wish you a good rest of the day and rest of the week, and have a great day. Bye-bye, everyone. Thanks for joining.

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