YESIM SAGLAM:
Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the At-Large Regional Leadership Call taking place on Monday, 29th of January 2024 at 1500 UTC. On our call today on the English channel, we have Eduardo Diaz, Hadia Elminiawi, Sebastien Bachollet, Ali AlMeshal, Adrian Schmidt, Abdeljalil Bachar Bong, Natalia Filina and Greg Shatan. On the Spanish channel, we have Harold Arcos.

So far, we have not received any apologies, but just a heads up that Amita Choudhury is most likely will be joining slightly late, and actually, she's joining right now. And to cover staff, we have Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, Gisella Gruber, Claudia Ruiz, Adam Peake, and myself, Yesim Saglam present on today's call, and I will be doing call management for this meeting. We do have Spanish interpretation, and our interpreters are Lilian and Marita.

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 the floor back over to you, Greg. Thank you very much.

GREG SHATAN:
Thank you very much. Can we scroll down to the agenda, please? There we are. So, we have our agenda, important planning for ICANN79 and upcoming call with the CEO and other such good things. So, if there's AOB, we'll get that at the end of the call. But since we have a full agenda, we'll move right along to the next step, which is to hear from Adam Peake with the GSE update.

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ADAM PEAKE:
Thank you very much, Greg. Adam Peake speaking for the record. Yeah, I'd like to talk about, and you can see the agenda, Item 3and 4. I'll introduce up to 4, part of 4. I'd like to begin by saying how very pleased the GSE regional RVPs and all the staff are with the At-Large Regional Policy Engagement Program, the RPEP. And I just want to note that for the record that GSE are very pleased with how things have gone over the last 18 months. The relationship that you have as RALO chairs with your respective GSE VPs, we think it's been a great success. And the point of what I'm going to say today is to see where we can go with the next steps, how we can improve, evolve this program.

So, the basic question is we'd like to meet with you during ICANN79. The proposal is for a 90-minute meeting. It may be shortened as your agenda demands. Basic arrangement would be to have a round robin around the table region by region where you and your regional RVP review your engagement highlights for financial year 24, and current plans and intentions for your region's engagement plans for FY25. We think the community forum is a good timing for this, just beginning thinking about FY25. The goal would be to look for best practices or opportunities to learn from each other.

So, yeah, I think that's the basic outline of what we're proposing for ICANN79. So, I'm jumping ahead a little bit there. 10 minutes, 8 minutes by region with if the time is available, 30 minutes for breakouts by region. So, this is what we're basically proposing that if all goes well at ICANN79, then at future community forums, there would be RALO leadership GSE RVP in-person meeting. This would become a fixed

agenda item for future community forums following the same sort of arrangement as I just said, a review of the previous of the ongoing year and a look forward to the next financial year.

That is the basic outline of what we would like to achieve. And going forward, I think it's also important to say that of course, the policy forums tend to be somewhat less well attended, particularly from the GSE side. We're looking significantly at rationalizing how many people attend from our various teams. There will, I think, only be two members from each region at ICANN79, and we may reduce that more for the policy forum depending on demand.

And then the AGM has become extremely busy, so the community forum is a good fit for that. To keep things moving throughout the year, we'd like to propose that I join all of these future RALO leadership calls. We could have a fixed agenda item for GSE to report in with issues of global relevance. You handle things at the regional level perfectly well, but if there's things I can bring in or somebody brings in from GSE, then we would do that, and also take your questions and comments back to the GSE team for me to make sure they get answered. And should there be any need for other staff to come in, then that would happen.

And then just to go back to the policy forums and the AGM, it would also be something we propose is that the regional GSE VP for the host region would attend your in-person meeting. So, in Rwanda in ICANN80, it would be Pierre joining you for 10 or so minutes just to give any updates and have the opportunity to communicate with him. And at the AGM Istanbul 81, I guess, ICANN81, Pierre would come in and have the same amount of time. But the main goal is to fix this

community forum, have the meeting where we have an in-depth discussion, all regions, hearing what's happening and learning from each other.

So, that's the basic pitch. I'm very interested to hear first if we could have time on your agenda for ICANN79, and second, if this overall proposal would work for you. I'm trying to keep the relationship going and enhancing what's happening already at the regions. Thank you very much.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Adam. Personally, it sounds like a good plan, but let's see if there are other comments from the group. So, I don't see any hands up yet, but please don't be shy. Sebastien, please go ahead.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: That's Greg. Thank you very much. Yeah. I think it's a good idea. My only caveat is that we may need some time to discuss some specific topics among us and if the whole meeting-- and that's good that the whole meeting is second as it suggests to be organized. That means that maybe we need to find another time. I am not saying another slot. I can't say another slot, but it could be another time to discuss together. And if there are no other slot, I may suggest that we can have a lunch or some tea or whatever together and discuss some specific issue for our coordination group. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Sebastien. Hadia, please go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. This is Hadia for the record. So, I joined Sebastien and all the others to actually put in the chat that they find this as a good idea. And I think also to make the most out of this proposal, we will need to coordinate on the agenda prior to the meeting. So, we as RALO leaders, I think, internally would coordinate together to come up with an agenda, but also, we will need to coordinate with the GSE team in aligning the agendas and the topics that we will need to discuss. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thanks, Hadia. Adam?

ADAM PEAKE: Thank you. Adam Peake Speaking. Hadia's absolutely right, and this is part of the message I hope I can take away at the conclusion of this meeting is that we recommend that the RVPs and the RALO chairs-- I think you probably have a call each of you coming up anyway, but have a quick plan of what you're going to say in your 8, 10 minutes and so on so that we're all well prepared. And I'm happy to help with that if I can, if it's necessary, but I think the regional work is going on very well. So, it's just a matter of scheduling time to discuss between the two parties to make sure this happens. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you. Amrita, please go ahead.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Greg. As I mentioned in the chat, Adam, I like the idea you are proposing. And also, what Sebastien is saying that we have a separate RALO informal meeting if required, at a separate time, if there is no time available and add them to the agenda. Perhaps we could have some uniform questions which-- not questions, perhaps some pointers on which we need to come and speak, which could be done with the respective RALO and the GSE team, so that there is uniformity also, perhaps what worked, what didn't, and how do we want to take ahead, or what are the lessons or something, that would be great.

GREG SHATAN: Thanks, Amrita. It kind of dovetails with my thinking that this is all good, but we also need to make sure to have some time for discussion, Q&A. We don't want this just to be a series of reports, each to the other. I know that we're not a shy group, so I'm sure that will happen regardless, but I just want to put a marker in there to make sure that this is a dialogue or a multilogue as well as a reporting session and ultimately, we want to make sure that we are goal oriented, not just information oriented. So, we have results coming out of this. Otherwise, we're maybe smarter, but no more advanced in our individual agendas. So, I'll just kind of add that to the mix. And I think that as we make this a regular have it, we'll work out as to exactly how we do it, and we'll build the time on time as well. Amrita?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Yes. Absolutely, Greg. And I think I couldn't explain myself well that after we have those questions, there would be discussions, so that how do we make this discussion meaningful. This can also be done over call. As in become with specific things, and then we discuss the issues and way forward or how we can make or strengthen ourselves or something. So, that's what I think I didn't place myself well that time, but I agree with you completely.

GREG SHATAN: Great. Thanks. So, Adam, all sounds like we are aligned on the plan. So, I'll turn back to you for the next bit.

ADAM PEAKE: Yes. Thank you, Greg. Adam Peake speaking. Absolutely agree with the comments about having discussion on the time available. We're essentially five regions, but we're not because we also have Middle East and the joining countries and survey covering the Pacific. So, it doesn't work exactly. It's not 10 minutes each and 10 minutes discussion. But we can massage that and make it work. Perhaps At-Large staff can help find other slots the agenda that you can help for that discussion that Sebastien mentioned. It's not my place to look around that agenda. It's your meeting.

But I hope on the part 4, I've explained some of it. As we've said, we tour the tab, going around the table about each region and looking for this discussion element. And as I think goal oriented is a very important term that's been raised. So, thank you for that. And I do want to emphasize that just because we're emphasizing here the community

forum, that doesn't mean that GSE is running away. Absolutely not. As I said, we'd like to make sure that there's 10 or 15 minutes on the agendas in the policy forum and the AGM and the regional RVP or whoever you may need can come in then. This is just to make the structure a little bit more certain and predictable.

And then as I said, I would like or it may be somebody else, but I think it will be me joining these regular coordination calls as they happen online throughout the year to make sure that we have this ongoing dialogue. If there are questions from you, I can take them to the GSE team, and I can bring information from the GSE team. So, we have a sort of cadence of communication to enhance what's happening already very well in the regions.

So, yeah, if you're comfortable. I mean, I do see on the agenda that Tuesday, March the 5th, 10:30 till 12:00 is mentioned. That does mean taking all of the time that would normally be allocated, I guess, for your RALO coordination meeting. I don't know if there is another slot or parts of slots that might be available for you to discuss things, but we're available for 90 minutes, and it can be less if necessary, but it would be lovely to have the full time with you. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thanks. I see Heidi has a hand up. Please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes. Thank you. Thank you, Greg, and thank you, Adam. I just wanted to add that we, internally, GSE and the At-Large regional managers are

in constant discussion. So, there is coordination going on there as well as with you. So, we'll continue to have those touch bases intercessionally. So, with the RALO leadership, with your GSE regional vice president, and with your regional manager, so this is just this cadence of moving forward, making sure that we're always in touch and aware of what's going on within At-Large and within the regions. So, thank you for helping us move this forward. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Heidi, and thank you, Adam. I think it makes sense to have a cadence that's not always flat, that has peaks and valleys, so to speak, no pun intended, so that we have in essence, an annual focus and then lesser, but still continued focus at the other meetings. And obviously, we have our monthly meetings and other things going on outside of the three in person or in person/hybrid meetings.

I'm also thinking that potentially, we can look at the schedule for ICANN79 when it comes out, that if we have the RALO coordination meeting with this agenda point from 10:30 to 12:00, if 12:00 o'clock is the lunch and there's nothing else scheduled at that time, we could slide into a lunch amongst the RALO leaders alone to kind of cover that. And if that doesn't work because there's already something scheduled there or whatever, we'll find time for tea or breakfast or whatever it might be. So, we'll just take a look at the schedule and see if we can make things fit in that fashion. Heidi, please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Oh, old hand. Sorry, I'll get that down.

GREG SHATAN: That's okay. So, I think that covers 3 and 4, if I'm not mistaken. Was there anything else on 4? I don't think so. We have the agenda, but unless there's other ways to handle that time, I think we'll just adopt that proposed agenda as the draft agenda for the meeting, and we can put that into the meeting schedule meeting planning. So just pull it out of this agenda where it has been spawned and make it a stand-alone agenda for the meeting at ICANN79. Thank you, Silvia.

That comes next to the RALO chairs call with the ICANN interim CEO, Sally Costerton. I think some of us hopefully submitted topics for that. And I'm sure Sally has a thing or two on her mind as well. So, I don't know if there's anything to be said right at that 11:15 UTC, which is early for North America, but we'll be the ones to take the inconvenience this time since I know, relatively speaking, APAC tends to take the brunt of time zone and inconveniences. 6:00 AM or 6:15 AM, which for me is too early. Maybe other people wake up earlier. Heidi, your hand is up.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yeah. Thank you, Greg. We're just wondering whether there is any topics that you as a group like to raise with Sally. It might be something like what's working well, what's not working, or interactions between the RALOs and Org, etcetera, or it can be a specific topic. But just as basically last call for any kind of topics. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Happy to take a queue on that. I guess one thing that I'm wondering about is that, and I don't know if this is something that was a fatality of the pandemic, but pre-pandemic, I remember that at least at some meetings, there would be a dinner of the chairs of the various ICANN structures along with ICANN senior leadership. And it's my recollection when that was going on, that the RALO chairs were invited to that at least sometimes.

And, obviously, during the pandemic, that died off, and I haven't seen anything that's since then. So, I don't know if, staff, if you know if that's a total fatality of the change the world or if that meeting has somehow been re-put on, but without the RALO chairs. I don't know if that's necessarily something to talk about with Sally, but it's something at least I'd like to know whether that's a thing or half a thing.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay. This is Heidi. So, currently, it is a reception for the SO/AC chairs and vice chairs. So, that's my understanding of what's happening. But we can certainly put that on to the agenda if you'd like for your chat with Sally.

GREG SHATAN: I would certainly request/suggest that the RALO chairs be included in that. I recall that when it happened before the pandemic and the first time the RALO chairs were brought in, they seemed like a deer in the headlights, because they were not, in that time several years ago, really kind of involved in policy or in ICANN operational questions. But I think At-Large has changed, the roles of the RALO chairs have changed, if you

will, the sophistication perhaps or the focus of the RALO chairs has changed, and I think it would be more useful to have us there.

Not that I'm looking for a free meal or not, but rather just where there is this level of interaction would at least suggest a thought about having us added to the topic or to the invite list. And maybe that's too late for this meeting, but just a suggestion on that point. Hadia, please go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. This is Hadia for the record. And I'm back to the questions posed by Sebastien. And Sebastien's first question was a study about the IDN market in Africa. It's almost finished. What are the plans to study other markets? And I was wondering if also we could add to this. So, now that the domain name market industry study in Africa is almost finished, how are we going to react based on this, on the findings of the study in order to foster the domain name industry in Africa, and likewise, be in relation to any other finished studies that have recommendations? What is our role after knowing the findings? How could we actually act on them in order to enhance the industry in the region? Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Hadia. I think that's a good follow up, and again, a way to make the discussion goal oriented. Sebastien, if you want to bring up any of the other topics that you put in the email. I don't have that in front of me, unfortunately. I'm juggling too many screens at the moment. As I recall them, I certainly think they're a good suggestion

and timely. We don't have any other topics. I think we can use those. And obviously, I think just a general discussion of the role of RALOs with regard to how the CEO sees the role of RALOs and what's working, what isn't working. And, Sebastien, please go ahead. Your hand is up.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you, Greg. Yes, I put some questions just to be sure that we don't say that nobody understands the question, but I guess, as very often, we will just chat and then discuss. But I agree with your question, Hadia, but I guess it's more your responsibility or your possibility to ask about what will happen next in Africa. I was more at the global level, but definitely, I think it's important when this study is done for Africa, what next, it's great. The other is to try to see how we can work and answer.

But in one way, the second question, part of the second question, I guess, was also answering having this meeting with the GSE team and organized with the GSE team, because one of the topic will be how we will be participating to some of the Internet governance activity. And as a world, it's not just in Europe, but it's mainly part of the world. I was thinking that it could be also a topic to be discussed. But if we discuss something else, it will be okay too. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Sebastien. All sounds good. I think we'll have ample stuff to discuss. So, I'll ask those for whom it's not 6:00 AM to be more awake than I might be on that call. If we have nothing further on that point, we can move on to the next point on our agenda, which is

implementation of fiscal year 24 RALO outreach plans and initial thoughts on fiscal year 25 priority issues and activities. So, I think the intent here is to just get an update on what's currently going on with each RALO with regard to outreach and engagement plans. If anybody wants to start, please, go ahead.

I'll say first for the North American region, we don't have anything particularly exciting going on with regard to outreach and engagement, just continuing our work. We're kind of in between general assemblies at this point, and just trying to continue to implement what we've discussed doing with regard to both individual outreach and also trying to get new ALSs, if possible. It looks like we have one that seems to be coming together in the northwest of United States, Washington State, Oregon State, North of California. So, hoping to have that area covered. Amrita, please go ahead.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Greg. We are having some of our ALSs who are doing some initiatives which are part of the plan. We should be updating it in some time. And obviously, the APRALO policy forum is, again for this year, again, has started obviously last year. Even till December, we had initiatives. So, we had one of the policy forum discussions last week, and then we have another one planned towards in a few days' time.

So, the policy form is going. We did have some ALSs and individual members who've applied. Unfortunately, nothing has-- we've not got an update on the processing. I think that's taking too long, and perhaps, we'll have a chat with staff on the updates because people have applied

and they are waiting and we've not heard about them yet. If there is an issue, we need to kind of-- I think we need to speed up the process. That's something which perhaps we may want to discuss. I don't know about other regions, but we have seen it's taking quite a lot of time for applications to move. If there's an issue, we need to get back. And if there is okay, we need to go ahead with it. So, yes, this is about it at this point of time. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Amrita. It's always important to look at what is happening with the process and not let things get stuck. I will mention, and as we have seen in the chat from Silvia, that we do have, of course, with regard to NARALO, outreach and engagement. The activity is coming up at ICANN79, which is a roundtable discussion. Topic is now DNS and domain name abuse or domain abuse in the digital economy. We're also having a networking event. And in addition, before ICANN79, there will be another one of the successful North American School of Internet governance. And there's some special outreach going on to youth organizations in Puerto Rico.

And last but not least, our regular monthly meeting will be turned into a more of a town hall type of approach, which should be of interest hopefully, not only to NARALO members, but to everyone. So, it's not like nothing is going on. Hadia, please go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. This is Hadia for the record. So, we have an AFRALO Rules of Procedure working group webinar scheduled for today. This is

because AFRALO is looking into updating the rules of procedures, and that's why we are going ahead first with a webinar. And also, today, we're going to discuss-- the schedule for today also is a discussion about the domain name industry, Africa domain name industry study in order to put together a statement, an AFRALO statement. We are planning to discuss it at the upcoming CPWG meetings for ALAC endorsement. We are also preparing for the AFRALO African statement, and we are finalizing the topic. So, those are our most recent activities. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Hadia. Anybody else want to review their outreach and engagement activity?

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Maybe I can do. Sebastien Bachollet from EURALO. Just to say that we will have two roundtables, one will be tomorrow, about the LDRS. The one who knows about that is Natalia and if she wants to say, it will be better. And we will have another one on the 13th of February to discuss or start to discuss the issue that will be discussed during ICANN79 about sustainable development goals. And that's already a lot of work. And if I can add that I would like to discuss I don't know when because it's not on the agenda today and it's not on the agenda during ICANN798, but the cross-RALO roundtable on the 23rd of April will be day to day the 10th anniversary of NetMundial.

I am still trying to get information of what will happen and when something will happen in Brazil. But in any case, I think it could be a good idea to have this. At least our colleague from LACRALO, and we

are working with them on that, but I would be happy for all the RALOs to join together to have a cross-RALO meeting on that topic. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you. I think that's important. Need to put a pin. Maybe we can talk about that at ICANN79 or certainly just go ahead and planning toward April 23rd since NetMundial is by definition even though it's coming out of Latin American region it's global in scope. And certainly, I can recall 10 years ago, there were definitely activity in North America and that responding to and participating in NetMundial. So NetMundial+ 10 is a great cross-RALO topic and one that each of the RALO should have something to contribute to. So, we'll make sure that that happens. Natalia, I don't know if you wanted to say anything else.

NATALIA FILINA: Thank you very much, Greg. Yes. Natalia Filina speaking. Just a few words about our tomorrow's roundtable. So, I think we gathered a very nice list of guest speakers because we will have ICANN Org speaker who will explain what is the RDRS and how it has worked. And we invited people from registry, registrars [inaudible 00:39:05], and from a committee who will care and who will observe this system and work on it. And we will have, of course, people from At-Large. And we will put on the table an end user's perspectives, concerns, or questions. And we will have Thomas Rickert from ECO.

And of course, we will have a time for a Q&A session, and you are very welcome, and please, come to us. And I think it's very important. And this is a good time to discuss our first experience and success and

maybe concerns, something like this. So, this is very short about our roundtable. It's nice we will start this year with this issue.

GREG SHATAN: Thanks. Thank you for the invitation to the rest of us, and I think it sounds or it looks like a great roundtable. I hope to be there. If there's nothing else on this topic, next subtopic is the review of the fiscal year 25 At-Large strategic priority activity. Thank you for putting that on the screen. And thank you, Natalia, for giving a link to the agenda there.

So, we have many priorities. We may need to make priorities within the priorities. But in the policy stream, continuing to work on the minimizing of DNS abuse, in particular topics there, broadening regional economic community and linguistic participation in the next round. Applicant support [audio glitch] important part of that. I know a number of us are working in small teams and others to work on the applicant support for the next round, and that'll continue to be a topic. Broader availability of data for policy development purposes and supporting the open data initiative. Metrics are always good.

Data accuracy, always a thorny topic. Access to registration data, supporting RDRS was timely on that clearly. The multistakeholder model preserving and enhancing is at the table, and not just the dinner table with chairs of SOs and ACs. We're making sure to participate, especially if when there are GNSO activities, it's good to try to make those GNSO-- There's times when the GNSO can seems a bit closed, especially if they're adding the GAC, they could add us. And that was ultimately well handled with regard to the closed generics, although we

weren't initially included. I think we got included, and I think that creates grounds for future inclusion. We have the holistic review coming up.

I need to make sure to participate actively in that. Within the community, continuing to evaluate and improve At-Large engagement to try to bring the At-Large loop close up, and moving into the next pieces of that plan to the engagement engine, the campaign playbook. I don't think we have Jonathan with us, but if we do, he can always speak to that. And then more on metrics again. Performance metrics for our own groups, and not just call participation, committee participation, but also getting beyond mere participation [audio glitch] in key performance indicators, if you will, and not just engagement, just showing up. Showing up is obviously important, but in ICANN there's unfortunately a lot of showing up without doing anything by some people. And obviously, we're ones who show up a lot.

Aligning travel with utility and performance metrics. Not exactly sure what that's about, but I guess whether those who are traveling are making good use of their time or whether it's, to some extent, the travel isn't being well utilized. Well, none of us is [audio glitch] it's not the point. It's a means to an end. Lastly, initiating continuous improvement efforts. And I guess, hopefully, we're already trying to improve continuous. But obviously, that's intended to be something that is more organized and structured. So, that's kind of a race through fiscal year 25 strategic priority activities. So, take comments on any or all of those and or things that are missing. Sebastien, please go ahead.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Missing always, but it's already a good way. I know that we have different point of view, but I don't think we need to spend time to-- If we spend time to measure, we will not do the work that. Therefore, I always consider that we don't really need to yes, to lose our time. We know when people are not coming to a meeting. And I don't think we need to have the chair, whatever, the RALO chair or the ALAC chair need to talk with the people when there is something someone consider that it's not going well. But organize the working group on that and spending time on that metric, it's open since, I don't know, 10, 12 years and nothing came out, and we are still alive and still working well. I don't think that the way the company are working need to coming to our work.

And my concern about this finance travel with the blah blah blah, I really think that if at the end of the day, the result is to say, oh, we don't need this part of the people to come to this type of the meeting because it's not very useful. We will lose something because the meeting, even if it's there are three types of meeting, it's also together all the leaders of At-Large together. Therefore, I hope that the end will not be that. And I hope that if somebody suggests that we will all at a RALO level, all opposed to that whatever, whoever is proposing that.

And about the continuous improvement program, I guess it's the next topic on the agenda. Therefore, I will stop here. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Sebastien. Amrita, please go ahead.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: As in I personally I'm okay with metrics and performance, but these are not individual performance or a corporate performance, but for example, what has worked, what hasn't worked. For example, if we are having someone-- And in travel also, people who are working, who are deserving should get travel. If someone say, for example, not in any working group or not even contributing at the level, and by default getting travel support, I think that's unfair. There may be some people working more. So, those kinds of reviews, I think, is a good option. I agree that it should not be being a volunteer and working in outreach engagement and other things. The matrices need to be more malleable, but yes, deserving candidates should be supported.

I'm not saying curtailing some. I do not agree that if it's a meeting of some kind, some people should not be allowed and some people will be allowed. That's an extreme thing. I would also be very, but I think we should have a mirror before ourselves to see what we are doing and what we are not doing.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Amrita. I guess my thinking is somewhere in the middle. I think statistics and data are all useful tools, but they're only a means to an end. They can't be an end in themselves. They can't be time consuming to just come up with metrics. The point in the end is to work effectively. And if we have some minimum standards whether they are-- and then it's better if they're measurable than not measurable. I would hope that we're not using these to try to [audio glitch 00:49:23] from anything basis, which I think is not really a metrical question anyway, it's more a policy question. But in the end, I think we should

have only the metrics that we need to help us do the work we all want to do.

And yeah, I think you can get overly worried about being evidence based on things because sometimes the world is more qualitative than that. In any case, I'm in favor of getting appropriate metrics, but again, it's a matter of measuring goals and the like. And the goals are more important than the measurement in a sense. Measurement is not the task. So, that's my cents on that point. Anybody else on this or on the list of topics, generally?

YESIM SAGLAM: Greg, I think Harold was in a call, and he wanted to speak. He had put it into the chat at one point. I'm not sure.

GREG SHATAN: Oh, okay. I saw that he had joined. And, Harold, if you're here, please, go ahead. Or I thought maybe he was just telling us that he had joined from an earlier call.

HAROLD ARCOS: I hope you can hear me.

GREG SHATAN: Yes. Go ahead.

HAROLD ARCOS: I was apologizing the chat because I had some connectivity issues. I wanted to say with regard to metrics that they had to be appropriate. The interpreter apologizes, but Harold's audio is not clear. Let me summarize. Some metrics is only allowed to move forward some activities and others were left out. I'm speaking about the proposals made for the activities to be funded by ICANN.

Let me give you the example. There were 10 proposals, and only two were accepted because they were not properly understood with regard to metrics. We cannot modify them now because the process has been closed. So, we should consider proposals with topics that can be addressed in an overall manner, that can be assessed and determined that they can move on to the next phase. That is why metrics are important. There is always room for improvement, and that is why metrics come into play.

I also wanted to report to you what we are discussing now is that the topics should be closely adjusted to reality. However, I would like to express our appreciation to the GSE team because they allowed us to refine the approach on the DNS risk topic. I remember a couple of years ago, we proposed this topic, but perhaps because it was not properly addressed, it wasn't discussed in-depth. This has happened in our region. I think in our region, it is very relevant to bring to end users how they view specifically the talk.

With regard to our meeting with Sally, we should perhaps consider a discussion on a space for debate on fragmentation of the Internet. We are about to organize a forum on this in the region. And finally, since June last year, before the closing of fiscal year 2024, we have been

analyzing how the participants are involved in the region, in Latin America and the Caribbean, more specifically in the Caribbean. And since then, the rate of connectivity has increased with the effort of regional leaders. Some of those leaders, unfortunately, will not be attending the Puerto Rico meeting because they were not invited. In Venezuela, several actions have been imposed because of the geopolitical situation. Some considerations should be made for specific cases.

The interpreter apologizes, but Harold is breaking up. We should have room to expand actions and be able to participate despite exceptional circumstances. These are the areas I wanted to report on. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Harold. I'll thank you for bringing us through the various topics that went on when you were on the call. A number of good points to make note of. I'll call on Pari and note that we are at over time. Hopefully, interpreters can indulge us for another couple of minutes, but we will need to wrap up very shortly. Pari, go ahead.

PARI ESFANDIARI: Hello. Pari speaking. I will be very quick. Basically, on the performance metrics, I am all for metrics but collective metrics. Otherwise, in my experience, starting to focus on individual metrics creates a very negative environment in a community, and I'm concerned about that. So, I'm also metrics if you want to improve the collective action of EURALO or compare values, actions taken, how they're performing, but applying it to inside the community and individuals, as Greg mentioned,

the performance are more qualitative than coming up with some ideas of number of times attended or anything like that could be actually harmful rather than helpful. Thank you.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Pari. Good points. I'll go very quickly to the continuous improvement program, and to Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Yeah. Thank you very much. I guess, the first point about this topic is that in fact, since or with implementation of the last organizational review regarding At-Large, we are still trying to finalize those recommendations or the one we decide to implement, for example, the ROP in various regions. But at the same time, we are evolving our structure.

And some of the discussion we had before during this meeting are linked with the continuous improvement program. Therefore, there is a working group with 29 members, 13 from At-Large, 10 from RALO, 2 from ALAC and 1 from the NomCom. It's a lot of people. I guess, it must be a topic we keep in mind because we are supposed to bring to this group what we are doing at the RALO and the ALAC level. But the question is how we want to organize that.

It's a little bit short to have this discussion today, but I would like very much to see how we can really work on that topic in each RALO and globally at the group coordination level of the RALO and at the level of

At-Large in general. I guess one small group will be created at least with the participation of the 12 or 13 people from At-Large. I hope that one of you will be willing to lead that and not leave to the old timers the responsibility for that. When I say old timers, the one who were at ATRT3 or ATRT2 or in various other places. It's important to have new blood to coordinate this working group if it's happened to be.

And I am ready to help not to take any leadership position, just to help on that. We are 10 from RALOs. Therefore, I am not just the only one, even if you give me kindly the floor today. Thank you. I'm ready to answer any question if needed by mail after the meeting if it's too short today. Thank you very much all.

GREG SHATAN: Thank you, Sebastien, and I'll underline call for new blood or newer blood. Since we're really at time, I think we should just-- We'll have one more meeting, I guess, in February. And we can confirm that that time is in place, and then we can talk about April, I don't know, other time, since we'll have more meetings then. So, I think that brings us to the end of our agenda. Note that there's a lot in the chat, including Harold just put something in as well. So, let's all look at the chat. Let's continue to communicate offline. And I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks in San Juan. With that I will call this meeting adjourned. We can, stop the recording, And I'll move on to our next meeting which we may be late for. Thank you all, and goodbye.

YESIM SAGLAM:	Thank you. This meeting is now adjourned. Have a great rest of the day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]