
BRENDA BREWER: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. This is Brenda speaking, and I'd like to welcome you to the AFRALO monthly call on 4 September 2024. Due to the increased number of attendees and to save time, we will not have a verbal roll call. However, all attendees, both on the Zoom and the phone bridge, will be noted on the Wiki agenda page. We do have apologies from Michel Tchonang, and attending from staff is Silvia Vivanco and myself, Brenda Brewer, on call management. Our French interpreters today are Dominique and Jacques, and we have real-time transcribing provided for today's call, and I will share the link again momentarily. And please, a reminder to please state your name before speaking. Please speak slowly and clearly for our interpreters. And with this, I'll turn the meeting over to Hadia. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAMI: Thank you so much. This is Hadia for the record, and thank you for joining today's AFRALO monthly call. So if we can have the agenda on screen. Okay, so let's take a look at the agenda. So first we start with reviewing action items, and then welcome remarks, and then we will look at ICANN public comments, those assigned to the Consolidated Policy Working Group and those that are assigned to the OFB Working Group. After that, we will look at the reports and updates and items for discussion. So we have preparation for ICANN 81, the statement, and Abdeldjalil will be taking us through this. And then we have updates from Global Stakeholder Engagement, and then updates from Yazid, a technical engagement update. And then we have ALAC activities, and then recent and upcoming AFRALO and ALS activities. I'm not sure that

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we are going to have an update from NomCom, because I think Seun is in apology. And then we will have a presentation about the FY25 outreach and engagement strategy. And then we will review the Rules of Procedures Working Group. Abdeldjalil, Isaac, and Dr. Jabhera will be reviewing the Rules of Procedure with us. And then we have the CIP and update, and then AFRALO Social Media Working Group, an update from Bukola, and then the newsletter. After that, there is an announcement about the UA Day 2025, and Abdeldjalil finally will be taking us through AFRALO membership matters and any other business. So this is our agenda for today. Seeing no hands up and nothing in the chat, and I did not see anyone noting anything for any other business. So the agenda is adopted, and let's start with the action items.

So if we can click on the action items. So the first action item was with regard to the Rules of Procedure document, and I don't think we have done anything in that regard, but we will be discussing it today on our agenda. Abdeldjalil, to coordinate the AFRALO-AfrICANN ICANN 81 statement, and that has been done. And I was supposed to send out a reminder with the invitation of all AFRALO members slash ALSes and relevant organizations in Africa to participate in the implementation of the Universal Acceptance African Strategy, and nothing also has been done in that regard, but we will discuss this also today.

So let's start with ICANN public comments, and currently, first recently ratified are the preliminary issue report on Latin script diacritics. So that has been adopted, and also the proposed fundamental bylaws amendments related to the grant program. So those two statements have been ratified by the ALAC. Currently open for public comment is the data processing specification for ICANN accredited registries and

registrars, and it has been agreed during the Consolidated Policy Working Group call that there will be no statement in that regard. Then we have the gTLD IDN tables review process when a reference label generation rule is not available, and today, during the Consolidated Policy Working Group call, Harold and my self, we presented a draft statement about that, and this is mainly about what happens when, well, reference label generation rules are used by ICANN org in order to review the IDN tables submitted by registry operators. So currently, there are 26 scripts that have reference label generation rules, however, there are still many scripts that do not have reference label generation rules. So if a registry operator submits an IDN table for a script that does not have reference label generation rules, what would ICANN do? So ICANN org, they suggested a process where the registry operator will be asked to withdraw the IDN table submitted, and then ICANN org and the registry operator and the community will start working on developing reference label generation rules for that script in cooperation, of course, with the script community and language community. And then after they develop the reference label generation rules, it would be put forward for public comment, and after that, updated and published. After that, the registry operator can resubmit the IDN table, and it can be reviewed. So basically, the statement that we propose today supports the process, however, we do suggest providing that ICANN org provides a sort of a guiding timeline with milestones so that the process can be completed in a timely manner. Again, if you want to know more about this, you can click on the link.

And then open also for public comment is the proposed updates to the independent review process supplementary procedures. So the

independent review process provides for third party review of board or staff actions or inactions alleged to be inconsistent with ICANN's articles or bylaws. The IRP implementation oversight team seeks input on its proposed updates to IRP supplementary procedures, and Pari Esfandiari, Bukola, Claire Craig and Gregory Shatan are working on that. And that's being discussed during the OFB working group call, and there is a call happening tomorrow if you would like to know more about this. There has been a draft proposed.

Open also for public comment are the proposed fundamental bylaws amendments related to the grant program and this is also dealt with during the OFB working group call. Judith is the pen holder of the statement and it's currently being voted on. Open also for public comment is the draft ICANN strategic plan and operating plan framework for FY 26-30. Bukola, myself, Vanda, Judith, Cheryl and Claire are the pen holders and we have already submitted a statement and again this is just discussed during the OFB working group call.

Then we have the transfer policy review working group initial report and Steiner is always putting forward updates and discussing the statement and today we had an update from Steiner. The final statement is due on 18th of September. So again if you want to know more about this, you can click on the link and you can always of course join the Consolidated Policy Working Group calls and the OFB working group calls. So to stay engaged and to know more about what's happening with regard to policy and public comments, public proceedings that are put forward for public comment, please join the OFB working group calls and the concert data policy working group calls.

So upcoming we have the improved GNSO stakeholder group and constituency charter amendment process. We have the draft PTI FY 26-30 strategic plan and the proposed language for draft sections of the next round applicant guidebook. With that we end this part of our discussion and you can see here on the page how many days remain till the proceeding closes. So again if you're interested you can click on the link. You can even provide your own comments if you would like. So seeing no hands up I think we can go ahead and move to our next agenda item, which is preparation of ICANN 81 AFRALO-AfrICANN statement. And for that we have Abdeldjalil. Abdeldjalil, the floor is yours.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: So hi everyone. Thank you so much for giving me the floor. So as you know, usually we have our AFRALO-AfrICANN statement. So everyone, we sent the call for the topic and how to join the team of drafting teams on the email. So we are a bit late but we received a lot of topics. So now after this meeting we sent our topic that people send us in the mailing list or in private. So we can send that and after that we can choose one topic as usually we did. And we received also a lot of people who need to be in the drafting team. So that's all and so I will send by email. Thank you so much.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you Abdeldjalil. So can you briefly tell us what topics have been suggested?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: I can give as example two topics here. For example one is like ICANN roles in environmental sustainability. ICANN goals green tech. Artificial intelligence for enhancing multilingualism and the African internal space and ICANN initiative. Another one is like expanding the development of root server and starts in Africa. So after the call we receive our topic. After that, people can support the topics that we received a lot of support. So we can choose as a topic.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you Abdeldjalil. So any questions to Abdeldjalil? So seeing no hands up and nothing in the chat. Let's go ahead to our next agenda item which is global stakeholder engagement Africa updates. And I'm not sure who's going to be giving the update today.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Thank you very much. I'll be giving some updates on behalf of the GSE Africa team. So we have apologies for Pierre Dandjinou and my colleague June Okal. We have mainly five items on update. The first one is about the AFRALO fiscal year 25 outreach and engagement plan which is on the agenda. So my colleague asked me to thank AFRALO for this document and we hope that we can work together for the implementation of this plan. So that is the first item and as I mentioned I can see also later on on the agenda.

The second one is that we are having also a lot of activities under the coalition for digital Africa program. So briefly I want to report about three of the projects. The first one is the capacity development for some country called top level domain organization in Africa. So as you can

remember we had a business capacity development workshop during ICANN 80 in Kigali. And then after that we have also a technical workshop for the ccTLDs. We had that in Nairobi in July. And now currently we are having some session we call mentoring sessions. So these sessions are with the various ccTLDs which were participants in the two tracks. The business track and the technical track. So this is one of the activity on the capacity development. So this project under the coalition we have many partners. We have like AFTLD, Africa top level domain organization. We have NSRC, Network Startup Resource Center. And then we have also AFNIC which is the .FR registry. So this is about the capacity development.

One of other projects I want to report about is the DNSSEC Roadshow. So we had two capacity development with a consultant of ICANN. And then with the support also with our team and the ICANN technical engagement team. We had a workshop on DNSSEC in Nigeria. And then also we had a workshop on DNSSEC in Cameroon. So these are the two DNSSEC Roadshow we had recently. But we are still working with the ccTLD in Burkina Faso about also the DNSSEC implementation at the ccTLD level.

Another project I want to report about is the universal acceptance region. So these projects, the key partner or the main partner is the association of African universities. So what this project is doing is to help the members more than 400 of the association of African universities to have their email system and website universal acceptance ready or compliant to universal acceptance. So what we are doing is that we are currently helping these institutions to test their systems. This one we are doing it from ICANN side and then what they need to do especially

we have some universities who are have their web platform on WordPress. So WordPress is also a platform many entities are using for the website. So currently we are working with some universities who are performing some tests and then we are helping them to make some corrections. They need a correction to have their website using WordPress ready. So these are some of the projects under the Coalition of Digital Africa I want to report about. So we are going to report more or to talk more about the Coalition for Digital Africa during the Africa Internet Summit happening next week in Mauritius.

We want to also remind again about the next round of the new generic top-level domain. We know that you are already following these activities. We want to also mention that it's important to follow and to continue what you are doing as awareness for your side because we have the applicant support program which will be starting very soon in November. So we want really the community in Africa or all the stakeholders in Africa to be informed about this program. Again, we'll have a session on the 10th of September during the Africa Internet Summit where Bob Ochieng will be also providing updates on this program during the Africa Internet Summit happening next week.

The fourth topic again is about the AIS. As you know, when we are having an activity in the country, we are trying as much as possible to see how we can work together with AFRALO or with your ALS. So we are planning to have a boot in Mauritius, ICANN boot, and then we are glad that we have contacted Dave Kissoondoyal who is available to work with us to have the ICANN boot managed during the Africa Internet Summit.

And the last item I want to share is that we know you are following the ICANN strategy plan for the next fiscal years, five years. So what we want to mention is that it's very important to continue this because we are going to start very soon working about the regional implementation from Africa. As you know, this has been already following the global ICANN plan. So we'll be getting back to AFRALO soon for input and contribution to this next five-year regional plan for Africa. So these are the key updates I want to provide from GSE Africa. So thank you very much for your attention.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Yaovi, for this update and lots of activities indeed. And so I wanted to ask you about the mentoring workshop that you mentioned. And my understanding that it's primarily for those who attended the technical workshop and the business workshop. And so my question is, is this virtual or is it in person? And is it part of the activities of the Coalition of Digital Africa?

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

A very good question. As you mentioned, these are virtual. And then the beneficiary, the ccTLDs in this program who were a participant in the face-to-face business workshop and also the technical workshop. So this is now happening virtually. And we have the various partners who were the facilitator. They are working now closely but virtually with the ccTLD, the beneficiary. So thank you.

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- HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Yaovi. And also we are looking forward to working with you on the regional strategy. So yes, keep us updated. And I think we will have a big team working with you on this whenever you're ready. So I see a hand from Dr. Ademunmi. Dr. Ademunmi, please go ahead.
- ADEMUNMI AKINBO: Thank you, Ademunmi Akinbo for the record. Yaovi, you mentioned briefly about training on WordPress. I would like to have more information about that. Thank you.
- YAOVI ATOHOUN: No, no. Let me clarify this. It's not a training on WordPress. I mentioned WordPress when I was reporting about a universal acceptance project under the Coalition of Digital Africa. So what we want the members of the Association of Africa to achieve is for them, the members to have their website ready in addition to their email system. And most of the, some of the universities, a big number of these universities, they are using WordPress as a platform. So currently, the WordPress as it is, those who are using WordPress, , their websites are not ready. Like if they have a form on the website, for example, a form where someone has to enter an email for some reason to subscribe or for communication, these websites are not accepting internationalized emails or longer emails or new some, some emails. So the, the exercise we are doing with some universities, these are volunteers who are helping one of the ICANN team testing a solution to correct this problem. So it's not a training, it's a session we are having of some
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volunteers, universities who are implementing some changes. So once they implement these changes, they should be able to have people use any email addresses to come in or to provide information or to, to sign in on the website. So this is the type of exercise we are doing with some universities. So I hope that is clear. Thank you.

ADEMUNMI AKINBO: Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. And now we have a hand from Malick. Malick, please go ahead.

MALIK ALASSANE: Okay. Thanks, Hadia. Thanks, Yaovi, for the report. My question is about the universal acceptance. You have mentioned that you have a partnership with the Association of Universities. And this year for the UA Day, we have a type of event that means that we would want to integrate UA course in university. So I wanted to know, local ALS can apply to work on this specific event or your partnership with Association of University take this part already? Thanks.

YAOVI ATOHOUN: Okay. What I got from your question is you want to know if the Association of African University is already working on the UA Day, if I get you correctly. No, the Association of African University, we have a specific project. We call it UA Readiness for Universities. We have two

tracks. One is to have the system of these universities ready, email compliant, website compliant. And also we have a track where we want to have some university introduce a UA topic in the curricula. So we are at this today where we are trying to do a pilot with some countries, just a few countries, a pilot. It's not just Africa, it's globally. We want to do something, a pilot with some universities and see how it goes. Because we want to have it at a high level where not just the university is involved, but the whole academic institution in the country. So UA Day is really open to all the organizations. And I think that we have this also on the agenda about this next year, even UA Day for obligation. So I don't know if my answer qualifies what you are asking.

MALIK ALASSANE:

Yes, thanks too much.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much. Fatimata, please go ahead.

FATAIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Hello, everyone. My question is about the program and the community mobilization and information in countries. I mean, I've been working with you regarding Senegal on that. And I think we're still waiting for more information. Maybe we need more guidelines to support you on this. Really, I'm kind of stuck. And I would like to know how to go about this. Thank you.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

Thank you very much, Fatimata. I want to mention again that we I mentioned the next round, the two program, the applicant support program and the registry support program is to program. And we have some country, not some countries where we as a focus, depending on some data. ICANN has about some countries and Senegal was one of this country. We have Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa, and then Kenya. Yeah, we have this country. So what we are trying to do is to we are using primarily members like AFRALO members in these countries and other institutions. So, Fatimata, I came back to you. And again, I plan that we can have a call next week with yourself and all the people you have identified. And we'll share with you what we plan to do, how we can have the maximum of people or community or institution in Senegal, for example, who are informed about this topic. So what ICANN is trying to do is to have the maximum the maximum information shared with the community in Africa. And then now the community or the institutions or the individual will decide what to do if they want to register. But the key is the information. So to your question, we are still discussing internally. Definitely. I think that next week I will have a call with you and other colleagues who have proposed in Senegal. I hope that will help. Thank you.

FATAIMATA SEYE SYLLA:

Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you. And now, Setonji, the floor is yours.

SETONJI HOUNZANDJI: Thank you. My question is, is it possible to have two different structures that will organize a UA Day in the same country?

YAOVI ATOHOUN: I think so. I think it is possible because I think in the document—I didn't read the fully this year announcement, but it should be possible to have two different institutions. So depending on the proposal for each organization. But I didn't go all of them. I'll check and get back to you unless one of my colleagues on this call have a direct answer to your question. But I note your question and I come back to you with a clear answer, if not provided now. Thank you.

SETONJI HOUNZANDJI: Okay, thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you, Yaovi. And now, Dr. Jabhera.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Yes, thank you so much. This is Dr. Jabhera from Tanzania, representing Tanzania Community Network Alliance. So I just wanted to comment on the universal acceptance adoption. And I just shared a short report as a result of Universal Acceptance Day that we conducted last year. And I think it's a good roadmap if someone needs to implement the universal acceptance to their local website. So I shared in the chat and I would encourage members could go through and maybe keep me informed if you need maybe any help. I have a number of two masters students

who are working on this project on helping other organizations locally in Tanzania to convert or to implement universal acceptance to their websites. And we will also be happy to help any other else that is willing to do that. It has a number of steps and I think the document is quite clear if anyone needs to follow up. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Dr. Jabhera for this update. And thank you also for offering to help any organization or any person who would like to adopt universal acceptance and your offer to help them. So now I don't see any more hands up. And I think also in the chat. Raymond is responding to the question with regard to universal acceptance day per country and he's saying normally they fund one celebration per country. However, anyone can celebrate their own universal acceptance days. Yaovi, please go ahead.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

No, I'm done. I just want to thank Dr. Jabhera and I invite everyone to really take advantage of his availability. And it is good that we start by ourselves. If you have a website, I think we should use the resources we have to move. So we thank Dr. Matogoro and everyone in AFRALO on this initiative. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Yaovi. And thank you, Dr. Jabhera. And please, you know, you have an offer from Dr. Jabhera. So make use of it. And now

we move ahead to the technical engagement update with Yazid. And I'm not sure if we are going to have an update today from Yazid, are we?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: So I put in the chat a few updates from Yazid because he can't join us today. So just the message that he sent to us. So firstly, he thanked the support of [inaudible], one of AFRALO members in Cote d'Ivoire, who has been instrumental in helping to resume our collaboration with the operator in Cote d'Ivoire for DNSSEC validation. Following an update that I provided a few months ago at an AFRALO month's call. So he says that I am happy to announce that the country has now switched to green on the Africa map for DNSSEC validation. This has been achieved after Orange Cote d'Ivoire, the largest operator in the country, has successfully activated this validation on DNSSEC. The country is now showing the global validation. So you can find out the information.

And another one update for him is he conducted a few engagement activities in Ghana, in Malawi, in Kenya also. And all the information you can find in the chat, we put it. Yes. And thank you so much. Back to you, Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Abdeldjalil and congratulations to Cote d'Ivoire for their DNSSEC validation. And so I don't see any hands up. So let's move ahead to our next agenda item, which is recent and upcoming activities. And for that, we have Raihanath, Aziz and Bukola. And the floor is yours. I don't know who would like to start.

BUKOLA ORONTI:

In addition to some of the updates that Hadia already given on CPWG and OFBWG, I would just want to add that since our last call to date, the ALAC had worked on the drafts, and they've ratified the drafts from code language for next round transport program and registry service provider evaluation program terms and conditions, and then ALAC's statement on the preliminary issue report on [diacritics,] and currently on the voting is the draft on the proposed fundamental bylaws amendment related to grant program, and I believe by the end of the week that should have been concluded by ALAC. And also I just want briefly on behalf of OFBWG's small team that is working on the ICANN strategic plan and operating plan framework for FY26-30, the small team wants to say thank you for those that responded to the survey sent out earlier, and I also want to use this medium to encourage everyone that while the draft is open for comment, that you should put in a comment if we have any before it is forwarded to ALAC for ratification, and that is all from my end on behalf of ALAC, and also my colleagues are here, they have any other thing to add, so I yield the floor back to you, Hadia, thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Bukola, and I give the floor to Aziz and Raihana, if they want to.

AZIZ HILALI: I think you mentioned all the topics that ALAC is currently working, you, Hadia and Bukola, on during the first item of the agenda, it's okay, thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Aziz and Raihanath. So, okay, so I guess we don't have any further updates. I just wanted to mention the ALAC small team that is working on the objection procedure, and so it's procedures for the ALAC to submit public comments on and file objections to new gTLD applications. And currently, two sub-teams have been formed, one is a workflow sub-team and the other is a scoring sub-team, and the group has, I would say, just started its work because those two sub-teams have been just established yesterday. You can find more information about that small team on the wiki page.

AZIZ HILALI: I think Bukola just mentioned about what the ALAC recently expressed its support for the proposed amendment to the fundamental bailouts related to the program, the grant program, which exclude decision made under ICANN grant program from accountability mechanism. So we vote today for this, this amendment aligned with the previous recommendation aimed at clarifying the limitation of this mechanism for this specific program. So ALAC believes that this change does not weaken ICANN bylaws and approves their implementation. I think this declaration or statement was worked between Cheryl and, what's the name of the other woman, you know her, Hadia?

HADIA ELMINIAWI: I'm not sure exactly what you're talking about, Aziz, so if you're talking about the proposed fundamental bailouts amendments related to the grant program, so it's currently under ratification, right? It's going to happen from the 4th to the 6th September, and then you're talking about another topic now, which I'm not sure.

AZIZ HILALI: No, no, about the grant program, which exclude decision made under ICANN grant program from accountability mechanism.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Yes, do we have Bukola or Raihanath? Okay. So, if we're done with the update with regard to the recent and upcoming ALAC activities, I would like to thank so much Aziz Hilali and Bukola Oronti and Raihanath, AFRALO ALAC members, and now we move to the recent and upcoming AFRALO ALS activities and updates. Also, we are happy also to receive updates from individual members. So, I open the floor now to all members, and Levy, Zambia chapter, please go ahead.

LEVY SYANSEKE: Thank you. This is Levy from Zambia chapter for the record. I just have one update, mainly, where we had our Zambia SIG conclude on the 29th of August, and I'm happy to indicate that actually in the meeting we have two fellows from the SIG who've just joined in our follow-up monthly call. So, for me, I think that's mainly the update, and special thanks to ICANN for helping us with part of the courses, and not forgetting Raymond for being one of our guest facilitators for one of the

sessions and internet governance engagement, who highlighted how fellows can actually be actively involved in the ecosystem. That's an update for me. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Levy, for this update. And now, Dr. Akinbo, please go ahead.

ADEBUNMI AKINBO:

Thank you, HAdia. Adebunmi Akinbo for the record. Okay, so the Nigerian Internet Society is organizing a fourth school on internet governance. We have 128 applicants who are actually in training. They've been in training for the first four weeks. They are going into the next batch of training, which is focused on ICANN, and also AFRALO. I hope to bring some of them in the next AFRALO meeting. That's for NSIG, that's the National School of Internet Governance by the Internet Society of Nigeria chapter.

The second one is from the Global Encryption Day, that most of us must have applied for. We intend using a tool from the Internet Society, and that is talking about DNS Africa, media and communication. We intend using the tool from the Internet Society in monitoring the encryption, end-to-end encryption discussion that is ongoing. A lot of us have had about 10 telegram issues, and we look forward to AFRALO paying attention, especially to this particular course. Thank you very much, Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you, Dr. Akinbo. Any more updates? I don't see any hands up. Okay, so I guess we can move ahead. I don't think we will have any update from Seun today. I think Seun is an apology. And now we move ahead to the presentation of final version approved by GSE Africa, the AFRALO FY25 outreach and engagement strategy. And for that, I give the floor to Bram. Bram, the floor is yours.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you, Hadia. This is Bram for the record. And just to echo what Hadia said, that we do now have our Outreach and Engagement Financial Year 2025 approved by the Global Stakeholder Engagement Team, and I think for those that have been following closely, I did share in the last AFRALO meeting that there is a small change in that the CROP now covers part of, when you look at Africa and part of the Middle East, which brings countries like Morocco, Tunisia, to also benefit for trips or meetings that are happening within the Middle East to benefit from our CROP program.

And so we have fully activated the CROP program for those that are applying. I'm sure Bukola is going to talk about an update in terms of how many applications have been received so far and how many have been processed. But so far, I wanted to just emphasize that the approvals have been given, and feel free to reach out for any assistance in terms of the CROP application. Thank you. Back to you, Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Bram, for that update. Also, thank you for pointing out that the CROP program is fully running, and I think we have two

applications so far. Any questions? Yaovi, would you like to speak to the AFRALO FY25 outreach and engagement plan or the CROP program?

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

I think for this, what is important is, as Bram mentioned, for participants or AFRALO members to go there. The plan was mainly developed by AFRALO, and then we provided inputs, and we were sure that this plan is in line with the Africa Regional Plan. So that was the most important action from our end. So now, it is important that all of us, we go back to this plan, and then we see if we are interested to apply, because what we realize is that, I remember we had a session about the CROP last time, and then the invitation I want to do is for participants or for members to try to see what we can do with the CROP. And then, that is good that we have also this document in French, which is being shared now.

My message is that I'm not going to go through the [inaudible]

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Yaovi, just a second, please, because we have an open mic, I think.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

So, as you can see, the document is also in French, so it's just an invitation now for the members to go and apply for the CROP and all that are available or support for AFRALO. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Yaovi. And again, the CROP procedures and guidelines have been translated in French, so now they're available in English and French. So you can click on the link and read the guidelines, and please apply. So far, we have two CROP submissions. Dr. Jabhera, please go ahead.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Yes, thank you so much, Hadia. This is Dr. Jabhera. I just wanted to get maybe a more straightforward directive on how ALSes can take advantage of the CROP, because I also see some few new members, especially the fellows from recent local national internet governance forum. So, for example, if we see the event that has been mentioned on the strategy, like maybe the African Internet Summit, does it mean that I can, should I have the invitation letter before applying the CROP, or I can secure the CROP and then go ahead asking the invitation letter from the event organizer? I think it's very important, this kind of information, to be clear, so that members know on the procedure of accessing the CROP. Otherwise, it can be something that is available to maybe a common, limited number of people within the region that are always benefiting from this kind of funding. I think that's very important. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Heidi, please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Thank you for your question. So, again, the first step here is to make sure that the fiscal year 25 outreach plan is fully approved, and that includes by the leadership, which it has been, and now over to GSE. So, we need that fully approved by GSE. It then goes to the policy scope team that then posts it, and that means that then you are eligible to start moving forward with any process for the CROP. Any kind of application does need to make sure that the trip that they are applying for is in alignment with the fiscal year 25 outreach plan from AFRALO. So, you know, you need to be able to show where that alignment is, and also the application must be submitted at least minimum seven weeks in advance of any kind of trip. So, again, any event that is being planned, any trip that's being planned needs to have that at least seven weeks prior approval. So, I would suggest that you also read the fiscal year 25 CROP details. We can put the link into the chat for you.

In addition to CROP, AFRALO also has \$4,000 in RALO discretionary funding. This is for examples, if you wanted to hold an event, let's say on the next round or ASP, and you needed money for a room, for catering, or for other activities for that meeting, that's what you can apply for.

There's smaller sums of money for that, for an event. It can also be used for registration to a conference that you wish to attend, again, in alignment with the fiscal year 25 outreach plan. And that, the real discretionary funding requires three weeks minimum in advance of your event as well. So, please get to know the rules for this. We'll go ahead and put the links into these two programs. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you, Heidi, for this update. This is Hadia for the record. So, let me ask you, where are we in terms of approvals? So, is the FY25 outreach and engagement plan, my understanding, it has already been approved by GSE, but has it been approved by the policy team yet?

HEIDI ULLRICH: So, again, we need to make sure that Pierre has signed off on it and sends a note to the scope team, and we can work with Yaovi on making sure that's happened. Once that's happened, then the scope team and policy will post it, and then you can start processing the CROP slots. So, I think it's just an absolute operational step at this point.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Okay. So, once Pierre approves it, it will be published. So, I thought, because I saw it already published on our wiki page, and beside it was the word approved, I thought it has already been approved.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Okay, I can double check that, but my understanding is that we just have that one step. I can, we can check with scope though. Okay. Just to see if that already has been fully approved. And then that time you can start that seven week process for the CROP slots immediately.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Heidi, for this update.

BRAM FUDZULANI:

I just wanted to also follow up on Heidi's comment. Because when Bukola was trying to engage the global stakeholder engagement, and I think Yaovi is here on the call, he can also maybe give a comment. The feedback was that it had been approved. But however, I think because of one of the CROP applicants was from the Middle East, and therefore we needed to get an approval also from [Baher.] And we had done that to make sure that even there's an approval at that level from the Middle East team, which had come through on a positive as well to say that we can go ahead. But maybe you can, Heidi can clarify whether this internally also indicates that the CROP or the strategy has been approved. But we had both the African Group Stakeholder Engagement Team as well as colleagues in the Middle East also approve. So not too sure whether this is, this signals that internally it's still reflecting not approved, but we can confirm on that.

YAOVI ATOHOUN:

I don't have a comment, but I'll suggest that we talk about that. I would want to mention that the CROP was approved from [inaudible]. Regarding to what Dr. Jabhera was mentioning, maybe Heidi can make an input, but I would like us to maybe talk about that if needed after the call out tomorrow, because I think it's important for clarification if it's not clear yet. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you, Yaovi. And I see Dr. Akinbo, please go ahead.

ADEBUNMI AKINBO: Thank you, Hadia. Okay, so there are two things I want to make clear that CROP is always tied to a particular region where the outreach could take place. So people within that region can have someone benefit from the CROP provided he or she is in the same region, let's say for Africa. So whoever is applying for the CROP will be from Africa. [inaudible] qualified for the CROP in question. Am I right by that statement? That's the first question. Secondly, [inaudible] there are different, and there are two... Okay, let me leave that. Let's just answer the first question, thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Dr. Akinbo, you're cutting. I don't know if it's only me or... So I don't hear Dr. Akinbo.

ADEBUNMI AKINBO: Let me take it quickly. My question is, if South Africa is hosting, whoever is applying for CROP must be within that particular region. Saying that whoever is applying must be from Africa region. That's my only question, thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: So yes, it's my understanding that only, yes, you need to be from the African region in order to apply for AFRALO CROP, yes. So, and I don't know if Heidi or Yaovi would like to comment further. I think he was asking if you need to be from the African region in order to apply for the CROP and my answer was yes.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes, you need to be a member of AFRALO and within the African region. You cannot fly outside of other regions, yeah.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Okay, so I don't see any more hands up. So I guess we can now move to the next agenda item, which is an update from the AFRALO Rules of Procedure Working Group. And so we have Dr. Jabhera, Isaac and Abdeljalil. The floor is yours.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Yes, thank you so much. I just appreciate the input and support from ICANN staff and the GSC team. And I actually shared a comment that in the agenda, the [inaudible] pointing to the old document and I remember I shared the correct link and that has been good. So, so far, most of the comments, we have not yet finalized the clean documents. And I saw in the email, in the mailing list, Pastor Peters was asking maybe the conversation and it was shared, the recorded for the previous meeting. So you can scroll down, next. So see this, the general definitions and the acronym, the relationship. We also see some of the objective and the membership, the language, and also, of course, the ALS membership and also on the individual membership. So these are some of the inputs that we have included and accommodated. And some of the members' rights and responsibilities are taking into account some of the suggestion that were given out by [inaudible] in our previous meeting in Ghana. Next.

Yes, and this is the members' duties, of course. Some of the responsibilities of ALSes. Scroll down. And some of the criteria for

withdrawing of membership, some of the conditions were given out on the document. Yes, privacy issues and the next date for the review and also on the management, especially on the AFRALO leadership. We also given out some of the inputs on especially according to what we agreed. I think those are the very critical issues that we accommodated. And if we agree, then we can produce a clean version for the next meeting. If no one is having any other comments apart from what has been given out. I remember Pastor Peter has asked about the recording and he seemed like he wanted us to put more input on the same. So I was actually waiting eager to see some of the input from him and then we can finalize the final version, a clean document for maybe next meeting, monthly meeting. Thank you.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Yeah, thank you so much. So I have nothing to add now. I think that you say everything. So thank you so much. So I saw the hand of Pastor Peters and Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: My question was in relation to the expectations between AFRALO and ALAC AFRALO members. And at some point, we did discuss the expectations. And we were talking about some kind of written expectations between AFRALO and the AFRALO ALAC members, which typically would revolve around mutual support, collaboration, and yielding to effective representation, focusing on effective communication. And I was wondering if this is something that could be in the rules of procedures. Because we do mention in the rules of

procedures, actually electing two members to be appointed to the ALAC. So would we also add to this some kind of expectations? That's just a question. Thank you.

JABHERA MATOGORO:

I think we can take it on Board and then we can check. Because we were also doing a benchmarking to other RALOs. So we can check if this is something that is cutting cross. Maybe other RALOs are also included, or something that we can add just in case for our own AFRALO directive. So I think, Abdeldjalil, we can take it on board and then discuss in our individual meetings to see if this is something that we can. But for me, I see, like I say, it's a positive thing that we are trying to maybe create more representation and activeness within the region. So if we agree to include in term of AFRALO ROP, then it's something that can also be good. I don't know what others are thinking around, and then we can also move forward. Thank you. Otherwise, I appreciate the idea. It's a good observation.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you. I would just add that currently, you wouldn't find it in any of the other RALOs' rules of procedures, because we had just started discussing this with other RALOs. And there is approval from the other RALOs that this is something that we need to have. However, they have already went ahead with their rules of procedure, and we are discussing it now. So I don't know, for them, maybe it would be a separate document. For us, since we are still updating our rules of procedure, it could make sense to incorporate it. Anyway, I would put it as a

comment on the document and leave it for others to comment on. So I will stop here.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Yes, I actually wanted to comment that it's good you put it as a comment in the document, and then we can take it forward.

PASTOR PETERS: Let me just start from the last comment, and the suggestion has been made. So it would be good to make a presentation to the document for the committee, for the working group to work on. I'm a bit confused and worried at the manner with which we are going about this process. So, Madam Chairman, if I'm wrong, I want you to correct me.

Now, the purpose or the reason why Dr. Jabhera was asked, no, sorry, he wasn't asked, Dr. Jabhera offered to be the pen holder for the working group, and one of the first assignments he was given was for him to consolidate the contributions that were contained in two different documents. Let me refresh our memory. Before Kigali, I made representations as a member of the working group for Abdeldjalil and Isaac to incorporate as proposals for the considerations for members. For reasons I cannot understand, my input was not incorporated. So when we met before Kigali, I raised this point, and the chair had to extend the review of the document for another two weeks so that I can represent my proposal, which I did. And we came back from Kigali, we had a meeting, and it was very clear that there were two documents flying. The documents that I made my representation was different from the documents Abdeldjalil was sharing. And so, that was when it

was resolved that Dr. Jabhera incorporate whatever was missing in Abdeldjalil's document into the first document, and then present to the working group, they will look at it, whatever is agreed is now presented to the house, to members to make input before its adoption. Hold on, I won't be too long.

On the 24th of July, which was the last meeting of the working group, I could not attend the meeting because I was in Nigeria. I mean, I was attending other programs. I listened to the video recording, and I was happy when Hadia did not allow a discussion of that document at the last AFRALO conference. Now, I just heard from Dr. Jabhera that yes, they've presented, he has summarized the presentations, and then tried to allude to the fact that yes, Pastor Peters has some input, so they are waiting for other comments. I don't understand. Is it that you didn't get my input that was shared and that you had both documents? So, I want explanation for that.

Two, I will not support that the house discuss this document in the AFRALO conference, in AFRALO teleconference, until the working group has completed its job. We've not completed our job. So, the assignment that was given to us was given to Dr. Jabhera and Abdeldjalil.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Yes, Pastor Peters, we get what you want to say. So, thank you so much for your comments. So, Dr. Jabhera has actually consolidated the two documents into one document. And now, please add any comments that you have.

PASTOR PETERS: No, no, no, no, that document Dr. Jabhera did not consolidate. Dr. Jabhera was to impute what was missing in Abdeldjalil's document. So, not for him to decide. Hold on, hold on, hold on. Hold on, please. I'm not stupid.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Maybe we can give the floor to Dr. Jabhera. We got what you want to say.

PASTOR PETERS: He didn't do that. What he did was [inaudible]

HADIA ELMINIAWI: For the sake of time, we would like to give the floor to Dr. Jabhera. We fully understand what you want to say. So let's give the floor to Dr. Jabhera. Dr. Jabhera, the floor is yours.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Thank you so much, Hadia, and this is Dr. Jabhera. Pastor Peters, just for your information, I went through both two documents and I managed to consolidate to one document. The one document was shared in the mailing list. And also, you can just check, maybe you can check the dates that I sent on the mailing list that this is the final consolidated document that could guide the discussion.

PASTOR PETERS: I was denied access. I clicked on that document and I was denied access. And I requested for access and I did not receive any approval. So I don't know why it has to be protected. I was denied access when I clicked on that document on the email you forwarded out. So if you can forward that to me again, that'll be fine.

JABHERA MATOGORO: Okay. Thank you. But it accommodated all the input that was given out. So when I was referring, if you have a comment, I saw, I think today or yesterday, an email requesting access to a recording because you missed last time meeting. That's what I was referring. But on the previous conversation, all the comment has been taken onboard. So be assured that has been taken onboard and we are actually on good pace so we can move forward. So in case you have any other comment, you can move forward and put on, and then we can agree that we finalize everything and check back maybe on the coming meeting so that we have a clean document for approval. Thank you.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Yes, thank you so much. So now, Pastor had the answer. So, as we said, the document, we have only one document now. So, if you have, we can request for any members, if you have anything to add, so it will be, you are welcome. And for Pastor Peters, you're welcome, because you are part of the team members team also. So, yeah, thank you so much. Back to you, Hadia.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, and thank you, Dr. Jabhera, thank you, Abdeldjalil, Isaac, and Pastor Peters, and please go ahead and put your comments on the document. And some of us, when we access the document for the first time, we see that access is denied, so we request access and we get it. So, this is normal. It happens. It happens to me most of the time, usually. And so, we move forward to the CIP and an update from Bram, Chokri and myself. So, I would like Bram and Chokri to start by telling us, where do we stand now? So, what does the CIP group now do? And then we will talk about AFRALO CIP document. So, Bram and Chokri, please go ahead. So, if there is anything new, Bram or Chokri, that the group has been doing, the CIP group, if you have met, if you can update us on what's happening in the group. Okay. So, I'm not sure. Maybe Bram and Chokri, they dropped or they have connectivity issues. So, until they are back with us, just a quick brief.

So, AFRALO did submit its CIP document and you can find a link here to the document. And my understanding that we can be working on the improvement of this document. So, this document is not written in stone. For sure, it could do with some improvements, additions. So, please click on the document and we can start working on improving it. Until we get to know more from Bram and Chokri on what's happening at the group level. Moving forward. So, I don't see any hands up and we can move forward to the AFRALO social media working group and Bukola has actually said she has no updates in that regard. And now we have Remmy and an update about the newsletter. Remmy, please go ahead.

REMMY NWEKE:

Thank you, Hadia. I would like to thank those that have sent in their reports from the ALSs. We appreciate that. Even though we still expect more. We are still expecting that this year we will also remember to send out the [inaudible] round up as well as the global stakeholder office. [inaudible] I would like to suggest that we move the item for newsletter reports immediately after the ALS report. That will also kind of re-emphasize the fact that we need to take note of that. The gap between the reports and the time we now start giving updates on the newsletter is very, very far. So, that's it. Then we will extend the contributions till Friday this week. Thank you very much.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much, Remmy, for the update. And it makes sense, actually, to move the newsletter update just after the ALS update. And so, the deadline is this Friday. So, everyone, please send your updates to Remmy. And now there is an update, a quick update from me about the Universal Acceptance Day 2025. So, I have, like, two brief slides, if we can click on them.

So, Universal Acceptance Day, it will be on the 28th of March, if we can have the next slide. So, how to submit a proposal for our Universal Acceptance Strategy activities, and then an invitation for all of you to join AFRALO Universal Acceptance Day 2025 team, if we can have the next slide.

So, the Universal Acceptance Day 2025 has already been announced. So, if you want to get involved in organizing a Universal Acceptance Day, please go ahead and make a submission. So, Universal Acceptance Day. So, how do you submit? There is a link here to the Universal Acceptance Day event proposal form, which you can click on and through which you

make your proposal. The deadline is 11th of October. And the accepted Universal Acceptance Day events will be announced by mid of November. So, you need to start planning for your Universal Acceptance Day. And Silvia has already put a link to the site, to the Universal Acceptance Steering group site. If we can go to the next slide.

So, we have a wiki page for AFRALO Universal Acceptance Strategy and activities. If you click on the link which is on this presentation, it will take you to the wiki page. We can click on it now. So, it has both activities, the two activities that we have done in 2024. It has also the strategy that AFRALO has adopted. We will be forming a Universal Acceptance Day adoption strategy follow-up team. So, many have asked to join this team. And this will be, so the names will be put on the wiki page. Also, I'll be putting on the wiki page an Excel sheet with the AFRALO 2024 Universal Acceptance Activities. And I invite actually Dr. Jabhera to put the link to the document that he put in the chat here on the Excel sheet when we actually put it on the wiki page. And I invite everyone actually that has adopted or implemented a Universal Acceptance Activity to go ahead and also update the sheet with the activity that they have implemented. I see a hand up from Heidi. Heidi, please go ahead.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Thank you very much, Hadia, and thank you so much for being so proactive with this. You're the first RAILO to do this. Thank you for moving forward with the AFRALO UA Day for Fiscal Year 25. So I want to just stress that there will be an At-Large Fiscal Year 25 for UA Day activities being set up, as usual. So while this is great that AFRALO will

have their own page, please do go to the overall At-Large 2025 UA Day page for more details as well. Thank you.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Thank you so much. And indeed, At-Large also has its own page, and please check it. And again, we are also planning on having an AFRALO Universal Acceptance Day in 2025, updated maybe regional strategy. So start thinking about it. And so start thinking about our regional Universal Acceptance Day, and also start thinking about your local, national, also local and national, regional, local, national and regional Universal Acceptance Days. Again, the deadline is the 11th of October. So with that, I'm done. And thank you so much. Last slide, which invites everyone to join. The next slide. Join AFRALO Universal Acceptance Day 2025 team. And again, if you click on the link, it will take you to our wiki page. And I see a hand up from Levy. Levy, please go ahead.

LEVY SYANSEKE:

Thank you, Hadia. Just a quick question. On UA Day, do we have a dedicated ICANN Org page where UA Day events can be tagged to AFRALO based on the African groups that are doing UA Day-related events? I'm not so sure if I've come across it. Please advise.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

Your audio was cutting, so I wasn't able to hear you clearly. But if you're asking about Universal Acceptance Day from AFRALO, you can find that on the large wiki page. And also you can find that on the Universal Acceptance Steering Group page. And also there is a link here to our

AFRALO wiki page, which includes the activities that we have done in that regard in 2024. Silvia here has put a link to the AFRALO Universal Acceptance Day wiki page. And also Heidi has put a link to the Universal Acceptance Steering Group 2025 web page.

LEVY SYANSEKE:

Just to clarify, I was asking in terms of, you know how you have African ALSes posting about the UA Day events. And you have a joint page where different ALSes and organizations within Africa can post updates of the activities that they have done, which gives an overall summary of Africa UA Day events. That's what I meant to ask. I don't know if that's clear now.

HADIA ELMINIAWI:

It is. And again, you would find them among the Universal Acceptance Day events that are posted on the Universal Acceptance Steering Group page. But also, we have an intention here to set up an Excel sheet where any ALS or individual member who conducts a universal acceptance activity can actually go ahead and put it in that Excel sheet. But that's not yet there. It would include the name of the member, whether it's an individual member or it's an ALS, the activity that was done and then any other information that the member would like to provide. So that's something that we are planning to add to our wiki page. It doesn't have to be a Universal Acceptance Day event. It's just an update about universal acceptance activities, generally speaking, throughout the year. Whether those are awareness activities, adoption, technical training, whatever. So the intention is to have such an Excel

sheet that would include such information. So with that, we are six minutes past. Thank you so much, Levy. And so we are already six minutes past the hour. I would pass now the floor to Abdeldjalil to go ahead with the membership updates.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Okay, thank you so much, Hadia. For the AFRALO membership matters, we can confirm here that the number is growing from ALSes for individual members. And we are very happy to welcome MaliNOG from Mali and Africa High Education Research Institute from Kenya and Aide à l'enfant du Desert et du Sahel from Mali also. So we have two ALSes accredited, so we can say welcome to them, to the big family. And if you go down, we have for the individual members, we have five. We have Patrick Kiza from Uganda. We have Madiha Mahamat Alhadi from Rwanda in Chad. And we have Charles Bazie from Burkina Faso. And we have Kondwani Mbale from Zambia and Ali Diouf from Senegal. So I say welcome to them and we see that what is the impact of our outreach from AFRALO team and all the members that you are here. So for people to join the AFRALO. So we thank you so much and we say welcome to them. I don't know if some new members is there and they call to say hi or in the mailing list also. So back to you Hadia, I thank you so much.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you so much, Abdeldjalil. Welcome to our new members. And with that, we come to the end of our call. Any other business? And I don't see any hands up. And again, I would like to thank you all for

joining this AFRALO monthly call. I would like to thank At-Large staff and our great interpreters who always bear with us. And thank you all. And I hand it over to staff to close this call.

BRENDA BREWER:

Thank you very much for joining today's session and we will adjourn the meeting. I'll stop the recording. Enjoy the rest of your day. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]