

GISELLA GRUBER:

I would like to welcome everyone today on the LACRALO General Assembly discussion call on Monday, the 10th of December at 22:00 UTC. On the Spanish channel we have Jose Arcé, Antonio Medina Gomez, Aida Noblia, Sergio Salinas Porto, Sylvia Herlein Leite, Alberto Soto, Alfredo Lopez, Fatima Cambroner, Philippe Boland.

On the English channel we have Olivier Crepin-Leblond, Dev Anand Teelucksingh, Cintra Sooknanan and Roosevelt King. Apologies today noted from Natalia Enciso and Gilberto Lara. From staff we have Silvia Vivanco, Heidi Ullrich and myself, Gisella Gruber. Our interpreters this evening are Veronica and David. And I hope I have not left anyone off the attendance list.

If I could also please remind everyone to state their names when speaking, not only for transcript purposes, but also to allow the interpreters to identify the speaker on the other language channel. And also please do speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you and over to you, Jose. We offer apologies to Juan Manuel who has joined us on the Spanish channel. Welcome, Juan Manuel. Thank you.

JOSE ARCÉ:

This is Jose Arcé speaking. Good afternoon to you all. Thank you very much for being present. We have the interpreters and welcome to the participants in both Spanish and English channels. The call of today has been informing the community of the steps to follow in terms of the GA and in order to define the start date of this GA and the formalities

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required because we are very concerned about the formalities of the GA and the role that we were based on – we’re not quite clear, so we need to shed some light on this.

After these tasks, not only on my part but also with the help of Sylvia and all the community, I think we now have paved the way to this and in a reasonable way and this call is for you to know the steps to follow on the way in which we are going to carry out this GA.

If I’m not wrong – I don’t remember the exact date – but some days ago I was listening to the audio on the transcript of the GA. I drafted a summary of the actions and of the events in the GA. I sent it to the list; now it is posted on the Wiki and at the same time I drafted a final agenda for the GA.

Because in our last call, the agenda posted by Humberto and sent to the list by Humberto was not very clear. So paying attention to the audios and paying attention to the motions, I have posted a final agenda after listening to the audio at least twice.

I sent that information to the list and we gave time to the region to review all of the information – that was something that was required during the last GA. The idea was that everyone was able to review the agenda so that if any comment was required, well they could just post their comments, but there were no comments at all. So we take for granted therefore, that the final agenda is the one posted on the Wiki.

And I would like to say that the final agenda is the result of a not so simple process because after listening to the audio of the GA, the events were quite confusing. So drafting the final agenda was not an easy task.

I see that Sylvia is posting the links to the Wiki where you can find the information, where you can find the final agenda and the summary and you can follow that on the Wiki.

Some minutes ago I sent an email to the LACRALO list with an update related to the information being discussed during the call and I provided some information about dates and formalities for this call. I sent that information to the list at least an hour ago so that you can read that information and provide some ideas or comments if you wish.

And now we're going to start with that. First of all, I would like to mention the rules to be applied. This is something very simple. As you know, all the documents that are part of the region – the Rules of Procedure, the Operating Principles and the Memorandum of Understanding – are the rules to be applied from now on.

Point No. 2 of the email I sent refers to the quorum in virtual meetings. There is a link to discussion that was carried out two or three years ago in this regard and this is the view that is being taken. Since this is a virtual meeting, there is no quorum because we are before our computers, so this means 100% quorum. So in this case quorum would be already solved, the issue of quorum would be already solved.

The other topic to be taken into account is that only the applications that were part of the quorum in the GA in Costa Rica are going to participate. This is a requirement for the GA. The GA was suspended and now we are starting again with that. So only those applications who are present at that time, those ALSes who were present at that moment are now able to participate and vote. I think it was almost 90%

of the ALSes so it is only a small number that will not be able to participate.

This is the first part of what I wanted to mention. This would be kind of the first framework in terms of the continuation of the GA. Now moving to the discussions and motions on the motions, I would like to know if there is any comment about these first three points or items that would lead this GA. I see Dev on the AC with his hand up. Dev, please.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you. This is Dev speaking. Thank you, Jose. In regards to the three points that you posted to the list before the call, regarding point 2 – that there was a change in the rules of quorum for virtual meetings – I would interpret it as a different way in that there really was no change to the rules as such.

For virtual meetings our Rules of Procedure since 2007 has laid out certain things and the key take-away is that when there's a virtual meeting and ballots are issued to be typically done with our Big Pulse system are issued to all the ALSes with the particular motion, then they are all virtually present and therefore there is no need for quorum in that sense because everyone able to cast an affirmative or negative vote is considered present and voting.

So just to clarify that point. Regarding point 3, obviously I guess I am concerned with... it's more of a formality really. I think it doesn't really matter whether it's only those persons who are present in the GA in person in Costa Rica. If other member of the Assembly of LACRALO wish to participate, there's nothing really stopping them from doing so.

So having said that, a person not following all of the discussions I think would not be able to make a very informed decision. But that's my two comments. Thank you.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé. Well, Dev, could you please qualify your comment about point No. 3?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay, this is Dev. My point regarding No. 3 – if I understood correctly, you seemed to suggest that only the persons that were present in the General Assembly in Costa Rica can be allowed to be continued to be in the resumption of this GA. I'm saying that the GA is open to all the members in LACRALO. So even if there is a member who was not present in Costa Rica but is still a member of LACRALO, they can participate in the resumption of the General Assembly. That's what I'm saying. That's it.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. Thank you very much, Dev. What I wanted to say is that since we... there was a point in the GA where... this is not a new GA so I think that the same associations or ALSes should be kept - the ones that were present in Costa Rica. And in times of quorum, well I think that you agree with me – quorum in the virtual meetings are changed or is different because we consider all the ALSes are present.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: This is Dev. Yes, I think we agree on point 2. I guess it was the way it was interpreted to me when I first heard it. I think we are speaking of the same thing with regards to point No. 2.

Regarding point No. 3, I'm just thinking that any member of LACRALO could participate in the Assembly because the Assembly was suspended and we are now reassembling. It's a break and this person and then as we are assembling to continue it, so a person that may not have been present earlier can still join when they are a member of LACRALO. That's my comment on that.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. Thank you very much, Dev. I see there are three participants. The order is according to the AC – Sylvia Herlein Leite, Fatima Cambronero and then Sergio Salinas Porto. Sylvia, you have the floor.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: This is Sylvia Herlein Leite speaking. Thank you, Jose. I would like to comment that I also respect his comment but I think that in this case since we have a continuation of the GA that we started in Costa Rica, I think we should keep the same quorum that we had in Costa Rica. In case that we organize the new GA in a virtual way, well, in that case I do agree with him that all the members, all the ALSes and representatives of the ALSes in LACRALO should be able to participate.

In this particular case, since this is a continuation of the GA, we should keep the same quorum as we had in Costa Rica. Thank you very much.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. Thank you very much, Sylvia. Fatima, would you like to hold the floor?

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: This is Fatima speaking. Thank you very much, Jose. Well, just to keep it simple I would like to reinforce Sylvia's comment. This is not a new GA but a continuation so we were in a break and now we are putting an end to the GA, adjourning the GA, and this is a continuation. Since it is not possible to add new topics, well, it is not also possible to add new participants to this GA. That's all.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. Sergio, would you like to hold the floor?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: Thank you, Jose. This is Sergio Salinas Porto for the record from Internauta Argentina. I would like to say exactly the same for the record. I think it is convenient to say that if Dev is referring to the participation and voting as observer to represent in the GA, well that's okay if anyone would like to participate. Any member of the region can participate.

But now if we are referring to voting, full participation within the GA, well this is as Sylvia and Fatima said before, this is just a (inaudible) response to only those members or ALSes who were present in Costa Rica and who were part of the quorum in the GA in Costa Rica. This is

not a new GA but a continuation of the GA started in Costa Rica after the break.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. Thank you very much. Alberto Soto, you have the floor.

ALBERTO SOTO: This is Alberto Soto for the record. Just briefly, we are talking about people but what the Rules of Procedure mean is ALSes. This is At-Large organizations who were present at the start of the GA. We are talking about ALSes and not people.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking for the record. Thank you very much, Alberto. When I hear the word “person” or “people” I take it as a synonym of ALSes but thank you very much for your clarification because this might be misunderstood. Is there any other comment? Cintra, you have the floor.

CINTRA SOOKNANAN: Thank you. Apologies – I’m not on the AC today. I just want to comment that I understand this point and I also agree with Sylvia’s comments. I do think that the continuation of a GA means that only the ALSes that were present should be participating in this continuation.

However, I do think that it’s the ALSes which change the member that represented them at that GA – that that should be possible. For

instance, in my case I represented ICTS and that was particularly because they could not have a representative in Costa Rica.

However in this instance, if they wish to have one of their core members be represented at that GA instead of me, I would be happy with that and I hope the group will also agree. Thank you.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. Thank you very much, Cintra, for your statement. I see Dev is typing on the AC room. Dev, would you like to make any other comment before moving forward?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: This is Dev, just to say thanks for the feedback and comments from Sylvia, Fatima and Sergio. But I also want to agree with Cintra as to what she has said. Given it that is ALSes that are being represented at the Assembly, they should be able to change their representatives for this vote of consideration of the GA. But I understand what you all have said and thanks for that.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking. We will take the last intervention by Sergio who has raised his hand. I will just make another remark and then we'll go on. Sergio, you have the floor.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: This is Sergio Salinas Porto speaking for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a comment with respect to what Cintra and Dev have said

that I think this is correct. It may have happened that since the last time there may have been ALSes who have changed their representatives or their position and in this regard, if this was the case, they will need to send – and I suggest that this be done – from now on for any future activities that have to do with our region.

And this can be part of the good practices in LACRALO. So they should send, when their Board of Directors is changed, they should send a scanned copy of the record of the incoming and outgoing Board of Directors so that they can have records to present to the Secretariat and the Chairs so that we know what are the ALSes representatives like.

And if this defines that there is another person representing the ALSes who were part of that Assembly, then I think this should be the correct mechanism so that their participation in the Assembly can be full. That's all; thank you.

JOSE ARCÉ:

This is Jose Arcé speaking. I would like to say something similar. Cintra actually did send an email to the Chair and the Secretariat saying that she was not going to be representing the association. She mentioned the name of the person and the email of the person, so if there is a vote or anything, we will send the voting credentials to that email.

So if there is a change, then we will be notified that way because that's the only way the staff has to know who the person is in accordance with what was notified and the emails that were from each association. That's all. Thank you. Sergio, I see you raised your hand. Would you

like to say something else or maybe we can go on. Okay, Sergio, thank you.

We can then go on a little bit way that will be followed for the GA. In the final agenda we can see that what still needs to be discussed are the motions put forward by Dev Anand Teelucksingh, Sylvia Herlein Leite and it says Fatima proposed in there in many parts. Actually the one who sent the proposal was Sylvia - we will then fix that later. And then there's Cintra's proposal.

So the items on the agenda are actually divided working groups of these three proposals. As you know there is the procedure for each of the items on the agenda. We need to discuss those items and then we need to vote on those items.

The proposal is pretty simple and it implies that we should open the Assembly formally tomorrow according to our Rules of Procedure. The opening is done by the President simply by notifying when the opening will occur. It will also enclose time and date. The Chair is the one who will later on guide the Assembly and lead it as if it were in person or a face-to-face Assembly.

As you can see in the email I sent to the list a few hours ago, there is a... the Assembly will be open tomorrow, so by the end of this call, I will send an email informing that we will open the General Assembly again tomorrow. Of course it will be asynchronous to distance and we will have calls like this where we can have immediate feedback.

It will not be like that; it will be on a distance. We will discuss all of the proposals – absolutely all of them. They were presented in a block but

the agenda was divided. We will have seven days to discuss these proposals. And these proposals, we have been reading them; we have been discussing them with some of the people in the region and therefore, I now need the discussions to be in the lists.

So I know there is a lot of discussion behind the curtain regarding the proposal, so the term – the time – would be December 23 at 23:00 UTC and this would be the deadline. And the idea is that on December 23 we would open the voting system, using the system that we all use.

So we will ask the staff to inform all the ALSes that the vote will be open for seven days and it will be rather simple, rather straightforward that the voting system will have one point or one item for each proposal, that is, we will need to vote yes or no or abstention for each item on the agenda. So we will have the option to vote for each of the proposals one time and once this is over, our Rules of Procedure say the Secretary of the meeting is the person in charge of conveying those results of the General Assembly.

So Dev will be in charge of informing the region what were the results of the vote. Once we obtain that result, and if there are no more items pending on the agenda, we will consider the General Assembly started in Costa Rica as concluded and we will be able to continue planning other issues for the region.

Now yes, I open the floor for discussion and if there is anyone who'd like to take the floor...

SILVIA VIVANCO: This is Silvia Vivanco. What is the date for the vote or for the whole schedule actually?

JOSE ARCÉ: That was Silvia speaking. This is Jose speaking now. I will repeat this again. From the 11th of December to the 17th of December – that’s the dates to discuss the items on the agenda. From the 18th of December to the 24th of December – this will be when we will be toasting at Christmas. This is seven days of voting through the virtual system where for each item we will have one option to vote yes, no or abstention.

And once this is over, what the Rules of Procedure for the regions say is that the Secretary will need to inform the voters of the result of the vote and so the Secretary, together with the staff, will need to inform these results to the region. And then after that, we will consider the GA completed.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Sylvia again speaking. So it will end on the 23rd. So is it the 23rd or the 24th?

JOSE ARCÉ: Jose speaking again. Well, I actually said 23 UTC.

SILVIA VIVANCO: So - Silvia speaking again - it’s going to be from the 18th to the 24th of December. It will end on the 24th of December. This is seven days,

considering that the 18th is the first day. Sylvia speaking again. The problem is that the discussion is handled by Matt and Matt will be on vacation on the 24th which is important because it's not only the staff. Many other people on the 24th of December will on vacation or will be celebrating with their families. So I suggest that we hold this on the 23rd.

JOSE ARCÉ: Jose speaking. Well for the time being we will leave the 24th as the deadline and then after the GA ends we will see.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Again, that's correct.

JOSE ARCÉ: Jose speaking now. That's correct. I thank you for making that comment and we don't really know what are these vacation dates for the At-Large staff. Of course, this information, I don't really have it. Okay, so that was Silvia's comment. Now I open the floor for discussing regarding this item.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Jose, this is Heidi. May I make a comment?

JOSE ARCÉ: Go ahead, Heidi, please.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Yes, on that point of the closure of the vote, I believe Matt can automatically stop the vote on the 24th at 23:00 UTC so that shouldn't be a problem. But I do hope that you give him a day or so to report the results, given that it is Christmas Eve and Christmas Day immediately following that. I'm sure that you'll all be celebrating as well.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose speaking. Of course, Heidi. We know that it is a complicated date and we only expect reasonable issues and what's reasonable is that on the 25th we will not have the results. Of course we will have 99% of the people celebrating because there may be one percent who are not celebrating that day.

This is Jose speaking again. I see that Sergio has raised his hand on the AC room. Sergio, would you like to take the floor?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: This is Sergio Salinas Porto for the record. I just want to say two issues. First of all, we will all be celebrating Christmas that day. I'm sure we need to give Matt a few days so that he can give us the result of the Assembly and I'm sure none of us will be concerned. We have waited a lot; I'm sure we can wait a few days more to have the results.

And secondly, I agree with what you have stated. If there's no opposition to what you have said so far, I think we can continue with the plan just as scheduled and as presented so far.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé speaking again. Thank you, Sergio. Is there anybody who would like to make another comment? That's taking Olivier in this call. Would you like Olivier to say something? I would like to have your opinion regarding this because you have been a person who always actually supported any LACRALO initiative and this is not a minor issue. So I would like to hear your opinion regarding how the GA will be completed.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Jose. It's Olivier for the transcript record. Can you hear me okay?

JOSE ARCÉ: Yes, we can hear you okay. Please go ahead, Olivier.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Okay fantastic. Thank you. I have been following this call very closely of course and trying to make the whole scheduling and I'm actually very pleased to see how things are progressing.

I think that we definitely see a plan here. The reopening of the GA with the subset of the... with all of the ALSes that were present in Costa Rica that can then vote online, the questions that were asked with regards to the actual voters themselves – the ALS representatives – I think we have an understanding of that as well.

And certainly the timing itself – I'm not sure if it was the translation... sorry, the interpretation first, but I had initially heard that the voting was starting on the 23rd and I was absolutely horrified that it would then

last for the whole time between Christmas and the New Year. I'm very pleased now to hear that it would actually start the week before and would finish on the 23rd at 23:59 UTC.

It really is up to you all then to give it a few days. Perhaps you would have a wonderful 24th of December and a great 25th of December and wait until the 26th to find out the news, if they are good news or bad news...

JOSE ARCÉ:

This is Jose Arcé. I see that he's saying that he was cut out. Anyway, I would like to thank Olivier publicly for helping for all of the support we have received from Olivier and from the ALAC regarding the General Assembly and other issues in the region. Is there anybody else aside from Olivier who would like to make another comment, something that maybe we forgot or something you just want to say – that you would like to agree to the proposal so that we can continue and start with the Assembly tomorrow?

Okay, Olivier is saying that he's back. Would you like, Olivier, to complete your statement because you were cut out? Your information was cut out, so please go ahead if you'd like to speak.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND:

Yes thank you. Sorry, I'm back. I'm not quite sure where I got dropped, so I don't know where my sentence was.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose speaking. Olivier, you were saying that we should have a good 24th and 25th and wait for the 26th or 27th or 29th even for the results - that was not a problem. That was your last statement.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, thank you very much, Jose. Yeah, for two reasons. Of course for staff to be able to enjoy themselves as well during this period, but also maybe for you, and the results would be the big surprise I guess after these couple of days. But I am very pleased to see this progressing and I really wish LACRALO the best for the process and for this to move forward. Thank you.

JOSE ARCÉ: This is Jose Arcé. Thank you, Olivier, for your kind words. We will all be expecting to see what's going to happen these weeks and the idea of course is to have the determination before the 24th but apparently we'll not be able to do so. Probably we will have this ending on the 26th or 27th. It will be completed, but we will only be needing to have the notification of the results.

At least the cycle will be closed. This is the concern of many people and I am concerned by this as well because it's one more issue that will not let the region advance with other issues that are a lot more important than this. Is there anybody else who would like to make another comment regarding this issue?

Okay this is Jose Arcé speaking again. If there is somebody else who would like to say anything about this, I sent an email in English to the list regarding the steps and formalities. I will now send it in Spanish. You

will see the details of what it will be like and the way in which this will be performed and Sylvia Herlein Leite and I will need to agree with the staff regarding the Big Pulse. If there's nothing else to say, I will close this call regarding the next steps and formalities for the GA.

Okay, this is Jose Arcé again. I see Heidi is writing. Staff, if we can wait until she finishes writing. Okay, that's really good. We will be then agreeing on that but this is nothing we have done before and nothing that no ALS has done before. It was the same vote that we've always had and we've always had many items.

And I will take these last minutes to say that any question or any concern that you have – any of you in the region – we can email me or Sylvia; you can email any person in the staff and if we cannot give an answer to your concern, we will probably ask for a few days. But all of the procedure is now closed.

So I thank again the participation in this call for today. I thank those who are on the English channel and on the Spanish channel; Olivier for having been here; the interpreters, Veronica and David; the staff who was there. Okay, I see Olivier would like to take the floor so please go ahead.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much, Jose. It's Olivier for the transcript record. I just wanted to publically thank you for having worked this complete schedule and this plan forward. I know it's been a lot of work and it's been a lot of preparation to reach this stage since it is the first time that a RALO has to reopen a GA that had been suspended.

So really a big round of thanks for you and I should add your team as well. I do know that you have worked a lot with your colleagues on this issue and I just wish LACRALO the best for the progress that will be made in this second round. So thanks very much.

JOSE ARCÉ:

This is Jose Arcé speaking. Thank you, Olivier. There is no doubt that you have contributed. You have given your input for this to be completed and so I'd like to thank you and everybody who is working on this because each and every person who has participated in the region or any person – they have contacted me or I have contacted them and they have contributed, given their input and they have helped interpret the rules and they have seriously discussed.

So I'd like to take this time – Fatima, Sylvia, Sergio, Dev, Alberto – they're all present here and I don't want to forget anybody – but they have all contributed to the discussion; they have all contributed to the interpretation of the rules and as you know, nothing has been easy.

As we can see in the past teleconferences, there were many interpretations of what everybody wanted or what they thought it should be like. So thank you, Gisella, for being there; thank you, Heidi; thank you, Silvia for being there on the Spanish channel – always present and always supporting the region.

Thank you for the interpreters; thank you for those in the English channel – Dev and Olivier, Cintra. I was forgetting Cintra. I don't forget you, Cintra – you've also given your input. And thank you for the

Spanish channel. So good afternoon and good evening to you all and we will be in contact for the next time. Good-bye.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Would you please, Olivier, come back to speak?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah well thank you but no, I'm so...

HEIDI ULLRICH: Oh come on.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: I'm wide awake and so... it's terrible. I don't believe this. I'm ready to go to meetings and it's 3:00 in the morning, so... I'm trying to read... You may not know but there's been a suspension and persons over here and I'm trying to read whether the heads of delegation have finally made it out at 3:00 in the morning, have finally made it out of their closed meeting to try and fix things. And so much for transparency, so it's very interesting to see that.

HEIDI ULLRICH: So are you saying that if they don't succeed in this closed meeting that the whole proceeding is closed? You mean that's it?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: We don't know. No, if they don't succeed in some consensus... Well they probably will succeed in some of the articles; they'll get some

consensus and that will be announced at the continuation of the Plenary Assembly tomorrow. But looking at the day tomorrow, it looks like we've got – let's have a look – Tuesday we've got one hour, two hours, three hours, four hours, five hours, six hours of General Assembly tomorrow.

So that gives a new... Why am I saying General Assembly? It's Plenary. So six hours of Plenary tomorrow. I don't think it's just going to be a case of telling everyone, "Thank you very much and well done and things are finished." No, I think there'll be a lot of discussions that will take place tomorrow.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Good luck with that. I'm reading all of your notes very carefully.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Well don't expect a long one tonight. I'll type part of it tomorrow morning – that's when I'll find out. I've got to be up at 6:00. In three hours I'll be up to get ready for the delegation meeting at 8:00 but it looks like there's an Ad Hoc Group starting at 7:30 and I have to be in that, depending on that, might how the delegation is going to be. It's probably still up as well.

HEIDI ULLRICH: Alright well good night and thank you.

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