RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo de la Parra speaking. So we will start with the transcript now. So may I please ask you to say your name when you hold the floor since we have Adobe Connect that will help moderating the call. However, please, for the sake of interpretation kindly say your names before you start or you take the floor. Thank you.

So having said this welcome everybody to this call. Oh, excuse me – somebody is telling me that there's a bit of echo on my line. Is that better?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: I'm not hearing an echo.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. So does everybody hear an echo on my line? Okay, Rodrigo speaking again. Well, if you have your audio on on your computers kindly mute your speakers. Use the audio bridge audio on the phone, please.

Okay, so thank you all indeed for joining us. So the first item on the agenda is to congratulate our friend Fatima Cambronero on her birthday today. Fatima, happy birthday and thank you for the effort of joining us together on your birthday. We will celebrate that when we see you face-to-face.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Fatima speaking.   Thank you, Rodrigo, thank you all for your kind greetings.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo de la Parra speaking. Okay, I see that we have some problems with the English channel. Ray, Dev, can you hear us?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: This is Dev Anand speaking. We can hear you.

RAY PLZAK: This is Ray Plzak. I hear the translation fine.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo de la Parra speaking. Okay, please, may I kindly ask you to mute your lines if you're not taking the floor? Thank you.

                            Thank you, so we are going to start with this meeting. As you can see on the screen I have posted the agenda for today for this call. I will proceed with a roll call. Kindly check this please as I say your names. Alejandro Pisanty? Alejandro Pisanty, are you on the call?

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Alejandro Pisanty speaking. I'm here, Rodrigo, thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Celia Lerman?

CELIA LERMAN: Hello, yes, I'm here.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Dev Anand?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Dev Anand Teelucksingh, here.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Fatima?

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Fatima speaking, I'm on the call, thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Gonzalo?

GONZALO NAVARRO: Good afternoon, I'm on the call, Gonzalo speaking.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Olga?

OLGA CAVALLI: Olga speaking. Good afternoon, I'm on the call.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Oscar?

OSCAR ROBLES: I'm on the call, thank you, Oscar speaking.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, yes, hello Oscar. Thank you. Rodrigo speaking: were you able to hear Oscar? Good. Raymundo?

RAY PLZAK: Yes, I am in the English channel.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Ray, Ray are you on the call?

RAY PLZAK: It's Ray Plzak from Washington where it's snowing. Yes, I'm on the call.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: And Vanda, are you on the call?

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Vanda speaking, yes, I'm on the call.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. Is there any participant on the line that I have not mentioned? Good.

                               Rodrigo speaking. Okay, moving on to Item #2 on the agenda I would like to know if there are any comments on the agenda items for today.

Okay, in the absence of comments I want to thank two members of our Board for joining us – Ray Plzak and Gonzalo Navarro who are taking their time to join us today. Ray, Gonzalo, thank you indeed.

We will allow ten minutes to Ray Plzak to let us know about the experience he had in the African Regional Strategy Process and how this experience can help our own strategy in our region. So having said this, without further ado, Ray, thank you very much and you have the floor now.

RAY PLZAK: Thank you, Rodrigo. It's an honor for me to be included with this group. For my discussion I would like to point to the three documents that have been sent to everyone regarding the session that's going to be held next month in Montevideo. The layout of the agenda is very similar to the agenda that was followed for by the Planning Session that was conducted in Africa, in that the elements of it are basically a nice outline for what actually happened there.

The important thing to, and then the two charts are also very helpful – if you understand those charts and understand the method that the agenda follows I think that you will have a good feeling for how the session in Africa was conducted. The important thing there to take away from this is to not look at this from an ICANN perspective, but to look at this from a Latin American perspective. In other words, if one was to be looking at the chart that has what's called the matrix and across the top you see it has the four strategic areas; and then if you look at the ICANN Strategic Plan for 2013 you will see under that a series of objectives and perhaps, Rodrigo, if you can send that

document to the group it would help as well because what the starting point that we worked from in Africa was to take the ICANN Strategic Plan and then the four objectives that were stated in the plan, identify whether or not some aspect of that would apply to Africa.

So following that thought we would do the same thing: take the first objective for example under the DNS Stability and Security for ICANN and look at it and say is there something in here that would apply to Latin America? If there's nothing in there that really applies to Latin America then just ignore it. But once you go through that exercise then you would determine is there anything else that applies to Latin America that is not here; and if so then identify that.

The reason for looking at the ICANN objectives is to be able to say this Latin American objective, if it's fulfilled, will be part of ICANN fulfilling its overall objective in this area; in other words, if ICANN does not fulfill this strategic objective, sub-objective if you will for Latin America, then it will not have completely fulfilled its strategic objective in this area. And so what that does is that integrates the objectives for Latin America into the ICANN plan.

Once the objectives are integrated into the plan then there's some things that happen automatically. One of the things is that resources have got to be allocated, and time and people and money have to be budgeted for the activity. This is perhaps the best way from an institutional perspective to gain the support needed to fulfill these objectives. If something is in there that's not supported by a strategic objective as stated, then unless it's extremely important to be done immediately it is best to take that and add it to the next iteration of the

ICANN Plan. So that if, for example, the next ICANN Plan has a strategic objective that doesn't include that Latin American objective or an aspect of it, then it gets proposed into the plan as a separate Latin American objective.

I think that I will stop at this point and ask for questions.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. Thank you, Ray. I will ask all those interested in putting questions for Ray to please raise your hand on the Adobe Connect room so that we can better moderate this discussion.

Rodrigo speaking. I see nobody raising their hand asking for the floor. Nobody's raising their hand as far as I can see. Good. There was a request for a petition to show this document. As you can see, Dev is kindly sharing the link. This document is the one that I shared last week with all of you. Further on, when I speak about the methodology, the expected methodology we will see the construction of this document.

I just want to touch on two of the points raised by Ray. One of them is that this strategy's design has to focus on regional needs and requirements in Latin America. He has explained the objective of linking these actions to ICANN's Strategic Plan. We will see that further on with the presentation. Ray, thank you very much for your presentation. I also want to thank Gonzalo for joining us. Gonzalo Navarro as you well know is our friend; he's an ICANN Director, he's an ICANN Board Member and he has kindly agreed to join us and to speak about regional plans within ICANN, specifically in our region. Gonzalo, please, you have the floor now.

RAY PLZAK: Rodrigo, this is Ray. I have one more thing to add before I conclude.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Oh, Rodrigo speaking. I'm sorry, Ray, go ahead please.

RAY PLZAK: Thank you. The other thing that I wanted to mention was if you look at the agenda and you look at the number, that the people are going to be broken into teams focusing on each of the four areas, it's also important to look at the makeup of those teams. What we focused on in Africa was to have some diversity so that, and also to have some synergy so that for example, in the strategic areas that would border on the areas that dealt with governments and civil society, we would put the persons from the group that were either from that grouping of people or had worked in that area into that team for that particular area. And the same thing with people from the business sector – the private sector if you will, and also people from the technical sector and also from the public sector.

In other words, if we take the four major divisions as they exist in the IGF world and try and group people into those if it fits; and then put them into the discussion that helps. So a person's background needs to be taken into consideration when they volunteer or are put into the teams to carry on the discussions. The reason for doing that is that those persons in a particular area are going to have the best understanding of the needs in that area. Of course that doesn't say that someone else may not but it is a thing that we did in Africa and it

worked out very well, so I commend that as a recommendation. And with that I have now concluded my remarks, thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. Thank you, Ray, for your last comment. This is the way we are thinking of this agenda. In a few minutes we will discuss this proposal with the group, and I think it makes a lot of sense to assign and organize teams in this way. So having said this, Gonzalo, you have the floor.

ANDRES PIAZZA: This is Andres speaking.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, oh welcome, Andres, welcome to the call. So Rodrigo speaking again, so now we give the floor to Gonzalo. Go ahead please.

GONZALO NAVARRO: Gonzalo speaking. Thank you, Rodrigo. Good afternoon, everybody. It is a pleasure to join you. I'm going to be brief because I will be boarding a flight in half an hour's time but I didn't want to miss this meeting.

A very interesting element from what Ray said is the way in which Africa organized its work and this is not necessarily a guideline for what we have to do, but this is important in terms of methodology. In that regard, Ray made some interesting, very interesting presentations to the ICANN Board regarding the African strategy and the way it worked out and I think that may very well be applied here. The thing is that we

are only going to be able to reach concrete results in a short time and that is what we all want if we organize this.

I see something on the retreat agenda and I think that there are certain milestones, or rather they are missing, but certain milestones should be there regarding or specifying timeframes for the months ahead. As I said before and I have spoken with many of you privately, I said that the fact that we are focusing on this process doesn't mean that we have to stumble along the way. This is a very good opportunity and maybe one of a kind that we all have to reach a result that will benefit…

INTERPRETER: We apologize, there are speakers overlapping and we cannot continue with the interpretation. We apologize.

GONZALO NAVARRO: Gonzalo Navarro speaking again. Oh, Alex was speaking on the side. Alex, it's always good to chat with you but anyway, let me review my presentation.

As I was saying, I am very happy, fully satisfied with this group. I think that its members are very representative of this region. I think that each and every one of you will contribute knowledge, willingness and your knowledge of the ICANN world so that this results in a very good product for the region.

So finally I would like to highlight the following – I would like the following for the retreat: we need to be very clear regarding the milestones and the timeline and timeframe for our work so that we can

finally achieve something at the end of this process. Having said this, thank you again, Rodrigo, and it has been a pleasure to join you. And we will be in touch.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. Thank you, Gonzalo. Is there any question or comment that anyone has or a question of Gonzalo since we have him on the call for a couple more minutes? I see nobody raising their hand or asking for the floor so Gonzalo, we thank you very much and we now proceed with today's agenda.

The next item on the agenda is discussing the agenda for the retreat. I am not going to disclose the agenda yet because I would like to focus on the three elements that I described there. This is a proposed methodology that I circulated a couple of hours ago; I sent it to the group. I would also like to briefly speak about support information, or background or framework information for the region and finally a document that I have drafted regarding the results that we expect or expected results for the meeting. Then I also circulated the agenda to make better sense, so without further ado I will now display on the screen this material.

Before that, there's an echo on the line, so if you are using both the bridge, the phone bridge and the computer, the Adobe Connect, please kindly mute your computer speakers and stay with the phone audio. Thank you. Thank you, Rodrigo speaking. I am now displaying… Oh, I am sorry, I think we still have issues with echo on the line, so please mute your computer speakers and use the audio bridge line. Rodrigo

speaking again, I think we still have some echo on the line. Okay, I will try to continue, I think this is better.

As you can see on the screen we have three large blocks of activity or stages that entail constructing or the construction of these strategic plans. In the green section, as per this methodology we suggest that our retreat should focus on the activities that we'll take there during the retreat in Montevideo. The first stage entails our ongoing work and what we intend to continue doing next week as much as possible in preparation for our meeting. For instance, it is very timely that we should be discussing this methodology and the expected results.

Next item on the agenda is a discussion regarding the needs or a common or shared understanding of regional needs, and also the need to understand the scope of the four focus areas of ICANN's Strategic Plan. This does not mean that we are not going to include part of these topics in our face-to-face meeting. As you will see when you look at the agenda, you will see that the initial proposal is to have a detailed discussion along these lines. Once we achieve this we have to focus on the building and creation or development of strategic objectives and performance indicators so that they are successful.

So according to our methodology we will start with a discussion on our region. If you have participated in strategic planning you will know or are aware that the alignment of the vision and mission is very important. Our region is slightly different; that's why we need some alignment. We have certain guide questions and we have identified the importance of ICANN taking into consideration our needs in its Strategic

Plan. And perhaps most importantly what are we seeking with this job or task?

So having this brainstorming and this initial discussion, we will also be able to design something that we are proposing as a key area of interest or key interest areas; that is, what are the most significant aspects in our region that would require a priority in terms of vision? This will enable the categorization of our future work and in that category we will place strategic regional objectives that will be aligned to more specific projects.

Once we have these elements and once we understand the four pillars of ICANN's Strategic Plan and we have the areas of interest in the region we will be able to start developing or building the matrix. We have the design for this matrix but we need to start feeding regional needs into it. So we are going to overlap these key areas of interest at a regional level to or with ICANN's strategic pillars. After that we will have a brainstorming session on the strategic objectives, and after that or following that as suggested on the agenda we will organize this in working groups.

But after that we will reach the definition of strategic objectives through criteria that should be specific, measurable, attainable or feasible – and many of you may be familiar with this. The idea is to generate very well-defined objectives whose wording will enable adequate definitions. That's why we have a unique relation between this definition and the key performance indicators or success indicators for each of them.

This is what we intend to do during our retreat in Montevideo so that towards the end in a closing session or later on we can identify specific

projects and have a brainstorming on these specific projects in order to attain the objectives and be able to define some strategies. Finally, and as part of this planning, future planning we need to focus on or see what would be the long-term plan and which would be the follow-up mechanisms to see how well we are working along the path of our strategic plan – if we are on the right track, if we have the right resources, if we are doing the right thing.

This is the first presentation on methodology. I would like to stop at this point and take your comments, and after that I will share the deliverables and the matrix proposals so that we can use that in the session in Montevideo. So now if there is any question or comment please kindly raise your hand in the AC room, thank you.

This is Rodrigo speaking. Okay, there's Vanda first. Vanda, please go ahead.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: This is Vanda speaking. Okay, the first thing I would like to ask is whether the idea is that during the next following weeks we will start individually to devise our positions or to state our positions regarding each issue so that when we get to Montevideo we can have a basis or a clearer basis on the different issues for this initial part where we will have all the data for the next session, the conditions – just the (inaudible) on this part of eleven or twelve years of ICANN in this region. So that's my question – are we going to work from now on until our personal face-to-face meeting so that we can start with a more concrete basis?

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: This is Rodrigo speaking. Thank you, Vanda, for your question. It's a very appropriate question. I think you are right. The preparatory work is good for us for the issues that we are actually asking for. We need each member of the group within his or her experience or within the organization to share with us any information that can help the group understand the reality of the Latin American region from different viewpoints and angles.   This precisely will help us have a better understanding of the needs, that's in the first place.

Now secondly you say that we… Well actually we all have an idea of what are the strategic objectives we need to pursue as a region even at the project level, so I would suggest that on an individual basis we should all have this exercise so that when we are in the Montevideo session we can have just a better path.   We will provide specific requirements in the future on this information. There are certain issues that have already been shared – in the case of Fatima, she has already stated or talked about her experience in LACRALO so we do have that information with us. And we've also discussed with Andres and with [Carolina] from LACNIC and LAC TLD respectively and they will share some information with us.

The same is applicable within the area of each person that will provide us with information.   So I will have the task of compiling all the information and put it, or I should say add it to the rest of the information that we have from ICANN and this can be useful for this support information in the region. And then this will be the support we will have.

Next in line is Mr. Alejandro Pisanty. Alex, please go ahead. Please go ahead…. Alejandro, we hear you.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: This is Alejandro speaking. I'm sorry, I was fighting with my mute. There was a time when I actually muted my computer but it didn't really work. I think, Rodrigo, this exercise is very properly stated. The formulation of the methods and the components of the discussions as well as the framework are better outlined and we have a nice preparatory work, and this is the question Vanda asked.

And I think there are two important contributions. One of them is that I disagree on your appreciation or your statement that our objectives are more or less clear for ICANN In the region. I'm sure we do have those objectives but they are subject to interpretation and to bias, and this will be more respective that when the operational part of ICANN can formulate or can state which are the issues that they are concerned with so as to not have the feedback of the region. We don't really want to have an endless discussion. So we can cover all of the objectives ICANN has with all of the agenda items and exercises, and it's very important to prioritize; and it's an exercise where – and I repeat – we need to have good clarity on what are the doubts or points where ICANN needs a certain contribution so that we can have an effective result of the exercise.

Secondly, and very importantly, this is derived from the saying that was stated before: we are not a community except in a very general sense. Structurally we, and I repeat structurally we are in a position where they lead us to contribute to the development of ICANN but at the same time

they put us in very special positions. We have certain lawyers defending domain names in UDRPs and gTLDs who cannot be parties who are involved in these UDRPs or in some others, and we have the intention of representing general users or final users and this confronts us or faces us with the ccTLDs, the RIRs or with ICANN – not because there are problems that are pre-established.

And this also leads me to think that we should be very careful with the results of this exercise and we should very carefully analyze and very effectively analyze the different alignments of the interests on the principles and the incentives of each of the participants. And we need to make this as clear as possible in an environment that's very friendly, that's very cordial; and we should also see at a certain point that we may see people who may resist certain elements in the plan. Thank you very much.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: This is Rodrigo speaking, thank you very much, Alex. Next in line is Fatima, Oscar and then Olga. So I will reserve some comments that I made note on till the end of this block. Fatima, now you have the floor.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: This is Fatima speaking, thank you Rodrigo. Just a brief comment that's related to the questions that Vanda asked. I personally think that it was good to have read the Africa Strategy and ICANN Strategy. The African Strategy was different from us because our realities are different, and within this pillar there are points that are essential and that also affect us as a region. And I think it's important to consider them.

And then in connection with the idea that every one of us knows the objectives, the objective strategies – I don't really know if we know what those strategies are, but we do know our community. And when we see these requirements for the community and when we take them to the meeting, the discussion will be enriched in the whole group. So it's good that each of us can take this as a task but in the discussion of all of us we will see the richest part of this. That's all, thank you Rodrigo.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: This is Rodrigo speaking. Thank you, Fatima, for your comments. Next in line is Oscar and then Olga. Oscar, now you have the floor

OSCAR ROBLES: This is Oscar speaking, thank you Rodrigo. I just wanted to say that I agree with what Alex said, especially because we can have different degrees of clarity of what we expect from ICANN, but it is clear that this exercise is what will serve all of us to see what are the expectations and to ensure among all of us to see that these are the functions that we weren't able to perform. I totally agree with him.

I think that the richness of this exercise will give us this alignment, and we will also have a list, a very effective list of milestones, of deliverables or aspects to attain – and this will also give us the benefit of a trip; that is, in this process we will learn to know other points of view but we will also make it clear that our expectations fit within what we all want ICANN to do, and we can be thinking that ICANN should do something and we don't really want ICANN to perform that function even if it is a

legitimate function for the region. So I think this exercise will have those other results that we probably didn't think of in the first place, but they will be very useful. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: This is Rodrigo de la Parra speaking again. Oscar, thank you very much for your participation. I also have some comments on this. Next in line is Olga and then Gonzalo. Olga, please go ahead.

OLGA CAVALLI: This is Olga speaking, thank you Rodrigo, and thank you Ray and Gonzalo for your presentations. I think those are very interesting documents, both the ICANN and the African Strategies. I would like us to go with an open mind and to be able, if we believe it is necessary, to add more columns to the four already existing or more lines.

The experience I have of having [carried] the Latin American region for decades is it is not similar to any other region, and this is good and bad. It is bad because we don't really fit into the visions around the world, and this happens very frequently as Latin Americans; and it is also good because this can give us the opportunity to be very innovative and to begin [starting] for the regions. So this is my comment, to go with an open mind. The documents are very good but they should not be formatted so that we can put our comments in each of the boxes and then just leave it there. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: This is Rodrigo speaking, thank you Olga.   And now Gonzalo has the floor.

GONZALO NAVARRO: This is Gonzalo speaking. Thank you, Rodrigo. I'm going to be very brief because I'm now being called by the customs officers. Alex, I agree with your approach, with your statement regarding the way in which we should approach these issues, the way we should understand them, and I think it is very important because as a Latin American person I have realized that we need to choose certain verbs, certain lines that will help us in our reality.

Even though our English-speaking friends sounded a bit strange in the translation, once we agree on the concept I think it is very easy or much easier to progress and to reach great results. If we agree on a very basic content and it is what is it that we want ICANN to represent in the region, this does not change but it actually establishes the framework from which we should move on. I really like the way in which this strategy has been approached, the way in which Rodrigo has established this using columns and just stating how to focus the exercise on the process.

So in this sense, Olga, I recognize the diversity and the fact that Latin America is very unique in the sense that we have a special way of working or facing certain processes, and this is the richness because our documents are very complete.   And many times, from the Latin American ideas we obtain elements that have not been foreseen in exercises in other regions.   But at the same time I do think it is important that we are disciplined in terms of the way of working, and

this is the logical way of working; and we should at some point agree and respect among us the structure, the way in which we are going to work because otherwise later on it's going to be a bit complicated to read again and to review issues for the future.

In this sense I believe the Uruguay meeting will be very important to put together all of these elements by focusing on the structure and as I said at the beginning, with the experience that each of you – or each of us, because I am included in this group – each of us can contribute, we will represent the region very properly. I send you a very large hug. I hope you have a very nice weekend. I will continue to work because I am going to fix a problem outside of Santiago so I hope to see you very soon. Bye-bye.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: This is Rodrigo speaking again. Thank you very much, Gonzalo, for your reply and thank you for participating. I hope you have a nice trip.

Okay, I just would like to say a few comments to just wrap up this part of the agenda, and I believe those who have spoken are right in many senses; and evidently there is a Strategic Plan from ICANN to apply at the global level but there has been no ICANN Strategic Plan at the regional level. That's why we have this absence or this lagoon, and I think now we are at a time when we are building this.

There are certain activities or certain objectives that have been proposed on ICANN's global Strategic Plan and they have a certain repercussion on the region. However, it is through this exercise that we are going to see changes. I hope that through this exercise, hopefully if

we do it properly, I hope this will be good for us to have this feeling of community, this feeling of doing things for the region and incorporating the different viewpoints of the different players. So let us be involved in this exercise – this is the correct methodology. Let us engage in the exercise is going to be our framework to continue in our work and to not have to stop on certain issues that can prevent the substance, really. ;However, if within the exercises there are proposals to broaden or to include some other issue, as a group we are open to do this.

I am now going to show you a document on the deliverables and on the building of the matrix. I think it is clear that on the discussions that we have had… Well before continuing I would like to give the floor to Alejandro Pisanty. Alex, please go ahead. Alex, you are muted.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: Okay, this is Alejandro speaking, can you hear me? Rodrigo, regarding another issue I think is important, I don't know if this is proper – otherwise, tell me when to refer to this. I think that the technique has been very properly raised, the methodology has been properly raised but I think we should evade one of the problems to be avoided.

There is a problem on the strategic planning and it is the fact that it is much easier to find all the weaknesses and all the threats – they can be added, we can just add more hypotheses on the second and third levels and directions. And it is very important that we see what has functioned properly, and even if it is a small center, this which does work we should see how to make this grow irrespective of using all of the elements of the strategic planning where we are seeing how to use the strengths to combat or fight the weaknesses or the threats. And I

complement this with a second message. We should not lose the forest because of one of the trees.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you very much, Alex. This is Rodrigo speaking. I have a request from [Harold], you want to take the floor? I think he was there, does he want to speak again? No, okay, he has put down his hand.

This is Rodrigo speaking. I would like to show you now, even if it is clear in the discussions we have had, what this deliverable would look like. And this is just a way to build it. Of course the important part or the main part is to start seeing this matrix not as a matrix, not from the columns but actually from different lines, from different areas of interest – the areas of interest that the region may have. So the exercise for areas of interest can be done by knowing the background of ICANN's Strategic Plan, but this has to be done independently. We need to generate the areas of interest that will be defined by the group which can have the support on the different presentations we had last year; and evidently with your experience of years in the region, in the different countries, this shows the degree of the areas of interest in each of the lines.

Later on for the reasons that Ray mentioned, the exercise will be to attempt to link it to the areas of ICANN's Strategic Plan. This is a suggestion of order in the work without losing sight of the fact that this focus is given by the requirements of the region and this is how it has been designed in the proposed methodology. Those are two of the documents that I have prepared and I will show you a third document where we explain a little bit more on the dynamics more than the

methodology, and this could give us more clarity on what we are seeking. Then I would like again to listen to your comments, to your input, to your suggestions and your questions.

I am now going to show you what we have as the potential agenda for the session. This is the potential agenda as I was stating that will feed from the analysis that we are going to do, and this is a way to see the different steps that we had on the diagram for the methodology. We will start on Wednesday, the 6th of February at 8:30 in the morning. We will have remote participation as well for those who cannot be there, and the idea for the first session is to have this open discussion on the common understanding and the realities in the region – that is, these documents on the [complacence] and the expressions that we would like to make regarding what you think considering your personal experience and the experience in the region.

This will allow us to continue in the discussion we have already started on the SWOT analysis for the region. Then we will have a short coffee break, and the idea is with one of the elements that Alex Pisanty mentioned and other elements, to know what is the scope of ICANN's analysis at the global level; and then to be able to discuss on the vision that we have also shown on the methodology document. This vision that we need to see attempts to see what is the objective for the region and how to approach the work in a general sense, and then how to incorporate these to ICANN's logic. This is a necessary requirement to continue to progress with the work.

This is the end of the review part, the part for preparation and background and then we will go to the part, to the substantial part of

the meeting. We will refer to key areas of interest. This is the definition of the main lines or items referred to [by] each of the organizations in the regional sense, and then we will divide into teamwork within the logic that the group can define. Just as Ray mentioned, we can have the four areas of the Strategic Plan that we can improve these by referring to key areas of interest defined by the group itself, and given the position that the group has also received very good ideas.

This would be the end of our first day, and the groups will have had a way of stating the strategic objectives that we need to incorporate. On the second day we will be thinking on meeting so that we can define together these strategic objectives and start our alignment with the four areas stated on the plan. So we will have two meetings. I think this is the most important part of the work for the group. This is the best way to use our time in this face-to-face meeting, and then after lunch we should have enough time already with the strategic objectives defined to have indicators of success just to see what is the way to measure – how do we know we are doing things properly and that we are going on the right path? This is the idea in this part.

And then finally we'll end up with a brainstorming for the project that should be included under each of the strategic objectives, and then to outline our work for the future in the month to come and anything we have to do to continue with this plan. This will include consultations with the community, etc. So this is the agenda that I am presenting to you, that I am putting this for your considerations; and I wanted to include this in the previous discussion as we were talking about the methodology. So I would like now to open the floor for comments, questions, etc.

Rodrigo de la Parra speaking. Alejandro Pisanty and Vanda are requesting the floor so I will now give the floor to Alejandro and then Vanda. Alejandro, go ahead please.

ALEJANDRO PISANTY: This is Alejandro speaking. Rodrigo, briefly, I am thinking about face-to-face participation and some of us will be participating remotely. So it will be very important to have a closing document at the end of the first day that could be tackled at the beginning of the second day in a thorough debate that will enable remote participants to put questions. This is not a complaint or a criticism, this is something that I really appreciate. Maybe when we have dinner we can hold informal conversations and it will be very important for somebody to start paving the way for the second working day. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, thank you Alex. Thank you for this idea of having this document included on our agenda. We will do our best to incorporate that. Next is Vanda, and after that Andres, so Vanda kindly take the floor, please.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Vanda speaking. Yes, I agree with Alejandro. I have a suggestion: before the meeting, the face-to-face meeting, we should organize ourselves into teams or groups so as not to waste our time seeing who should be in Group A, B, C, or D.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, yes, thank you. Thank you, Vanda, I take note of that and we will start a consultation along these lines within the group. I think that initially this is a good suggestion; however, one criterion to organize the groups would be the first session, the first block after we debate or discuss our [new] guidelines. But I'll take that into further consideration. Next, Andres is asking for the floor and after Andres is Victor Martinez. Andres, you have the floor.

ANDRES PIAZZA: Andres speaking, thank you Rodrigo. I wanted to formalize something that had been unofficially confirmed. LACNIC will be holding a welcome cocktail on the second day. The official dinner is going to take place on the first day so as soon as you conclude the event this will take place. So kindly take this into account. I don't know if it will be included on the agenda. Raoul will be arriving from a trip and will be joining us so this is a good opportunity for a warm welcome, although you will have been working for two days already prior to that. That's all, thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, thank you very much, Andres. I have the update and as you can see, the cocktail is included there. I want to take this opportunity to thank LACNIC for their great support. They have been really supportive with us in the organization of this event, so thank you very much, Andres. Victor Martinez, you have the floor now. Go ahead, please.

VICTOR MARTINEZ: Victor Martinez speaking, thank you Rodrigo.   Good afternoon, everybody. I wanted to touch on what Vanda was mentioning or said regarding the groups and the areas of interest. What I would suggest is that maybe we can have a space to propose the main topics or themes or areas of interest of these groups and maybe we can agree on the quantity or number so that we can agree on the ideal group makeup. And that will help us in this preparatory work, which as you very well said will shed more light on the results that will be reached. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, thank you very much Victor. Of course I take note of that.   Your comment is noted.   It'll be taken into account for this preparatory work together with Vanda's suggestion. Ray is now asking for the floor, so Ray, go ahead please. You have the floor.

RAY PLZAK: Thank you, Rodrigo. I just want to support somewhat what Alejandro was saying in that it would be very useful if at the conclusion of the event, of the session, that a letter was generated from the group. It only has to be about one page long, that would be sent to the CEO of ICANN discussing what happened. It's more a short report of progress that's being made and so forth, and that indicates that when a future document which may be the plan itself or whatever would be forthcoming.

That does two things: one, it identifies to the CEO that there is important work being done that is going to affect the Strategic Plan, and also the allocation of resources to support that Strategic Plan. And two,

it also shows that the group is conducting deliberations to provide a complete if you will input to the Strategic Plan, and that then sets up an anticipation for that to occur. It also causes the group then to have to set a deadline for itself to get their work completed. Thank you.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking, thank you very much, Ray. Your comment is very well noted. It'll be part of our agenda. It'll be included in the actions to take. I think there's going to be an intermediate document that Alex was mentioning, the one at the end of the first day in order to facilitate the remote participation and this letter is very important because it'll help implementation and the execution of plan and projects. Thank you very much, your comment is welcome.

Let me go back to today's agenda. Now we're going to deal with the logistics of the retreat. As you can see this is a two-day retreat that will be starting very early at 8:30 in the morning and will be finishing after our cocktail at 9:00 PM probably. So you need to allow for the following schedule: arriving on the 5th and returning on the 8th of February so as to make the most of our time. I thank all of those that have already confirmed their attendance and we are in the process of arranging support for those that have requested it.

Through LACNIC we have obtained a competitive rate with a hotel that is just two blocks away from LACNIC's office. This will enable us to take a very nice walk in Montevideo, and let me remind you that in the southern hemisphere we are enjoying a lovely summer. So I will be shortly circulating and sending information and if you refer or name LACNIC or myself you will obtain that competitive rate. Breakfast will be

included with that rate – breakfast at the hotel. We will be holding working lunches at the venue for the sake of time, and on the first day we will have a dinner sponsored by ICANN; and we will be attending LACNIC's cocktail.

So this is in terms of logistics for the retreat. I don't know if there is any question or comment at this point before I address the following item on the agenda?

ANDRES PIAZZA: This is Andres speaking, Andres Piazza speaking. For those of you who have never been to this part or section of Montevideo, some of you have been or attended other LACNIC events – this is Rodrigo's favorite spot in Montevideo. So if you have some other plans please do not miss this dinner at this place called Hemingway.   It's really, really an interesting place.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. Yes, that's the venue for the first day's evening dinner. We have plenty of daylight so we can make the most of that. So that was all in terms of logistics. Of course we are open to work out each person's issues regarding travel, but now may I please draw your attention to something that we need to start planning.

This is something that ICANN Constituency Travel has requested. We are planning to hold a meeting during the Beijing meeting along the lines of the session we held in Toronto to present our work plan to the community, to introduce it to the community. There is another idea of having a presentation before Beijing somewhere in the region that

needs to be planned soon. May I please ask you to email or let me know by email who in the group would like to attend – evidently I would like everyone to attend – so that we can start arrangements to obtain travel support expediently. So this is a request that I put to all of you and we will follow up by email.

Having said this my presentation is over. There is another point under any other business, so may I please ask you if you have any other business that you would like to address?   Right, I see no one volunteering a comment so we are bringing this meeting to a close a little bit before the expected time. Let us continue working in the spirit of collaboration for the sake of our work plan.

So please share information on your organizations; any relevant and accessible information on the region will be welcome. It's important that we should all be on the same page regarding sharing information before the meeting. I want to thank you all for your time. I want to especially congratulate or greet Fatima on her birthday, and of course Andres, congratulations because your birthday was a little while ago. So let us hope we will be celebrating both birthdays in Montevideo at the end of the session.

Oh, excuse me. Dev would like to take the floor. Go ahead please, Dev.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: This is Dev Anand.   No actually I was just simply applauding your birthday greetings to Fatima and Andres. That was it.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Rodrigo speaking. Thank you, thank you very much. So have a nice evening and thank you for your effort and your collaboration. This meeting is now adjourned.

[End of Transcript]