
GISELLA GRUBER: Welcome to every one on today's APRALO Webinar on the role of the ALAC, on Monday the 20th May at 0700 UTC. Could I just please remind everyone please to state your names when speaking for transcript purposes, and if you do happen to be on the phone bridge as well as the Adobe Connect, please do mute your Adobe Connect speakers. Thank you. Over to you Holly.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you. I'm Holly Raiche for the transcript records. I'd also like to welcome everyone as... I don't think I have to repeat it but I will – the reason for this call is the upcoming election of an APRALO, election of our representatives to ALAC. And the purpose of this session is to have a discussion on the information session on Monday on ALAC and what it means to be a Member of ALAC.

With that said, I think the best person to start this off is an [inaudible 00:01:12] Dr. Olivier M.J. Crépin-Leblond. Olivier, over to you, and if you want to go through, the questions I would ask you, that only would be a background for ALAC, but your view of what it means to you to be an ALAC Member and what you are looking for in ALAC Members.

The purpose being that we can all inform ourselves, and for those people who want to nominate, it's an information session to help you make up your mind if you want to nominate, or for those who would want to support someone nominating, it will help you make the decision as to the support. So, Olivier – over to you.

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OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Holly, it's Olivier for the transcript record. Welcome everyone, and thanks for inviting me to this webinar so I can provide a few of my faults on the best ALAC Members that can be around in the ALAC. The way I was going to go through this was to go again but very fast through the presentation, which I think many of you have seen in Beijing. In fact it is a shortened version of the Beijing presentation, and just to emphasize a couple of things related to the actual ALAC Members and the duties of the ALAC Members themselves.

And then I wanted to touch on the ALAC... Well, it's not passed yet fully, but it's the Rules of Procedure adjunct document, which I believe is Document (1). It's a draft and it's got several errors and things, but there were a few points in there, which I thought I needed to pull your attention to.

So let's start first with the presentation. If I could have the first slide please? Oh, and I guess it's to me to move the slides. Has that changed for you?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Not yet, no. Wait a minute, do I change it? There you go.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Aha, there we go. Okay, so I'm controlling it? Excellent. So this is the ICANN Multi-Stakeholder Model, as we all know it. Is this coming up well on your screens? Because I know that screens differ in size and for some it doesn't.

HOLLY RAICHE: Olivier, it looks fine to me. This is Holly for the transcript records.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, thank you very much Holly. So that's a Model that I think you've all seen. I've just taken the Board out, and that gives you the whole environment that the At-Large community and that the ALAC has to evolve in. I'm just keeping that slide to show the fact that we're not the only people around, and a lot of the work of At-Large, well of ALAC Members, is not only doing the strict minimum requirements that we have in our bylaws – attending etc., but also to go out there and speak to those other communities.

At-Large is maybe a silo among many silos. But one of the things that we've been pushing for recently is for silos to break down and the community to really talk to each other. So one thing that I would be looking for in ALAC Members is that they're able to communicate. And I'll touch on that later on because on this slide it's just communicate outside of our community.

So the next slide shows us the organization diagram, as you're all well aware, and APRALO is a very, very large area. So again, as you can see, not only do you need to communicate within your community but you also need to communicate all the way up to the ALAC itself. And I think this is where the thing is important.

I think that each and every person on this diagram has to get information to flow – flow up and so the ALAC Members are a very key part of this because they need to engage, draft statements, and working

for any correspondence that the ALAC has to send forward, or even things that we tell our ALAC selected Board Member.

But at the same time, information needs to flow in the other direction. When there is information that comes from the Board or comes from ICANN, these ALAC Members really have a duty to help with the dissemination of that information in their region. And that's something that sometimes I don't see because it's not really written anywhere.

We, as a Committee, have a duty to inform our ALSs of what is going on at ICANN. So if there's one link along the chain that doesn't perform its job, then the information just doesn't flow. The next slide is pretty much what we have to do – what is At-Large? I think I've expanded enough on this at Beijing. For those of you that weren't in Beijing, we really engage in several things.

One is the public comment process, one is issuing comment on anything and everything that takes place at ICANN and that is ICANN related; both internally and externally. We also take part in cross-community Working Groups. There are not many of these at the moment, but individual At-Large Members – and in fact ALAC Members are really encouraged to do that, can take part in gNSO Working Groups when invited to do so, and in ccNSO Working Groups when invited to do so as well.

And then there is the coordination of the finding of the New gTLD objections; the New generic Top-Level Domains. That's a function that has been performed by a Sub-Working Group of the ALAC, and that is ongoing. So that's really the main amount of work that is done. Of

course, I said that there's the communication aspect, which is really, really important as well.

We're all working in bottom-up, so yeah, this is where communication works. So from the At-Large structure, through the RALO, all the way up to the ALAC. When producing a statement, it is very difficult for whoever is holding the pen to find out what the response is, what the input is from the community, if there is absolutely no input at all from the community.

So that one person to search for comments from the community, or just send an email out to the At-Large list, asking for input – it's not that effective if you don't actually have local RALOs pushing for things. And that's a job really for both RALO Leadership, but also for the ALAC Members in that region, to go and tap the input from the Members; from their ALSs.

And you could really put that this is the bottom-up process, but you could also look at the information dissemination, which would also have this red arrow going in the other direction, from ALAC to the RALOs – and the RALOs, of course, by that, the RALO Selected ALAC Members to go out and tell their ALSs what's going on at ICANN, what the big issues are that ICANN is faced with, etc.

Just a public comment process, for example. In the public comment process you'll see that it usually starts with ICANN asking for a comment. And one of the ALAC Members, or several of the ALAC Members would be interested in reading through those requests and being able to let us

know, let the ALAC know whether this is something that the ALAC should be commenting on. That's the first thing that needs to be decided.

But then afterwards, when a decision to comment has been made, a first draft is made... Now, if I can... I have an arrow here, there we go. So, okay then, that's stuck now. [laughter] Here we go, so first draft – I love playing with this. The first draft is drafted, and as you can see there's always At-Large structure input here. And the At-Large structure input is not just magical – this requires active involvement, both from the RALO Leadership, but also from the ALAC Members in each one of the regions.

That's one of the things I'd like to really emphasize, because way too often do we have very little of such involvement and unfortunately you end up with just a handful of people drafting and commenting, and you never know, you're never 100% sure if what you're writing, and what you're drafting, is something that is the general, overall view of the region.

The real tough thing here is that from here all the way to here, is 21 days. So from ICANN asking for a comment to the statement being released, is only 21 days, usually, minimum time for the public comment process, and that's very, very hard to sustain if ALAC Members are not on the ball and able to immediately say, "Ah, yes, I have checked with our community. We don't need to talk about this as far as our community is concerned." Or, "This is an issue we need to take up."

It's a constant race against time. That's one of the processes. The other processes – well, the At-Large structure input. If you have an issue that your ALS brings forward or a community feels strongly about, then you

have... The ALS wishes to comment, there is a discussion that has to take place at the RALO level. And I gather that that really is down to the RALO Leadership to work on and here as well, is there a consensus... Well, RALO level and then cross-RALO level.

But, from this point onwards, I think that ALAC Members can actually, because they are constantly in connection with each other, they can help in finding consensus across the RALOs. Then there is of course the discussion at the ALAC level, in exactly the same fashion as what I've said regarding the public comment process – you need to have a lot of communication going on and being aware of the different issues.

I'm not going to go through this part of... I've explained it enough. It's pretty much the same diagram as the previous one with the public comment process. There are three important links that I'd like to draw your attention to as well. And this gives you an idea of the amount of work that the ALAC actually does.

So the first one is the correspondence; the number of public statements that we make per year. It's all there. If you click on this you'll find that last year we had over 50 of them. And these did not just get drafted by Father Christmas or by Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – this was actually something that was done by both At-Large and ALAC Members, but with ALAC Members actually taking on a higher responsibility of shepherding this.

And you'll notice that some people drafted quite a few statements. To find out statements that are currently in the process of being drafted, you look at the At-Large policy development. It's really important. The

process itself is not complicated, but you just need to follow it to make sure that everyone has had a chance to comment in good time.

Time is your biggest problem here, and unfortunately weekends count and weekdays and nights and... It just goes very, very fast. And then finally, the At-Large Working Groups. And I'm touching on this because there are a number of additional points I wanted to make. Could we look at the Rules of Procedure Document please, next?

Magically my screen is changing. On the Rules of Procedure, there is an adjunct document that is going to be published and joined with the new rules. There are a number of criteria for ALAC Members, Liaisons and Appointees. And of course, one of the things is to represent the interests of the Internet users. There we go, so now I'll un-synch this so you can look through this at your own pace.

Is this un-synchronized so you can navigate around...? Holly? Okay, perfect, thank you. So a couple of other points I wanted to focus on specifically – one point, 2(c): An understanding of the Domain Name System and the basics of IP addressing. It's pretty important that if we have ALAC Members they know what the DNS is about and what the Internet protocol addressing is about.

You know, IP addresses, Domain Names... All of this is quite an important thing. It's a fast-moving environment, it sometimes requires extensive knowledge... Of course, you don't need to be an expert and everyone who has started in the ALAC was not an expert to start with, but I'll tell you one thing: they had to get up to speed pretty fast.

Because what we do have in front of us in some of the other parts of ICANN are the people whose business is the DNS, whose business is IP addressing, whose business is intellectual property and other points as well, and you will basically be chopped up into little bits if you come up with points and [laughs] if you effectively make mistakes or... Very big mistakes. And this is one of the big concerns about our ALAC Members.

I know we haven't had any problems, because people are generally bright in this community and learn very fast, but just in case you're very new at this, I would say that perhaps you might spend some time first in a Working Group and try to learn more about DNS and IP before launching forward.

The next thing also that is important, I think, is this – can I use that little...? Ah, I can use that as well, here we go... The demonstrated ability for thoughtful group discussion making and sound judgment. This is pretty much what consensus is about. And that's not something that we all have in general, as a standard thing, because consensus is a little bit different to someone making the decision.

It really is a case of the person who is chairing has to listen a lot before finding out what the general point of view is. And there are times when as a Chair you might have to do something that you don't agree with personally, but a lot of people want to do. And this is the consensus and well, you're just the person who's the odd one out and you have to carry the decision forward. So consensus-making is very important.

I would say the time allocation... And you'll notice there a number of things about time... Can I click here? Here we go – the willingness to

serve as a volunteer without compensation is pretty important. It's not all about travelling by the way. I think that if people who have travelled to meetings were actually doing... For overtime they've spent on the ALAC, were doing a job that would make more money than the cost of them being sent to a meeting, they could actually pay themselves a good salary and then have a proper holiday in these places.

This ALAC and holidays are two different worlds, which have absolutely no connection with each other, unfortunately. And I'm sorry if I don't make this sound too great, but there's a fun part in being able to meet regularly around the world, but there's also a heck of a lot of work that goes behind it. So the willingness to serve without compensation is really important.

And if you look at the next page, you've got the conference calls – I'd say that's pretty important to attend. If you don't attend conference calls then as an ALAC Member you'll soon lose track of what's going on, and it's a little difficult to catch up afterwards. So there are definitely a lot of emails that go through your mailbox.

And then there's one thing which I've recently asked of ALAC Members, and I know that it's been an unwritten rule for a while, but here it is: It's to lead or co-lead or participate actively in one or more Working Groups on the policy issues. Because the Mandate of the ALAC, although being stable, but it has been busier and busier due to so many new subjects coming into the discussion pool, we've basically made sure that the whole of the ALAC doesn't need to look at every single subject out there and so we've had some Working Groups created.

So a lot of the discussion work and policy work takes place in the Working Groups. And if you're an ALAC Member, you need to take part in those Working Groups. Otherwise, you're not going to understand what the issues are. It's interesting, because some Working Groups are policy Working Groups; some of them deal with more process and the constant and continuous improvement that the At-Large Advisory Committee and the community go through. Just like all of ICANN keeps on improving itself, the self-improvement.

So some people are more geared toward process and some ALAC Members prefer that, and that's okay. We need ALAC Members that are able to deal both with process but also with policy. And then further down, just one more thing I wanted to show you, and that's the vote. If you are involved in policy but then you don't vote at the end, when a statement needs to be ratified, then... Or when there is an election for officers and so on, then really you're completely out of the loop at that point and that's a real concern.

This happens from time-to-time. It's not something that's very common, but it's important because that's really among the minimum participation requirements. So that's one point that I thought was very important. It doesn't look good when a statement is ratified with a small number of ALAC Members, just beyond the quorum voting on it. It just looks like the ALAC is not paying attention – and the ALAC as a whole rather than just the individual Members who have not voted.

And that's pretty much the main points that I wanted to develop and of course I'm open to questions, and I hope this has been of help to you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you very much Olivier. It has been. I appreciate your time, and what I'd like to do now is just field a couple of statements, very briefly, before we open to discussion. Just possibly Rinalia... Just possibly Rinalia... Cheryl, I don't know if you want to say anything but for the people who have been on the ALAC and can... I'm conscious of the time, but just for a couple of minutes, just words about what ALAC and what ALAC work means to you and how you find the work.

Then, those thinking about either standing or supporting someone on ALAC will be better informed. So Rinalia, if you could just give us a very brief life on ALAC, and then if Cheryl maybe you'd also like to contribute? Rinalia?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you Holly. Can you hear me?

HOLLY RAICHE: Very faintly.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: [laughs]

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: [inaudible 00:23:14]

HOLLY RAICHE: You're worse than I am.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Okay, what I wanted to say is I would just like to take a moment to recall what I think are the benefits or the advantages are of being an ALAC Member. The first thing is that because the ALAC promotes and protects the interests of individual end-users, if you become an ALAC Member, then you would be in a position to make a difference on issues that effect all Internet users – and that's 2 billion people in the world.

And when you enter into the ALAC community, you would be in a position to influence not just ICANN's policy, but also it's strategy, governments, and operation, and then personally you would be able to grow and diversify your professional network, you would be able to learn about the issues under ICANN's purview or Mandate, while enhancing your knowledge about how they connect Internet governance as a whole, which is a fairly complex subject matter.

You would be able to build your reputation as an end-user advocate, and you would be recognized for your contribution. So those are all the plus sides of becoming an ALAC Member. Essentially, it's about making a difference. The challenge is that when you enter into ICANN, the operating environment can be really overwhelming.

It is a complex, political environment where the interests of different Stakeholders converse and often clash. And although ICANN has a narrow [inaudible 00:24:39] in terms of Internet governance, within this narrow band, the issues are wide-ranging – and I'd like to just give one small example.

In 2012 there were about 59 calls for public comment, by ICANN. That's an average of one issue per week. And all Stakeholder Groups are requested to consider and respond to the calls, and whether or not they do it depends on essentially two things: whether their Stakeholder interests are affected and whether there is capacity to deal with it.

Now, the ICANN policy development and public comment cycle is set at an extremely fast pace because of the sheer number of policy issues. During the Beijing meeting there were about 50-60 policy processes in the ICANN pipeline, and each policy process takes an average of two years to complete.

So if you recall, the ALAC is a 15-Member Committee, with let's say 60 concurrent policy processes at any one time, and even if we only agreed to participate or respond to half of the issues, on average that would require each Committee Member to be responsible for two policy issues throughout the year. And that's a minimum position.

In reality, the ALAC deals with more. In 2012, the ALAC issued close to 50 statements and that translates into three policy issues per ALAC Member. And how the issues are dealt with are through the Working Groups and Committees, so participation in these mechanisms is extremely important.

The demand side of ALAC work is quite high, but there are mechanisms for dealing with it, and I have some tips for you if you want to hear them now – and I could do it later on in questions and answers –, but you can manage this if you are self-motivated and if you are diligent. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you Rinalia. And Cheryl, do you want... I'm very conscious of the time, but do you want to add two or three minutes of advice for those who haven't spent the time that you have in ALAC?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Holly, thank you. It's Cheryl for the transcript records. I'd very much like to take a few moments, but before that, seeing as you're currently serving – in fact you're the only currently serving APRALO Appointed ALAC Member on the call, how about you tell us a couple of things for a few minutes and then I'll have a go.

HOLLY RAICHE: [laughs] Foaud wants me to speak later, at this point I might actually whisper for some of the words I could say. I think I would strongly support what Rinalia says – it has its rewards and perhaps the most rewarding for me is being able to make a difference to... You're on a very steep learning curve, you're involved in issues that you really have to read about and teach yourself about and then teach those who will listen to you about, and listen to them and be the conduit for a bottom-up, "What does your ALS think?"

It is a time-consuming thing and for those in APRALO, for some reason, Sydney, we spend a lot of time on the phone at 1:00 and 2:00 in the morning and that can be very interesting. In terms of though the time, there is a lot of time. There's time on the phone, there's time breaking, drafting stuff, there's time being involved in meetings and then doing the reading that's required to understand what those meetings are about.

The reward, as I say though, is very much a, “You can make a difference.” But if you’re going to make a difference you really have to be prepared to put the time in, you have to be prepared to listen very carefully to others, to understand what’s being said to you, and then being able to communicate to others your understanding and the understanding of those you represent. It is not an easy task but it is a rewarding one. Over to you Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much Holly. Cheryl Langdon-Orr for the record. I don’t want to spend too much time before Q&A, but seeing as Hong Xue, who is the very first of the ALAC Representatives and is the only other than myself ever having served on this call, I’d very much like to have a few words from Hong Xue. She and Izumi Aizu were the first APRALO Appointed ALAC Representatives, so Hong, if I could prevail upon you for a couple of words of wisdom before I jump in? Hong?

HONG XUE: Thank you Cheryl and thank you APRALO for letting me say a few words. Actually, I was not the first Member from Asia on ALAC. I was a Member of interim ALAC. At that time there was no ALAC, so, yeah, Izumi and I, along with other colleagues, helped to get APRALO established in 2006. So over to you Holly?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I’ll take that thank you, Cheryl Langdon-Orr for the transcript record. I’ve run a couple of meetings in my day so I can cast myself. I wanted

first of all to thank Olivier for an excellent run-through, and I would strongly recommend that this presentation style be in probably all of the regions at the appropriate times.

I'd like to let the community here, that are interested in what it is that we're talking about when we say ALAC Representative from a region – as Rinalia mentioned, an ALAC is a 15-person Committee. Five of those Members are appointed by the Nominating Committee, the ICANN Nominating Committee. Rinalia is one of the Appointments – or has the current Appointment for Asia Pacific.

Each region has what we would, I guess, describe as Independent Voice, appointed to the ALAC. The other ten positions are two per region, which are RALO – Regional At-Large Organization Appointments. Each of those regions put in one person for two years, but it's done in alternate years, so in every single year, the region, our RALO, APRALO, has to appoint someone – or on occasions, as was the case three times for me, re-appoint someone – to serve in the name of APRALO on the ALAC.

So it's staggers in years. So if you think about the time commitment, you're looking at a two-year minimum term. I would strongly encourage you – and this is not something that has particularly happened in APRALO, but it has happened in other regions –, that if your business and career takes you in new pathways during that term, or your family takes you in new pathways during that term, that you consider informing the RALO.

Unless you're very closely associated with the work of the RALO, and that's something that APRALO does fairly well – that you are stretched a

bit thinly and you get as much support as possible, or indeed get yourself replaced. Because it's perfectly reasonable if you're off breeding children or in a new career, rather than miss ALAC meetings and votes, you're probably better to have yourself replaced.

And that's something that I think we need to be very confident on, that once you're appointed, you are indeed accountable. And under the new Rules of Procedure we have a number of metrics and a number of mechanisms, including the one of recall, so if one is underperforming from now on, then one will be noted and one will have remedial work done with one. And if you don't work well enough up to remedial work then there is recall options and your region will be informed.

So there's no hiding under the bushes anymore. The other thing I wanted to mention was, do consider a minimum of seven or eight hours per week just on the ALAC work. And that is the minimum. Sometimes – and certainly if you're taking leadership roles either in Work Groups, in Work or Design Teams, or of course in the ALAC Leadership Team – you may be spending some days, that much a day. And in Olivier's case, I know all too well he probably spends almost that much time every day, including Saturdays.

Because we are AP, the rest of the world is a day behind, most of us, and therefore we will be called upon to work frequently on what we consider our weekend. So be prepared for the rest of the world thinking it's perfectly reasonable to have what they think as Friday meetings, and that's biting into our weekend.

Realize that even in a flexible time zone environment, as Holly alluded to, most of the calls, particularly the Working Group calls, are probably going to be at particularly unattractive hours – certainly between your 9:00 pm or 10:00 pm and your 6:00 am or 7:00 am, is the most probable time that you will be having ALAC calls – and that’s even when they are rotating.

Hong Xue and myself started very much in the theme of being actively involved; not only as ALAC Members and participants in the At-Large Advisory Committee interim or otherwise, but also to maintain strong leadership and activity in the region. Holly has continued that of course, by the fact that she’s not only an ALAC Rep but she’s continuing as Chair of the APRALO.

That is not the case in all regions. It is a choice, but it is highly desirable that you are constantly and continuously, and closely and preferably in a leadership role, involved in your region. And other than that, I think we’ll open it up for questions. Thanks Holly.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you Cheryl. And please everybody, if you’ve got questions, if you’d like to make statements, whatever, you have by my reckoning, 15 minutes, and I would welcome hearing from anybody who would either like to stand, like to support somebody, or who just wants to ask questions. And Olivier has raised his hand. Olivier?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Holly. It's Olivier for the transcript record. I just have a question for the current APRALO ALAC Reps. How do you deal with the conference call scheduling, which is a little hard since it often gets done during times that I believe are the middle of the night for you?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Holly? [laughs] You're the only one on the call that can answer that, I guess.

HOLLY RAICHE: I am. [laughs] However...

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I think it's begrudgingly, isn't it Holly? [laughs]

HOLLY RAICHE: I think it's begrudgingly. Let's put it this way, after this call and after a good night's sleep at 1 o'clock in the morning, I will be on my ATRT call every week. Then there's the ALAC call, and that also starts at 1:00 and can go until 3:00 or 4:00. So, yeah, I'm getting very used to having broken sleep, thank you.

Hong's saying yes, that's very unfair. Well, that's just the way it is. I think you get very used to having three or four hours sleep and then trying to be sensible on the phone and then going back and having another two or three hours sleep and then having a normal day.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Cheryl here. That's not to be underestimated actually. It is a function of our region and the time zone, that we are the minority in terms of time zone choices, and we are constantly put at a disadvantage. But unless the Regional Representatives we send to the ALAC can get up and do these calls, then we, as a region, are not being represented.

So this is a hugely important question, so all of insomnia as well as perhaps insanity and strong masochistic tendencies, are possibly some of the prerequisites of this job.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you Cheryl. Holly for the transcript record. And I'd have to say, the Pacific Islanders, I can see Emani and Maureen as well, I think they might have it even worse than we do in terms of hours, but I'm not sure. Maureen? I think this end of the Asia Pacific region, there's very badly... In terms of times for calls, but I don't see any hands up. Perhaps, can I put both Maureen and Fouad on the spot because both of you have put your hands up for this position, so I would...

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: So far...

HOLLY RAICHE: ...So far, and I would encourage anybody else who's thinking about it to also put your hand up. I'd like to hear what you would like... Why would you be likely to do what you do and what sort of challenges...? Either Maureen or Fouad, you're both...

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Maureen Hilyard?

HOLLY RAICHE: Maureen, go ahead.

MAUREEN HILYARD: If I can just ask Holly, seeing as I put my hand up...?

HOLLY RAICHE: Yes. [laughs]

MAUREEN HILYARD: It's Maureen here – just talking about the... Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE: We've lost you. Are you there?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Just mentioning the conference scheduling... Yeah, I must admit, I'm hearing it intermittently as well. The conference scheduling is actually quite reasonable for me. I think I have most of my calls... This is a 9 o'clock call for me, but that's actually a lot better than the 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock, which I know some of you are in.

But I recognize that, for example, the ccNSOs Team that [Keith? 00:39:35] takes, he actually shifts his scheduling equally around the

regions so that everybody gets a share of the early morning sessions as well as the normal daytime sessions, which is quite good.

I must admit, just to make a short comment on the standing for ALAC, for example, I think I've probably experienced already a little bit of the time commitments, the work that is involved – as I know Fouad has as well, I have to concede that – but having been involved in work for ALAC, for ccNSO, with APRALO, over the last...

The time between Toronto and Beijing and the commitment that was required during that time certainly gave me a very strong idea of what was required, and I know that the attention to a lot of the more policy-related issues is something that I would need to learn a lot more about, so I'm looking to do that. And... Yeah, I'll stop now and let Fouad have his turn.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you Maureen. Fouad, if you could? And I might even... Siranush as well, I might read out what Siranush says, after Fouad. Fouad, go ahead please. Fouad?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: [inaudible 00:41:18] if you're muted. That was Cheryl.

HOLLY RAICHE: [laughs] Fouad, we cannot hear you. It's Holly. We cannot hear you. Gisella? I would also like to... Fouad, go ahead.

FOUAD BAJWA: Hello. Yeah, hello everyone.

HOLLY RAICHE: Yeah, we can hear you this time.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Holly? Can Staff check what's going on with the...?

HOLLY RAICHE: I don't know. Gisella, can you just check with Fouad, and in the meantime, if I could just read out what Siranush has to say... Siranush: "Hello, some may not be able to read. It is a very important position and some kind of connection tie between the ALSs in the information flow is important, it's something that Olivier said in his talk, and I absolutely support this.

"There has to be a connection between ALSs and APRALO and all the other RALOs for that matter, and I think it's something that in the next call we will be talking about. Monthly updates... I have been doing a monthly report, which really went right through Beijing, my next report will be in May, but I think... And Olivier you can correct me, I certainly think NARALO... Most people have monthly updates.

"They are on the website and they are done and believe me, if I don't do mine, Olivier will be down my back, which is absolutely appropriate..."
Fouad, can we hear you now?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Unfortunately – Cheryl for the record – Lines in and out of Pakistan can often be a challenge and Fouad has frequently been, unfortunately affected by these technical difficulties in a number of calls; regional, Work Group and otherwise, so if Staff possibly could dial out to him, we might be able to secure a better line, but I am painfully aware that this is often a plaguing problem for him.

HOLLY RAICHE: Okay, in the meantime, Olivier has raised his hand. Olivier, go ahead please?

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Holly. It's Olivier for the transcript. I'm just noticing a question from Satish Babu on the chat. The question is: "I'm not clear. What is the role of the end-user, the Members of the ALS?" I guess first, the person who is the Representative of the ALS, and that's a very important question and it's good to bring it forward.

The reason or the function of the ALS Representative is really, again, to be the bridge between the At-Large Community and the At-Large Advisory Committee and their own community. And I think that this is not fully understood, because I haven't seen anywhere what the function of an ALS Representative is.

Maybe we would be over-engineering things if we were to define what the functions of an ALS Representative is. But by this question, and in fact, it's not the first time that I've heard this, I've heard of new ALSs

that join, and their question is, what do I do now, as a new ALS Rep and what can I do now?

In fact, you're pretty much appointed the ability to do everything and anything that an ALAC Member does, except of course vote on statements. But if you would like to hold the pen on a statement, you are very welcome to do so. And you're the primary contact point between the At-Large structure and At-Large, so communication, as I said, is very important.

Now, that also means that as an ALS though, you could actually have other people in your ALS that could be part of some Working Groups... You don't need to be the design direct for the ALS to be on a Working Group. The only thing is, the Representative from the ALS is the only one who can vote when there is a vote, taking place in a RALO.

But taking part in the work can be anyone in the ALS itself. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you. Cheryl, you've raised your hand? Go ahead please?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: I saw Rinalia first.

HOLLY RAICHE: Rinalia?

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you Holly. This is Rinalia for the transcript. In response to Sitash's question, it's actually a two-way street. The Members of ALSs may have concerns that related it to the issues that ICANN is in charge of, and therefore you, as a Representative of your ALS, can channel their concerns back up the chain to the ALAC.

That's one way. The other way that normally the ALAC tend to talk about is the other way down, like the policy issues for discussion are determined at the ICANN level and then filtered down, and you, as an ALS Representative, has to go to your Members and say: "This is what the ICANN is asking for input or comment on. Is this something that we care about and what are the issues from outside?" and, "Let's respond to it." So it's a two-way process. Thank you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you Rinalia. Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you. Cheryl for the transcript record. Again, this is to Satish's question, and it's a very good one – of course the impossibility and impracticality of ICANN being able to measure the opinion or even take the temperature of some 2 billion Internet users, I think is obviously ridiculous. They can't, and they almost tried at one point, in 2000 to have a small sample, and even that didn't work.

At-Large is the mechanism by which through our At-Large structures and regional organizations, ICANN seeks to take a sampling of opinion. Now, what's exciting about our regional groupings and the At-Large structures

within it is that we have an amazingly broad, albeit not yet complete, but still very, very broad reach into the world in terms of the number of countries that we are in.

But all we can do is use these ALSs and those region that have individual Members – the individual Members input – as mechanisms to take the temperature of opinion and view.

So an At-Large structure, it's absolutely imperative that if it has – as many of you do, and Satish, your organization would be a perfect example of one – a well constructed and broadly bottom-up developed policy opinion on something, that can and indeed should be pushed through our mechanism, where it affects or interacts with naming, numbering and the nomenclature of the Internet, into our mix.

As Olivier, said, only one At-Large structure Representative can vote, but Olivier, I just want to be really clear because we're talking to APRALO here, and APRALO has hopefully a minimum of three authorized Representatives for each At-Large structure, we do encourage our At-Large structures in our region to have three or more contact points, so that we have better and more effective communications, but only one of those, obviously, can vote at any one time – either in the region or if an At-Large structure was ever to be asked to vote in a more global way.

So I think that was important – to make the difference that in some of your regions, Olivier, it may be that there is only one, but in APRALO we encourage three, if not more.

HOLLY RAICHE:

Thank you Cheryl. I'm just going to read Fouad's comment. I'm going to suggest that both Fouad and Maureen, and anyone else who is interested in making comments – there is a page for these elections on the APRALO site. Please put your comments on. Fouad has typed, given the poor connectivity in Pakistan:

“My interest in ALAC comes from closely observing the important work that ALAC does. I have been part of activities as a Co-Vice Chair of APRALO in understanding and communicating on certain policy issues, and contributed on certain Committees that are important to the work and contribution made by ALAC. I believe that I can contribute extensively and represent my RALO meaningfully. “It is indeed a huge undertaking, but this comes at my personal interest.”

Now, we've come to the end of this. Let me just remind everyone of the schedule, which is from May 27th, which will be... I will announce this call for nominations for the ALAC position. The nominating period runs from May 27th to June 14th. There is then an additional week for nominees to accept their nominations – that period ends on June 21st.

From June 28th to July 5th are our elections and obviously the elections close on July 5th and we will know who the Representative is then. However, the newly elected APRALO ALAC Representative will be seated at the November meeting, which will be from the 17th to the 21st of November, and that schedule will also be posted on the page that I was referring to, which is the Election Page.

Now, are there any final comments? Because we have one minute. Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Yep, Cheryl for the record. I just want to make a point – and I accept, as you might all realize, begrudgingly, these delays. I do think these information sessions are useful, I think it would have been perfect for next year. It's been a damned nuisance from a Nominating Committee point of view this year.

APRALO, please be informed, your election schedule means that the Nominating Committee will be making its appointments to your region without any knowledge... Sorry, it will be making its selections for final decisions on its appointments without any input on who you will be appointing, because we will have already established our final listing well before you finish your voting, because of this delay.

That means that any issues, in terms of diversity, that you are not happy with this year, is just unavoidable and actually by your own making. I just wanted you all to know that.

HOLLY RAICHE: Cheryl, are there any other comments? Well, look, thank you all for paying attention. Please review the document that has been on the screen – it's called Adjunct Document (1) and it's all about the position that some of you either would like to undertake or would like to support someone to undertake. So there is that, and any other questions there is a Wiki and you're welcome to use it. And thank you all for your time, Olivier particularly; thank you for your time. And have a good evening. Thank you. [general goodbyes and thank yous]

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks very much Holly. A very good call, thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]