
OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening everyone. This is the Finance and Budget Subcommittee Working Group conference call, on Wednesday the 11th of, no it's not the 11th, the 6th of November 2013. It's good that I'm looking at the wrong page at the moment. Anyway. Welcome to the Budget committee. Can I have a roll call please?

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Thank you Olivier. On today's call we have Olivier Crepin-Leblond, Tijani Ben Jemaa, Darlene Thompson, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Alan Skuce, and Wolf Ludwig. We have apologies from Roberto Gaetano. And from staff we have Heidi Ullrich and myself Julia Charvolen. May I please remind all participants to please state your names before speaking for transcript purposes. Thank you and over to you Olivier.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks very much Julia. So the objective of this call is to review the new fiscal year 15 budget and strategic framework. We're not going to take much time on that, we'll just fly through it to give you an advance notice of what's coming up. And then we will also be looking at the community regional outreach pilot program, otherwise known as CROP.

Yesterday there was a call with the outreach subcommittee and we had a similar discussion regarding the CROP, and I gather that some of you actually attended yesterday's meeting as well. So this will feel a bit like a déjà vu. But I guess that by now you should have some questions as

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well, so maybe we'll continue the discussion that we had started yesterday.

Without any further ado, let's start with the FY 15 operating plan budget. There was a call that took place last week with [?] and the chief financial officer of ICANN, and his staff, and both Tijani Ben Jemaa and myself attended that call to find out about a new, yes another improved operating plan and budget process. And in fact, not only is it an improved one, it's also in the process of being improved.

So there is an improvement working group that is in place to improve on the improvements. So far, it's quite exciting, I guess. I'm just going to take you through a few of the points because this whole presentation took one hour to go through. We'll go through a few of the slides so as to be able to give you an idea of what kind of an animal we're dealing with here.

I'll also ask Tijani to add on whatever I haven't mentioned right afterwards, because he might have a slightly different angle or additional points of view on the process itself. If we can turn, I don't know whether I'm controlling this at the moment, but if we can turn to page number, let's have a look, page number three, planning process environment. In effect, the environment has changed quite radically in ICANN recently.

We've got the strategic panels which were announced at the very last minute and which had to be added to the budget process. You've got the ATRT II working group which is expected to make quite a few recommendations, and some of which are looking at the planning

process itself, and then you've got this Internet governance forum activity, which is the follow up to the Bali IGF, as you know, follow up to the [?] statement and to the potential meeting that could take place in Brazil.

All of this will place additional weight on the finances of ICANN and additional uncertainty on the financial planning. We go the next page, oops gone too far. Effectively, that provides no [?] for next year's, just reminding you, fiscal years run from July to July. So we're currently in FY 14 but we'll finish at the end of June, and on the first of July 2014, we'll be in FY 15.

And therefore, there is no [?] that is going to happen in the second part of next year. And at the same time, if you recall, we have done some work in the past of the strategic plan, and in fact we have contributed to the strategic plan, and it looks as those this [?] date is just overall, I guess, and so you're basically, they're looking more at an operating plan than an actual big top level strategic plan these days.

That's what they're going to focus on for the next 18 months until June 2015. This really shows you how little visibility they have and the direction where they're going at the moment. So less uncertainty, effectively, just move things around a little bit. The strategic plan is evolving into an operating plan, and then into the budget, and as you know, there is always been interaction with the community and with the Board.

And this year the emphasis really is going to be the interaction for the operating plan and for the budget, and the use of the public comment

process. If you look at a calendar of the process for the next few months, this is yet again being changed. The additional SO and AC budget requests, so the requests that we make for meetings and for additional activities in our RALOs, are going to be opened up very soon. [?] will be opened up very soon, and the process will run during the full length of the year.

If you look in March there is a dotted line, that TT there, vertical dotted line, that is the aim at which they think the additional SO and AC budget requests will be given a green light. Which means that in FY 14 we have two rounds of SO and AC requests. We have some for an early decision by the Board and some for a later decision by the Board. So that those events that will take place in July or August, will not be penalized by the fact that we have their budget [?] at the very last minute.

This year there are now looking at having everything decided upon by early March. So that's a good difference, and maybe we'll see how that works out. I think that should be welcome in our community, but I look forward to your feedback on that. With regards to the draft operating plan and development, than you can see that it will go on, the [?] will go on until 10th of January, where it will be reviewed by the BFC, the Board's finance committee.

And immediately afterwards, there will be a public comment period with community feedback being sought, and then there will be a draft budget development which will start at the end of January, sorry, end of February and go on until mid-April, mid to late April by which they will be another round of public comments. So this time we'll have two long public comments on this.

I'm not quite sure what the interaction will be on the SO AC and budget requests. I gather that the first round of [?] and also have to deal with the feedback for the proposals for the additional SO related budget reports. That that wasn't fully made clear when we had our meeting, so maybe Tijani caught some more of this, but I didn't quite. If we can just straight to, further down, I'll let you read the rest of the slide, but this one, the community additional budget request process. There was several issues of the clarity for the criteria of the requests.

And there was some confusion between the fast and the regular track. And so, a few suggestions and solutions have been made. One is to provide the [?] was that the list of the criteria [?] so a bit like having a good, a very close checklist of some sort. The next one is to schedule a call immediately after the submission of requests with the representatives of the RALOs and of the ALAC and I guess the Finance and Budget subcommittee.

I think that's something that we have asked for in the past, seeing our [?] being more of an interaction with the finance department rather than just throwing things over a wall, and then wait to get a green light or a red light. So this will probably be often. Merging the tracks, adopting the finding of the fiscal year fast tract is [?] ...see if we will make a decision by the end of, middle of March.

And then immediately after that you would get the results. So the results will be published immediately after board approval. And as we know, the board approval for these additional requests will come early. So that's the change on the additional budget request process. And I think that's pretty much of all what this presentation was about.

There is a few more slides in there which I'll mention going through in your own time. I'll hand the floor over to Tijani Ben Jemaa for his feedback and his point of view on this presentation and on this new concept. Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you Olivier. Tijani speaking. I would like to come back to page six because everything is a slide, and if you have a look to this page, you will see that this year, once again, we work in blind mode. That means that we will not have the strategic priority to build on our operating plan and budget. It is because the panels will not deliver their output before April 2014.

April will be the end of the process planning, so we will not....

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: The strategic panels you mean.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Strategic panels, yes that is what I said. So the study...

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Panels, sorry.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Strategic panels, I am sorry. So strategic panels, the five strategic panels will not deliver their output before April. So we will not be able to make

use of the strategic priorities drawn by those panels. And that's why the finance department decided to try to make priorities for the next 18 months. The next 18 months, part of them are the remaining part of the 2014 plus 2015. And this is to give a way to people to make a plan according to some priorities because we don't have those strategic priorities.

This is the first element. I think it is important to highlight because it is not the first year we work like this. Last year we worked also, if you want, this fiscal year 2014, was planned without strategic priorities because we changed, we got the new vision of the new leadership. And so we go to the ATLAS mode, if you want, ATLAS planning, and then so we had a strategic plan but we didn't follow the priorities of this strategic plan.

This year, it will be the same. So this is the first point. The second point, very important. The SO, the community, if you want, the community additional request this year will be, will start now, soon, very soon. And we continue until I think March. Why through March? Because this year, as Olivier explained, we will not have the fast track and the normal track.

I don't think there was a problem, but people from the final, so there was confusion and people were confused so they decided to remove the fast track, but to make all the requests as if they are on the fast track, since the decision, the final decision will be made in March, before the approval of the budget. This is a good point, in my point of view, because it will make us – it will give us the opportunity to plan activities, even if they are that the very beginning of the fiscal year.

Third point, very important, you remember last year I was very happy to announce that we have a lot of interaction with the finals team, and so the community has more interaction. I think we had four interactions during the planning process. This year, unfortunately, we made a step back. You see, we only had two interactions. And I don't think really the additional request will be included.

I think that the request will have a special interaction with the community. But even if it is not included, I don't think it is enough because before we had, we worked in this mode before we only had one interaction for the operation plan, and then one interaction for the budget which is not enough because things are already done and our comments don't serve a lot, things cannot be changed logically.

Last year it was different, and we had the opportunity to discuss everything before it was already done. Unfortunately this year it will not be the same, and I raised this point with Xavier and he agreed with us. I don't know the reasons, he didn't give the reasons but I think it is a transitional year this year also, so they don't have [?]. As Olivier is saying, we have a lot of [?] this year, and that's why the budget and operational planning had a lot of conference and doesn't have flexibility, doesn't have productivity, enough productivity.

So we will have sure some contingency parts in this budget. So this is the second point, the interaction with the community. And the last point was, there is another point. When I remember, I will tell you. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Tijani for this critical overview of the process. Just with regards to the interaction that you mean, I have no reason to believe that we will have less meetings with the ICANN finance department [?] than we have had in the past. In general, every ICANN meeting we have been able to meet face to face with people from finance, whether during the week or whether it's the At Large leadership team, the former Executive Committee, that meets with people from finance on the Friday of the ICANN week.

So in general, I gather that yes, there is likely to be open community feedback than there is before, judging from the schedule that is given there, but with regards to meeting with the finance department, I think we'll probably have a similar level. And on top of that, I do have to note that we will have immediate feedback and discussion on our SO and AC, well our RALO community requests. That's something which I do find to be quite [?].

But generally I agree with you the sadness of the fact that ICANN strategy panels will only provide their input to the process. The train has already left the station, so those are things and it probably is what we get in such a transitional year. Tijani, your hand is up again.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes. Thank you Olivier. Tijani speaking. Last year we had, I think, three or four times interaction inside this audit group, community audit group with the finance. This year we will not have that in the planning. We will have only two interactions. One about the operating plan and another about the budget.

Another point I remember now, something that I don't find normal, they are planning to have a five year operating plan. Which is, for me, a not operating plan. It can be an action plan, but not an operating plan. For me, an operating is a yearly operating plan because it is the preparation of the budget. It must, the budget must reflect the operating plan.

So they, I don't know why they have this... They said that the [?] is not good, and they think they will change the name to operating, no, to action plan. And but I do think that for each budget we need an operating plan for the year, for the fiscal year. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you Tijani. Are you sure about this five year operating plan? Because I...

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes, yes... Olivier. Yes.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Well, looking at the operating project plan itself, it only mentions the five year strategic plan, not an operating plan.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: It is not in the presentation. Okay.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thanks Tijani. It's Olivier speaking. I think I must have not caught that from the presentation when they were giving it. But if they are really talking about a five year operating plan, that is pretty strange. I know that the At Large community and the ALAC has asked in the past for financing to be [?] multi-year projects, so as to be able to spread the load of an expensive project over several years, or for ongoing projects.

But that wasn't something that I did hear at the time. So maybe there will be more coming from this part of the world, closer to the time. As you know, there is going to be a number of interactions with ICANN finance in Buenos Aires, and maybe if we do have any questions than we can ask them around then. Anyone else for questions or comments on this plan?

I see no one putting their hand up. Okay. So effectively what we have is another new process, as you know, and I guess that we will have the additional SO and AC budget request cycles starting very soon. So what we're going to expect is to have maybe some more, some stricter strategic objects, guidelines they said in there, for our SO AC requests.

But then we also have to be mindful of the fact that any of our requests from our RALOs have to deal with people travelling to a local meeting, travelling to local events, and this is something which is now being tackled through a slightly different process, which is going to go – well, which is going to start interminably. I guess even with [?]... outreach, sorry, community regional outreach pilot program, which will be the next thing in our agenda.

Just before that, I know that Wolf has mentioned a number of things including the concern that there will be blind notice again, and that there is nothing new so far. Heidi has just reminded me that I think we have a new thing, Tijani and I have a new thing with the new chief operating officer, Suzanna and also with the [?]. Heidi could you just give us a couple of, just [?].

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Yes. Suzanna and I had a, this is Heidi for the record. Suzanna and I had a meeting this past week, and I mentioned the concerns that At Large has on this issue, and she suggested that there be a meeting, a face to face meeting, between Olivier, Tijani, Suzanna and Xavier prior to the meeting, the discussion that they are going to be having during the ALAC on Sunday.

So this is really a meeting that is going to allow some issues to be raised in an open way with them prior to discussing it more publically. So I suggest that these are some of the issues that you're discussing today be brought up at that point. Thank you Olivier.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much Heidi. Yes, thank you for refreshing my mind. Of course, it's a breakfast on a Saturday morning, just what I needed. Talk finance on a Saturday morning, that's great. That's good news actually. And also to introduce Tijani to Suzanna. I think that, you haven't met her, the new chief operating officer, Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

I had Olivier in Durban during the finance session.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Okay. Well that will be a sort of shore up session. Anyway, a smaller setting for us to be able to discuss this. So seeing that no one has put their hand up, then we reach the second part of this call, and that's going to be the community regional outreach pilot program, which we have mentioned yesterday on the outreach subcommittee call.

Oh, I note from Cheryl, that the ccNSO also has concerns with regards to the budget process, that she will pass on some background until later to the chat. Thank you very much Cheryl, much appreciated. I have followed some of the discussions about the ccNSO, and I have actually spoken to Barry Holland, the chair of the ccNSO when we were both in Bali, so we had a brief chat about the concerns that the ccNSO had.

I'm well aware, definitely something that I will raise as well at the breakfast. Now, the CROP. You've got a link that is currently in the Adobe Chat which Dev Anand Teelucksingh has kindly put up, and that's a link to what the actual process is. In fact, if I could ask staff to [?] the FY 15 planning phases and timeline with the document, that will be great, for all to see. And so here is the deal.

The fact is that we had a lot of requests last year, and the previous year, that doesn't look like the right link to me. I'm sorry, but the mic I've got is doing that. We had a lot of requests [?] this year for people to travel regionally to meetings. And we've already announced this regional pilot outreach program where effectively you would have each one of our

five RALOs would have available five regional three day outreach trips planned for FY 14.

So a couple of things. First it is a pilot program, so this is something that is going to run only for FY 14, and if anyone needs this... I have no idea what happened now. When one needs this, FY 14 effectively means that it ends on the end of June 2014. So we only have a few months to be able to do this. It's a pilot program because staff will look at how well or how bad this has gone, how the slots will be utilized, whether there had been a return on investment on those slots, what was the response from the process, and will then decide should be conducted the next year.

And the way that it works is that the RALOs would identify and [?] at the same time, but [?] the next couple of months they will need to identify what meetings they would like to send some people to. They could send more than one person if they wanted to, and will put together a little file to do an application. This will be reviewed by two committees, which would work together effectively, and it's a CROP review team.

The CROP review team is made up of five members of the outreach subcommittee, and five members of the finance and budget subcommittee. The region for two times five so there will be 10, well first each one of the members is from a separate region of the world, so we can cover the five regions of the world, but then we don't have a single point of failure.

So if someone from a region is not able to make it, there would be a second person who would be there who at least would be able to

represent the region, and have the regions interests at heart. So having 10 is better than five. The amount of work that is going into this group is effectively going to be looking at five times five requests, so that is 25 requests all together, if not more of course because these are 25 requests that will be allowed.

But there might be more requests by the RALOs. The importance of the people on this review team, of being in touch with the RALOs is not often that they would serve as a linking, a bridge if you want, back to the RALO itself. And then there is the processing time. So each travel request, it takes two weeks for it to be processed by the CROP review team.

Why two weeks? Because you cannot just expect volunteers to be able to meet in a moments' notice. So we made it a week for the [?] to come out, and the choice of the call, so you have a minimum of two weeks in total until this will be processed and the CROP will be able to decide right away on the call. And there is also six weeks for the process to be processed by ICANN, and that's quite obvious.

The travel issues, the cross-checking of the information, etcetera. So we're looking at eight weeks all together, which pretty much stops any RALO from being able to apply for slots. December is definitely out, January is mostly out as well. We've been looking at events starting in early February and going on all the way up to June 2014.

That's the summary of it all. I guess that I can open the floor... First, I tell you what, let Dev Anand Teelucksingh who has been looking very closely at this [?] corresponding on this program, to provide us with a

little bit, any further information that I may have missed. Dev you have the floor. And then afterwards we'll have Cheryl Langdon-Orr. So Dev first.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Okay. This is Dev Anand Teelucksingh. Thank you Olivier. I think most of the persons that will probably already on yesterday's call. Just to reconfirm, one of the things that CROP program does not cover, it does not cover things such as visas, visa fees, or conference fees. I know this is some initial RALO feedback for when this is presented.

That's one of the key questions. So this trial program does not have any further funding for that. So that's probably one thing that RALOs have to consider. The other question I know that has also been raised is whether trips could be, whether trips could go outside the region and that's not the case. It has to be a regional event. So the trip has to start and conclude within the same region.

So if you're going to another region as part of, let's say, for the travel purpose, that has to happen because that's the most efficient way for ICANN to book the flight. That will be okay, but it's has to, where you're flying from and where you're flying to has to be within the region. I think Olivier you've covered most of the things here, but those are the two things that you probably want to highlight.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Dev. And these are obviously some of the first feedback on this, and I guess that this will go into the report that we will

give to ICANN on the CROP itself, on the CROP program. And with all of the weird inadequacies that this brings. For example, we found out earlier that a trip from Armenia to Berlin, which Armenia is near the APRALO region and the EURALO region, so trips to Armenia to Berlin might cost 500 dollars, and will be refused.

But a trip over to Armenia from Singapore, which would cost maybe 10 times more, would then be more likely to be allowed because they are in the same region. That's how the program stands today, and maybe that will be an improvement on FY 15 at that point, where maybe the CROP will be looking at costs or equivalent costs to refine the program.

Let's first go through the list, or the queue here, we'll go to people with questions. We have Cheryl Langdon-Orr and Tijani Ben Jemaa. We'll start with Cheryl Langdon-Orr, you have the floor.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Thank you Olivier. Cheryl for the transcript record. This is actually a question I [?] bring up in yesterday's outreach call, and then thought better of it because I believe it's far more appropriate for the finance and budget subcommittee to discuss. But it is specific to something that I would like to be able to brief our region APRALO.

We've already identified some of our probably places we'd like to travel to. And of course, one of them, unsurprisingly, will be our regional internet governance forum. Now of course that would mean that what we would be requesting is expenditure, ticketing, and approval within FY 14, but the actual event will be in fact the very first month of FY 15. Is that going to be a problem?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much for this Cheryl. I have not got an answer for you, that's a very good point. I think we would have to check on this because it somehow depends really on how the disbursements are made, and whether disbursements would be made technically before, so in June. Or whether the disbursements would be made in July.

That's something we have to look at. Perhaps that could be an action item for staff to find out, unless someone has already got an answer on this.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: This is Dev. Cheryl, if I understand correctly, if the flight is booked after the FY 14 which is June 30th, 2014, will funds be disbursed from the CROP program? From my reading of the CROP program, it doesn't appear that's the case. All of the travel and all of the disbursements has to happen before FY 14. Not after.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Before the end. Dev, it's Olivier speaking. If the tickets are purchased in May, and the hotel costs are taken up in May, then at that point, all of the disbursements will have been made before for an event that will happen after the end of June. So I'm not sure whether there are any precedents on this, whether Heidi will have any information on this, I don't know.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I have.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Oh, Tijani, you have. Okay. Tijani Ben Jemaa, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay thank you Oliver. Tijani speaking. It is clearly management that the event must be finished before the end of June, before the end of FY 14. So we cannot be funded for any event that, even if there is only one day in FY 15, then it will not be funded. It's clear. So if you want me to continue, or if you have the floor otherwise.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Tijani. I think you might be correct. I would ask staff to make sure, just to cross-check that again with ICANN finance and find out, just to make sure that we're on the same page. But I understand your hand was up before, so you will continue to have the floor Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes thank you Olivier. Two things. First one, I am so happy that the ICANN staff and ICANN in general, listened to the community. This is the consequence of the real ICANN finance and ICANN global stakeholder, etcetera engagement, listening to the community. Those are the questions that weren't funded and the year before.

The ICANN staff and the ICANN in general didn't want to accept this kind of activity without having some guarantee if you want. That's why they put this program, this pilot program, and it is very well prepared, and I think it's very [?] even with a lot of guarantees they want to have.

And I understand that it's still in pilot, so this is the first point. The second point, for your information the CROP is intended to help the RALO submit its requests to the CROP program people directly. That is not this committee that we established to harmonize or to help the RALOs in their request. The intent of the committee is to help the RALOs, it's not to control them.

And I really and I strongly advise them to go through this committee so that their request will not be rejected. If you have look to this program, you will see that it's very easy to be rejected. So this committee will take care of this point and to try to explain to the RALO which is not, what is not good in the request, what they have to do so that their request would have to be accepted, etcetera.

So don't see the committee as a control of the process, it is only to help. We want the five RALOs to have their slots, not to lose them. It is a pilot program, we may lose this opportunity, and we don't have to lose it. We have to succeed in this program so that the program will continue in the future. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Tijani. I think there is agreement all around with the [?] that you mentioned. What we now need to do is to create that committee. Now yesterday we had the same call on the outreach

subcommittee, I notice that most of us were there yesterday on that call. What we need to do is find five people on the finance and budget subcommittee that would be okay to be on that outreach, on this CROP review team.

And also five people on the outreach subcommittee [?] with people. I think we established that it was not too good of an idea to have the same person from both the finance and budget subcommittee and the outreach subcommittee. Since many of us are in the same case as you were, same call as yesterday, has there been any feedback yet in your RALO about anyone who would be able to take on this task?

I noticed that our FBIC, actually, it's quite – there is a number of people that have somehow dropped off. If you look at the Wiki page on the subcommittee of finance and budget, you will find that for AFRALO there probably needs to be a call to have one more person brought in, because there are only two people. For APRALO, there are only two people [?] although I noticed that Cheryl could also be put on this. So EURALO there are two people that are listed, and they are both here.

And there is also now, I note that Julia has also joined from EURALO. And then from LACRALO, Dev and [?] and knowing how Dev and [?] are, we might have to make the call for a couple of more people from LACRALO to join this committee. Then in EURALO there are three people in which we have enough to have two of them on the call at the moment.

Any thoughts on the composition of the CROP RT is welcome. Cheryl Langdon-Orr you have the floor.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much Olivier. And as you know, I spoke yesterday in the outreach call and put forward a fairly formal and outwardly engaging mechanism for the five regional representatives to be created there. But at this meeting, and again from a purely Asia-Pacific regional organization perspective, I want to do the opposite.

I want to point out and have it on the record that if we check the attendance records, I believe I am the only APRALO representative who has what would be considered a reasonable attendance record to the finance and budget subcommittee. I do believe we have had one or two of my fellow representatives in this committee to turn up once, and perhaps twice, for the last, gee, I guess it's three or four years.

So I have no compunction about not putting myself forward in this case. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Okay, thank you very much Cheryl. For the record, it's Olivier speaking. Tijani, you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes thank you Olivier. Tijani speaking for the record. I think that this review team has to be made of people from the subcommittee of the finance and also from the outreach working group. We don't have to look for people from the RALOs, or from the ALS, because they are from the region. We need people who are engaged, who are committed, and the subcommittee of finance and also in the working group on outreach.

If we have a problem of membership in those two groups, we have to do what is needed to be done very urgently. The last point is that we, people who will be on this team has to be committed, really committed because I want to tell you Olivier, that will another period. We have at least eight weeks to make a project go and perhaps take the final.

Since they will come and go through our team, we will add other time, and I don't want this team to make the projects late for their presentation, so we really need people who are committed, really committed so that the projects will not lose time because of this committee, or this team. Thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much Tijani. I see agreement from Cheryl on the Adobe Connect. And I might also, this is just a review team. This is not going to be a team that prepares the SO and AT requests. So effectively what we have are the, sorry. Not SO and AT requests, what am I saying? The RALO requests. This is not a team that will prepare them, it just needs to review things, and that's why it can act quickly.

What I would suggest is as follows, we have a list of the people who are on the finance and budget subcommittee at the moment. We have a list of the people who are on the outreach subcommittee at the moment. We need to make a 10 people team out of those two committees, and I know that many of us are on both of the committees, I would suggest that we just divide ourselves.

Saying, well I'll be on that review team with the half of the outreach subcommittee, I'll be on the review team with the half of the FBSC. I

volunteer [?] of the FBSC, since I'm FBSC chair. I gather that Dev will probably be looking at wearing the hat of the outreach SC. It is Dev, it could be Tijani, I can't remember now. Tijani you have the floor. Is it you?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: No, it is an old hand. But I want to be from the finance subcommittee since I am not on the outreach subcommittee, thank you.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah, okay, thank you. So you'll be on there, so we now have two people on this. And I know we have a few minutes left here. I see that Cheryl wishes to wear the FBSC hat, so we got APRALO that is covered. And I see Darlene, Darlene you have the floor. Darlene Thompson.

DARLENE THOMPSON: Hi. Since I'm both on outreach and FBSC, I can wear the outreach hat, and I just spoke to Allan Skuce, since he's on FBSC, he can wear the FBSC hat for NARALO.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: That would be fantastic. You're okay with this Allan? Darlene has just volunteered you.

ALLAN SKUCE: Yes, that's fine with me. Allan Skuce here for the record.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Allan. Super. So the NARALO region is covered both ways. NARALO is covered on FBSC and not on outreach SC. Wolf, Julia, any thoughts on this? I know that Wolf that you suggested yesterday that the RC will be chaired by Roberto Gaetano, and I'm not quite sure, I think he was asking for a bit more time on this. So would you maybe be willing to wait a bit more time?

WOLF LUDWIG: What did you ask me Olivier?

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yes Wolf, I was asking, it's Olivier speaking. You asked yesterday whether Roberto Gaetano could be chairing that group, the RT team. Any comments?

WOLF LUDWIG: Let me clarify. It's Wolf Ludwig for the record. I didn't suggest Roberto for chairing this review team. I was only thinking about who could represent EURALO in this review team. And as we are only a few members, it's in both of the subcommittees, in the outreach subcommittee and the finance and budget subcommittee, it's usually Roberto and me.

Today on this call we also have Yuliya, but if we are only as the two, having the two heads from both committees, I think it's not an ideal composition, and it's too closed based on the usual two subjects. And I

see another problem because usually those requests come from the EURALO leadership. It's usually me doing, preparing such requests, and then being in that role and sitting in with review and reviewing my own requests in my eyes, this doesn't look good.

And this is not the best way to do it, therefore, from my point of view, I would like to avoid such a consolation, and therefore I suggested as one of our representatives, not for the chair, but as a regional representative, Roberto, and Roberto asked to think about his inclusion into the review team, and I have to give him some days to make up his mind. Another option would be that Yuliya join this, etcetera.

I haven't talked to Yuliya about it. But actually we do not have various candidates for this job and for the selection of the review team. Thanks.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much Wolf. And you have to be mindful that this committee would be made up of members, people who are already members of the subcommittee and outreach of the finance and budget subcommittee. So I note that Roberto Gaetano is a member of the subcommittee on outreach, so it would be absolutely ideal if he could join on this.

I also note that from the chat Cheryl Langdon-Orr mentioned that the APRALO slot from the outreach subcommittee would be given in a couple of days, given a couple of days. Now that we just read that LACRALO and AFRALO, do we have any thoughts on this? I see Tijani Ben Jemaa and Wolf in the queue, so Tijani you have the floor.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you. It's only to tell you I think with the head of outreach, Fatimata could be or would be the best AFRALO representative.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: So Fatimata for the outreach subcommittee, and for the FBSC, did you volunteer yourself or someone else?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I told you, I volunteer for the finance and budget subcommittee.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Fantastic. Thank you Tijani. So that leaves us with LACRALO, and we have Dev Anand Teelucksingh with his hand up. Dev, you have the floor.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: This is Dev Anand speaking. Well, I'm looking at the list on the outreach and I'm realizing we do have quite a few more persons on the outreach side from LACRALO. I'm just wondering, well there are two approaches we can take with this. If I come in from the finance side, and then it would be easier to make contact with one of those persons from the LACRALO outreach and decide which one would be willing to step up for the CROP review team.

That might be more expedient, I don't know how practical that is. If you understand my drift.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yes absolutely Dev.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: So you would think that would be okay. So I would come in from the finance side, and then essentially have [?] by one, two, three, four persons, not including myself then. So it would probably be easy for LACRALO to make a decision to, amongst those four, for someone to step forward. I think. Probably the fastest way.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah. Thank you very much....

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Sorry. I'll contact the four persons and then ask which one wants to step up for it and get that...

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Excellent. So what I'll do is, I'll mark you do, I'll pencil you in... It's Olivier speaking at the moment. I'll pencil you in for the FBSC part of the CROP RT, and we'll leave the door open at the moment for the outreach to be part of the CROP RT, and look forward to hearing from your region within the next two days or so. Can we have that?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: I'll try my best, yes.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you. Thanks Dev. Next is Cheryl Langdon-Orr. Cheryl you have the floor.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you Olivier. It's Cheryl for the transcript record. This coming plan has come together perfectly in my view. Just to make it very clear for everyone on the FBSC, now that we have five regional representatives from the FBSC, the proposal that was put forward and endorsed by the outreach subcommittee yesterday, which unfortunately Dev was prevented from joining because normally he would be chairing that.

What we decided was that a small micro committee, which was Dev, Olivier, and myself, within the next 24 to 36 hours with Heidi would be putting out a formal call to the members of the outreach subcommittee, asking for their people, their nominations for the one person to... to come back in so that this could be finalized somewhere around the 48 to 72 hour mark from yesterday's call.

Five days as a maximum. Now my rationale when I less than subtly encouraged that to be the way forward, was that I suspected that we, as the finance and budget subcommittee, would be in a much better position to simply and quickly self-organize at this meeting here, which we have done. And so in that advice that we put out to all of the members of the outreach subcommittee, we can let them know who has already been allocated to this CROP review team from the finance and budget subcommittee.

So what that is effectively doing is exactly what you've said to a couple of the regions, with a couple of the regions in this call Olivier, it means that NARALO who are already still organized, or that they don't have to do anything, they just have the email response back really to say okay. This is the name from outreach, Wolf will talk to Roberto and hope to convince him to come along, if not find somebody else.

Which may in fact mean joining someone into the outreach subcommittee, the list is more open than this working group. But again, Dev, if you quickly self-organize with your fellow and Tijani if you can ask Fatimata would she be willing, then this can all be done post-haste and within 72 hours max and it will all be settled. Thank you very much.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND:

Thank you very much Cheryl. And yes, I think we're done with this process. So I guess this is an action item for all of those affected. Talk with Alberto, and APRALO is up to Cheryl to follow up, and LACRALO is up to Dev to follow up. And AFRALO is up to Tijani to just [?] Fatimata's position, and we've already got the composition from NARALO.

So thank you. So that's just one more thing before we close the call. As you'll note, there are not that many people on this finance and budget subcommittee, and we start embarking on a new cycle, it's very customary to send a new request for members. I suspect some members will hop off.

So we will have a call for new FBSC members very soon. Staff will be sending this out to all of the RALOs, and I think that will also encourage some of our new ALAC appointees to be joining the FBSC, but of course

if they show any interest and acumen in finance and strategy. But [?] beef that committee up a little bit because I will be quite frank, I think it's a little bit thin at the moment.

And knowing how important financing is for all of our activities, it really places an undo amount of work on our, on the few people that get the finance things to work. So it would be great to have more members, and not just restricted to two members per region. We've seen that there are times when both members are not able to make it, and it's really terrible at that point. It's not represented, [?] sometimes does make it look like the usual suspects.

It's a good thing the usual suspects are around, otherwise it wouldn't run, so there you are. I thank you all for this call. Any last comments or questions? I don't think I've forgotten anything or no. Seeing no one put their hand up, I thank you all for this call. We've been very productive and we've made some good progress on this. And this call is now adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]