

JULIA CHARVOLEN: Welcome everyone to the LACRALO Monthly Call on Monday, 16th of December at 2300 UTC. On the call today we have, on the Spanish channel, Sylvia Herlein, Juan Manuel Rojas, Joana Varon Ferraz, Alberto Soto, Fatima Cambroner, Oscar Garcia, Raul Bauer, Aida Noblia, Antonio Medina Gomez, Carlos Vera and José Arce. On the English channel we have Dev Anand Teelucksingh. We also have Carlton Samuels who is joining us.

We have apologies from Leon Sanchez, [inaudible 00:00:55], Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Sergio Salinas Porto, Johnny Laureano, Javier José Pallero, Erik Huesca, Alfredo López Hernández. We have from staff Heidi Ullrich, Silvia Vivanco, Susie Johnson and myself, Julia Charvolen. Our interpreters today are Sabrina and Veronica.

I would like to remind everyone to please state your names before speaking for transcript purposes. Please also remember to speak loudly and clearly for the interpreters' sakes. Thank you very much and over to you Sylvia.

VANDA SCARTEZINI: Sylvia, I am also here on the call.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Thank you very much Julia. I see Vanda is also a participant. I would like to thank you all for your participation after the meeting that we held in

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Buenos Aires. The marvelous experiences we now have in our memories. Thank you very much for your participation today. I will give the floor to Fatima to introduce Joana Varon Ferraz. She's the one in charge of the capacity building cycle.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Thank you very much Sylvia. I would like to introduce our guest today, Joana Varon Ferraz. Joana is a researcher and coordinator of projects for the Centre of Technology and Information Society of [inaudible 02:50] of Brazil. She's a very active member, involved in governance and Internet processes, from the academia point of view. She will speak about taking into account the Brazil meeting; how can civil society organize itself to participate in this process.

I would like to thank Joana for her participation. There is a great difference in time so we thank her because she's not in Brazil right now. Please mute your phones and speakers so that we cannot interfere with her presentation. Thank you very much.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Joana, can you hear us? She can hear us but we cannot hear her. Can staff please help us with this?

JOANA VARON FERRAZ:: Can you hear me?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Yes, now we can hear you. Welcome and go ahead please.

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: Thank you very much for the invitation. It's a pleasure to participate with you and share some ideas. I'm here to speak with you about a meeting that will be held in Brazil. The Global Multistakeholder Meeting on Internet Governance will be a worldwide conference held in April next year. I was involved in the negotiations since the very beginning. I think Fatima and Natalia called me because of that.

I'd like to share with you part of the process and what the critical points are, and how we can contribute so as to assist and to evaluate this important and strategic meeting, and how things can be improved. I will speak about the background of the event up to the current situation so that we can involve and participate. As you know, there are many people getting involved in the organization process.

I think this will be a very important event that needs our attention. The idea of the meeting appeared in this context: Dilma Rousseff went to the UN GA and during her speech she expressed strong ideas and views and she reiterated the principles of Internet governance that Brazil is trying to implement under the Internet framework. These are consolidated principles. These are the principles of the Internet Steering Committee.

There was a critique against the surveillance and procedures of all the countries that are considered to be friends, such as in the case of Brazil, when it comes to certain agencies such as petrol/gas or oil agencies,

apart from criticizing those events, in fact the scope goes beyond the national surveillance. President Dilma Rousseff reinforced those Internet governance principles as well as the human rights, democracy, transparency, multistakeholderism.

She also reinforced cultural diversity and many other principles that are important for us and that we've developed in different ways. Does anyone want to take the floor right now? Taking into account her speech – [interpreters stop receiving audio]. Can you hear me now? Is that better? As I was saying before, taking into account her speech, President Dilma Rousseff met with Fadi, ICANN's CEO, and the Montevideo declaration appeared.

The Internet community reinforced the need to work on continuous efforts to deal with Internet governments and to think about how to get involved in terms of international participation and multistakeholder participation. After that meeting there was a new proposal of this event in Brazil.

The idea is to have a Summit and this came from the Bali IGF. In Bali the Brazilian delegation was a high-level delegation, composed of the Minister of Communication, Presidential representations, Internet Information Technology Policy Implementation representatives from the Ministry of Information Technology – it was a very high-level representation in the IGF. There they had several meetings with the technical community, the Internet society, the civil societies of other countries to share the idea of this event.

Based on that, I'm taking into account the IGF, ICANN launched the idea of One Net to involve the technical community as well as civil society, apart from ICANN, in the government discussions. In the IGF there was the idea of having a high-level panel to have a debate about the principles and structures and how to move forward. That Panel met for the first time last week on Friday, and they came up with an agenda with different meetings that are coordinated.

This Panel will produce a draft report and this will be an input for the Brazilian event. After that event they will meet again to produce a final draft, and that final draft will be useful to feed other Internet events or important meetings, such as the Internet coalition meeting or the WCIT high-level meeting. This is very important because we're now in the group of [buildings? 00:12:36] so the idea is to change the scenario. We still don't know how but after the UN General Assembly, many modalities were being discussed to review the WCIT – whether they'll have a summit or not. This is a topic that's being discussed nowadays.

Going back to the IGF, this was an event to see different reactions and negotiations. After the launching of One Net there was a high-level Panel that is now working. They met for the first time and after the IGF we had the ICANN Meeting in Buenos Aires. I know many of you were present at that meeting. Then we had a meeting with Fadi and the role of One Net was discussed, and the process of the Brazilian event, but also the process of ICANN internationalization.

Not long ago there was an election process that started within the different communities to elect the members for the One Net

Committee. This Committee will have a very important role in terms of clarifying the function of this new network, with many multistakeholders in a wider sense. Apart from that, during the ICANN meeting, the Internet Committee met and produced a very important press release with information regarding the general objectives of the conference.

The main objective is to look for consensus based on the governance, and to have accepted principles and objectives among all the stakeholders and – let me see how to put it – an improvement in the institutional architecture and Internet governance. These are the main objectives of the event. Of course they are wide objectives. In order to achieve those goals there have been some discussions with the Brazilian Government.

They presented an organization structure or plan to organize this conference into different committees, which will be high-level. Some will be responsible for political participation and for improving and fostering community participation, but they'll have a multistakeholder approach. They will be in charge of the event organization, drafting the agenda, and of dealing with the participants there will be an Organizational Committee.

There will also be a Governmental Committee composed of the Government. They will decide the name of the conference. This is a meeting, not a summit, because the idea of a summit is a mere description but it's not applicable to the government. This is something for all the multistakeholders. What else can I say?

We are nowadays focusing and trying to think how many participants will be invited to the event and to the Committees. We have an email address; this is a communication channel for anyone who would like to contribute with suggestions, comments. There are certain organizations, such as the APC, who have made their contributions regarding the different topics to be dealt with in the event and how to include other participants.

This is a channel that's open for everyone. On the other hand we need to better understand the relationship existing among the different Panels and the event; the high-level Panel within ICANN and the relationship the Panel has with this event. When it comes to the meeting that was held last week, there were reports and information that came up regarding the different dates and agendas of different events.

I shared with Fatima an invitation and an update. I'm posting the link on the chat. These are different updates that have to do with the preparation of the plenipotentiary meeting for the ITU, and we still need to include information regarding the Brazil meeting and the high-level Panel, but I will include this link so as to integrate all the information. As you can see, this is very interesting. We're in a very particular point. All these events are being carried out and they are inter-related somehow.

The context within the framework of surveillance and governance, well, this is important and these have caught the attention of the technical community, civil society and other members of the community. The idea is to deal with emerging topics related to Internet governance. I

think I have spoken enough. Perhaps I can now give the floor to you so that you can ask questions?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Thank you very much Joana. Your explanation was very clear. This is very interesting for us. Of course we had some information about this, from Fadi, but your summary was very good. Thank you very much. I have many people putting their hands up. I will give the floor to Carlton Samuels.

CARLTON SAMUELS:

Thank you Sylvia. Thank you Joana for laying out the agenda as well as you did. I just thought I might add a few bits and pieces and see where we go from here. First of all, let me say that from a development perspective – the perspective in which Caribbean countries see the Internet and the role of the Internet – we are for one Internet, and it's based on a simple proposition: the bigger the crowd, the greater the opportunity to influence, the greater the opportunity to extract value, and the greater the opportunity to create wealth. That's why we're for one Internet.

With respect to governance we would wish for the world to know that we expect to be at the table because it's in our development interest, and we would wish to speak on our own behalf. Whatever the arrangement we'll resist any effort to put small countries; small island developing states, such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, on

the sidelines of Internet governance. We want to be accommodated and we want our place at the table because we have some things to say.

With respect to the matter that people allege is the rationale for the Brazil Plenipot being planned, we understand the matter of surveillance and we totally agree that privacy's important. We want to hope that every player on the Internet have that same goal. But we're not going to be sidelined by the dispute on surveillance, because what we know is very clear: everybody is listening to everybody else, as long as you have the capacity and the will to do it.

Surveillance, and what we call in the Caribbean "being fast", which is to say bothering other people's business – is not new. From the first time we had a Neanderthal man who learnt to grunt and apply value to the grunt, there was always another Neanderthal saying, "What the hell did he mean by that?" People like to know. From the first guy who drew a stickman in the mud in Samaria on the riverside, and he gave meaning to that stickman in the mud, somebody leant over his shoulder and asked, "What does that mean?"

So we understand that. It's natural. There are people in the world who've developed the capacity that cause hundreds of billions of dollars to hear everything I have to say, and everything that you have to say. I don't suspect that they will simply be dissuaded to continue doing that. It might go on the ground but it's not about to go away. So what do we do?

As a practical matter we have to learn to hide in plain sight, and we have methods to do just that – we call it encryption and various other schemes. We know that’s only a small answer to that problem. But we also know it isn’t very useful to talk about it because it’s not going to go away. The hundreds of billions that are invested in infrastructure to snoop is there for the long haul.

They will always say, “We’re not listening to our own people, we’re just listening to the other people in the world.” Okay, that makes those of us without the capacity cannon fodder. We accept that. We’re not going to let that go away any time soon. Our hope for the Summit is to come up with a way to effect a more perfect governance mechanisms that leaves nobody behind.

We’re for the multistakeholder model. We are for full participation, and we are for active participation of everybody who has an interest in the Internet being open and continuing to be one. Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Joana, I don’t know if you’d like to make a comment after listening to Carlton’s, or would you rather get all the questions and then address them altogether?

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: We can carry on please.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Very well. I give the floor to Fatima now.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Thank you Sylvia. Thank you Joana for your excellent explanation. It was very clear and easy to understand the different stages involved in the preparation for the meeting in Brazil. A summary of the London meeting has been circulated and I'd like to consult you on certain points about that meeting. It's no longer called a high-level panel, as it used to be called. Now it's called the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms.

My question is, why do you think this change was made? We don't have a lot of information about that. Personally, I believe it's a suitable change because in relation to what Carlton was saying, this is more inclusive. It wouldn't be a high-level meeting that one imagines to be more of a governmental type, if you will, and this will give room for other stakeholders to participate.

In terms of the London meeting, it was decided to accept a civil society representative. Only one person was accepted as a civil society representative, so we'd have only one person representing the civil society. How can we, civil society organizations, get more room to participate in this meeting, or in this process in preparation for the Brazil meeting? Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: We do not see any questions typed in the chat room. Joana, if you could please address Carlton's and Fatima's comments?

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: Okay. Regarding the formation of the first panel, no civil society members were included. I'm now sharing a link to the original panel, and you will see no civil society representative was included then. Then we spoke with Fadi about this and he said, "Let us appoint someone." Some civil society networks, APC among them, and several other networks in civil society, got together and they thought about [Newton Mealer? 00:29:50] and they thought about the other candidates.

At the beginning, this was not accepted. Expert participation was accepted – experts from the civil society, in their capacity as observers. [Andriette? 00:30:13] was accepted, [Newton?] was not accepted, and now we have other experts, Wolfgang, for example, [Bertrand J'appele? 00:30:26], people from the DiploFoundation. So we have participants in their capacity as experts.

We have LACNIC's report on this meeting – or comments on this meeting – and it's a very good report so I recommend you reading it. From the report, what we see is that these experts will also be drafting the report produced by this Panel, and there will be some instances in which contributions will be made. However, as far as I know these contributions will also be made by One Net.

We are at this stage now: the NomCom appointed civil society representatives, apart from Anya, from India, Wladimir, among others, that will be part of the One Net Steering Committee. So right now we are at a very interesting juncture, because we still need some definition so we can suggest representation processes, content or proposed content. We can even make proposals in terms of Internet governance structures, and we can start getting involved.

This is the time for us to provide input. Apart from that, in terms of surveillance, well that will be addressed, but not as thoroughly now. I think it will be addressed at a principle level. At the UN GA the third committee adopted a resolution that is still to be adopted by the GA. Brazil and Germany were the proponents regarding privacy in the digital era, and I do believe that a study will be carried out, and other meetings will take place, in order to evaluate how to address surveillance issues.

Many of you must have noted that last week Internet companies produced a statement including or reflecting their principles. They focused on reforming government surveillance practices. This is an interesting but also critical initiative. There are other steps that are more complete or more thorough, and do not only address reforming government practices, but also corporate practices.

I shared a link in the chat room. There is a newsletter being produced every 15 days. It's a newsletter that addresses privacy and surveillance, deals with policy issues, and it contains information about technical tools we can use in order to protect ourselves a little more, and depend less on policy changes. Are there any further questions at this point?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: José? Go ahead.

JOSÉ ARCE: First of all Joana, I thank you very much in my capacity as Chair of the region. I thank you very much for joining us. I couldn't join the conference call right from the start so my apologies for that. I joined ten minutes later but I was able to listen to most of your presentation. My question has to do with something Natalia asked in the chat room: what can LACRALO do in order to cooperate, to participate, in the Brazil meeting if necessary?

Also, Fadi, ICANN's CEO, when he was asked about getting somebody to represent the civil society, it seemed that he focused on gTLDs but he didn't focus on communities. We, in LACRALO, have thought about this because although we made a claim to Fadi about this and expressed this to the ALAC Chair – that we want somebody from our community to be present – well, can you please tell us if somebody in our community representing civil society, can be part of that One Net Committee?

To my mind, personally, I think our At-Large community must have a representative there. We have plenty of qualified people. We can get civil society representatives from other places so that they can go to the Steering Committee. Thank you.

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: Thank you. Your question is very good. The issue of representation is more and more important and there is always a problem that arises. I am getting familiar with different communities within ICANN. Maybe I am totally wrong, but I thought that the NCUC was like the starting point for the debate with the civil society. Maybe I am wrong. Perhaps I am wrong. How is LACRALO organized?

JOSÉ ARCE: Joana, I can update you on this. Basically, people who participate in this other Committee, where Milton Mueller's name cropped up, well, they represent domain names in general, but we within At-Large, and within At-Large LACRALO representing Latin America and the Caribbean, well, we focus on every type of policy within ICANN. We are an AC. We take on board what other stakeholders are doing and we produce advice. We give advice.

Our job or our task is wider in scope, if you will. We do represent the civil society but in a wider sense. I don't know why – and I'm trying to find this out through Olivier, the ALAC Chair – we were not taken into account; not even by our colleagues in other stakeholder groups. So it should have been fair to have a representative from each stakeholder group.

I don't know if this answers your question, and of course if somebody else would like to make another comment or clarification you're welcome to do so.

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: Another question that cropped up is a Cross-Community Working Group to provide input within ICANN. The NCSG and At-Large are there.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Sorry for the interruption Joana. I'd like to make a point of clarification regarding that point you're addressing. I understand that that group was formed in Buenos Aires and it was open to ALAC and At-Large participation. Our community is represented by León Sanchez. He's the NomCom chosen member. Then we have Evan and Holly. So we have three ALAC representatives. Personally, I don't know if I missed that meeting in Buenos Aires, but I don't know how that group was formed.

I don't know if it was open. I personally would have liked to be a member of that group. I asked to become a member and the answer was no, because we had three ALAC representatives already. This is what I know about that group.

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: Well, again, I learnt about that group last week, and they will be holding closed meetings but on the other hand the group is open, so maybe that is a way of producing strategies that will be fed into One Net. It's not clear to me either. It's a Working Group that we have to pay attention to. I do not have a lot of information about that myself, but the list is open. Excuse me, I'm trying to find the link to that list.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Joana, I'm sorry to interrupt, but we've been devoting 46 minutes to this part of our call. I will give the floor to Natalia Enciso and after that we will have to thank you for your presentation. We know it's very late for you because of your time zone. We'll be sending you all the questions posted in the chat room so you can have all the comments that were posted during your presentation, and so you can answer them.

I thank you very much for your participation. It was very interesting, very encouraging. LACRALO has made a statement and now you're a little more familiar with us. Surely we'll stay in touch from now until April next year. With that I now give the floor to Natalia Enciso, and any questions in the chat room will be forwarded to Joana at a later stage. Natalia, go ahead.

NEN: Thank you. First of all I want to thank Joana for joining us on this call and shedding light on this topic, especially taking into account the time now in Geneva. My question has to do with participation. How can LACRALO participate more actively in this meeting, and can you please explain a little more about that letter you mentioned? Maybe we can use it as a model so that LACRALO can get involved or engaged?

JOANA VARON FERRAZ: If you bear with me I'll look up that link. There's an email about the IGF, and that's open to suggestions. The Internet Steering Committee is in

charge of organizing this event together with the Brazilian Government. If you bear with me, I'm trying to find that information, that link. I believe there are many ways in which we can provide input. We can contribute to Brazil's agenda by interacting with the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee directly.

We can provide input on One Net, within ICANN communities, or we can provide input to the people that are members of the Panel Committee. There are several ways of doing this. This is in the making. We have to think about this. We have to question. We have to make proposals. We have to make ourselves heard on the different lists. I believe that we need to strike a balance between evolving things and making concrete proposals, while at the same time ensuring that all stakeholders are going to be heard.

This started off on the wrong foot because the issue of representation cropped up, especially regarding developing countries that were not considered in the Panel. We have two members from Latin America, so that's why we need to contact Fadi, or make statements or contact the Brazilian Government.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Thank you Joana, and excuse me for the interruption but we do need to proceed with our Agenda. However, I do thank you so much for the time you've devoted to this group today. Of course, all the participants on this call will have your contact details; your email, and they will get in touch with you so you can keep reinforcing this information. Once

again, thank you very much and surely we'll keep in touch between now and April. Thank you so much.

JOANA VARON FERRAZ:

Thank you. Thank you all. I hope I have been clear. I've shared an email address so that you can send proposals for the meeting; you can contact the Steering Committee for the meeting in Brazil. Goodbye and thank you everybody.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Okay, now we are going to proceed with our Agenda, swiftly, in the interest of time. I would like to address Item #4. We have commented on Item #3 – the statement produced by LACRALO on the meeting to be held in Brazil, and everybody has the link to the statement that was also posted by Fatima as well.

I would like to proceed to Item #4 on our Agenda – results of the vote conducted regarding whether the community wanted to sign an MOU with LACNIC. Today we have the results of that vote. I have posted the link to the result. Oh, I'm being told that this is not the right link. Can anyone help me? We can see the result... Please bear with me while I look up this information. We have 46% in favor. 28.12% against and 27.81% abstained from voting, and 17.44% of active ALSes did not vote within LACRALO.

Since we have the majority of votes in favor, I think we now have to focus on how we're going to draft the MOU. On this same page we have

a document, a draft document, so maybe we can use that as a starting point. I'd like to hear your views, and I'd like to give the floor to José so he can chair this part of the meeting. We need to get organized. We need to define the next steps towards this MOU between LACRALO and LACNIC. José?

JOSÉ ARCE: Thank you Sylvia. I see Carlton is asking for the floor so before I continue, Carlton, would you like to take the floor?

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you. I wanted to ask whether the comments that were made during the debate online, pertaining to the MOU, whether or not they were evaluated as part of the voting issue? I say that to say that there were quite a few concerns raised as to whether or not we were voting purely on the question, "Would we like to have an MOU?" or the vote was towards the draft MOU that was presented? Thank you.

JOSÉ ARCE: Thank you Carlton. We decided to vote on whether the region wanted to sign an MOU or not. Nothing was said about the content. Regarding the latest online debate, we thought that first of all it would be better to know whether we wanted an MOU or not, and then discuss the content of the MOU. The proposal I was about to make was the following: to have at least two people, and no more, in charge of writing the draft MOU.

These two people should be in close contact with LACNIC so that the draft is not far from reality. That was going to be my proposal. I was going to volunteer as a member of the drafting team. Then the other member could be Carlton or Dev. That was my idea. Are there any comments on this point? If not, anyone willing to be part of the drafting team – no more than two or three because otherwise it would be difficult to coordinate – anyone is welcome to join the drafting team.

We should have a draft text by early January so that we can share that with the community. I would be more than happy to be a member of that drafting team. If you all agree we can assign the members today and then move on. I see that everybody is typing in the chat room but nobody wants to take the floor. I look forward to more volunteers. I see that Oscar would like to join the team. We will seek to have someone from the Caribbean as well so that we can draft this document.

While you're all typing I will move on. Dev wants to take the floor. Dev, go ahead please.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you. Just to say that I'm willing to be on the drafting team, and I think a January deadline is too soon, but that's my initial comment. Thank you.

JOSÉ ARCE: Okay. Oscar?

OSCAR GARCIA: This question then is if there is somebody that can coordinate this task. Would you be in charge of doing that?

JOSÉ ARCE: Well, Oscar, in fact there would be three of us in this drafting team and we would agree or coordinate this by exchanging emails. If necessary we can hold a conference call, but if there are only three of us I believe there's no need for that. The idea is to do everything in English as our working language, and if Dev thinks this deadline is a little bit tight, we can have the draft ready by early February.

OSCAR GARCIA: Okay, I agree with that and I'm willing to help.

JOSÉ ARCE: Okay, if everybody agrees then this is the membership of this group. Carlton's saying that he will be supporting Dev, so that's very welcome. Surely then, by this deadline that we've agreed on we will produce a draft so that we can get community input. We will now proceed to Item #6 on the Agenda – the LACRALO representative on the FBSC CROPP Review Team.

There was a vacancy at the time and Carlos Aguirre was the only one that volunteered and we need to come up with a reply tomorrow at the latest. We need a third person that will join Dev and Cintra in this Sub-Committee. If everybody agrees then Carlos can be that third person.

We can state that for the record and tomorrow we can communicate that decision. I believe that Carlos is qualified and capable as a member of that Committee and he'll do a very good job.

While you all express your views, let us please pass onto the next Item on the Agenda, which is LACRALO activities in ATLAS II GA, inreach activities, etc. Okay, ICANN staff is coordinating our region's activities in the Summit that will take place in July next year. So far Sylvia and I have focused on the LACRALO GA. It will last three hours, all in all, and we all need to discuss what other activities we want to do in July in this meeting.

Perhaps we can set up another group with two or three people. I believe that the fewer the people the faster and more swiftly you work. Maybe four people at the most could get together in a group to focus on the activities that we can perform in that meeting; making the most of all the ALSes that will be there. Maybe we can work along the same lines as we did in Costa Rica, for our region and for all the representatives.

The idea is to do something productive so everyone can take something on board to their respective countries. I don't know if Sylvia or anybody else has a comment at this point?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

No, that's fine. I totally agree with you. What I wrote in the chat was that it is three hours with a 20-minute break for the GA. Even though

we have plenty of time we need to be open and very accurate in terms of the rooms that we'll have in London. That's why we need to be very careful with the activities because I know we like working quite a lot, but we need to take into account that this GA will be held within ICANN's ATLAS so all of us need to participate in the ICANN activities meeting. Fatima, go ahead please.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Thank you very much Sylvia. I would like to remind you that within At-Large there are different Working Groups related to ATLAS II. These are different Working Groups. Some of them are related to the content and from At-Large we're working for the London meeting and there, if any of you are interested, you can participate. You need to let staff know and they'll add you to the discussion list. They will have conference calls and an email list. Thank you very much Natalia for posting that information in the chat.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Thank you very much Fatima. Dev, you have the floor.

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Just to say that regarding the GA being three hours – one, not to say I'm not looking forward to meeting everybody at the London Summit, however I hope it's not going to be a long... We require the full three hours because one, there's a lot of activity happening during the ATLAS Summit. Two, I'm always mindful and a little concerned when someone

says we need to form a small Working Group to try and come up with something and then it's sprung at the very last minute.

I'm concerned again that there will be transparency and regular publishing of whatever's being discussed, with everybody involved. That's two. Finally, one quick correction that was said earlier regarding Agenda Item #6 – the LACRALO representative to the FBSC. It is only for the FBSC, not the CROPP Review Team. The CROPP Review Team has already been set up. Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Thank you very much Dev. Carlton?

CARLTON SAMUELS:

Thank you Sylvia. Dev took the thunder from what I wanted to say but I want to say it anyhow. We need to be mindful that the time we spend on the GA at London is reduced to the barest minimum, and the way we do that is prepare resolutions and establish the position of LACRALO under various resolutions, before we get to London. In London then the resolutions can be handled with dispatch.

Part of the problem we have in our GA is that we wait until the Assembly to make the proposals face-to-face and then we spend the time debating the proposals. Some proposals can be made before we get to the GA and positions can be established long before we get to the GA, so that when we get to the GA they are merely for adoption by the

Committee. It is very important for us to ensure that that practice is enabled for the next GA.

Secondly, the question of these small Working Groups. As you know, I am not a big fan of small insular Working Groups because I believe in crowd-sourcing, especially when you're talking about knowledge and policy. It's best to crowd-source so there are more persons involved and more people have visibility of the issue; to gain from the opportunity and to gain some useful output.

So whatever we do I would hope that we make it to the largest possible group in the shortest possible time. That is to say, even if we begin with a small Committee, the deliberations must be shared on a regular basis with a larger group, so in the end you have as much opportunity as possible for the larger group to air their views on whatever proposal is developed by the smaller group.

I know it's about the GA but as I look at the landscape of the issues that we will have to deal with, as a group representing end users, there are some major policy debates that I feel that we should begin to embrace, so that our voices can be recorded as part of a solution, as opposed to sitting on the sidelines and waiting for everybody else to pronounce and then we say, "Yeah, it sounds like it."

Again, I implore you – let us begin to look at the larger issues that we have concern about. Let us begin to put them on the agenda for discussion, put them on the group list. Let us begin to access the crowd to get as much information as possible, as much feelings as people have

on an issue as possible. Then as we come to London we'll have come to a firm decision on what the sense of LACRALO is and we don't waste time debating the issues for three hours there. Thank you.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Thank you Carlton. Juan Manuel?

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you Sylvia. Part of what I wanted to say was already expressed by Carlton. We are now talking about our general agenda, but I'd like to say that we should pay attention to different points, and we can also perform different types of activities. We can start talking about, for example, the presentation of a study performed within the region regarding the Internet users that we have in the region.

I don't know, these are just examples. The idea is that apart from the GA we can perform other activities so that we can make the most of that GA. That is my comment. We need to be very focused and take in to account that we can carry out other activities within our regions, as we did in Buenos Aires. That's all. Thank you very much.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Thank you very much Juan Manuel. As José said before, we're also taking this into account because we want to organize and see what other activities we could carry out. Fatima?

FATIMA CAMBRONERO: Thank you very much Sylvia. I would like to make sure that I'm understanding what Carlton is saying. I do agree with what he's saying. We need to focus on substantive issues heading for the London meeting, and we do not only need to focus on procedures, but I would like to remind you all that today there was an email on the list indicating the different policy topics that are open within ALAC. I couldn't see any reply, so please read that email and indicate if you are willing to work on those issues.

On the other hand, I would like to make a proposal, if Carlton agrees, as he has already participated in the Mexico Summit, he has a good idea about the Summits. I'd like to ask him if he could volunteer to lead or pave the way for this London meeting and tell us the steps we need to follow to have substantive and concrete proposals. That's all. Thank you. José, you have the floor.

JOSÉ ARCE: Two comments. I do agree with Fatima. We'd like to see if Carlton has time and if he can take the lead for that activity. When it comes to Carlton's comment, well, I do agree with what he said. We need to create and proceed with the agenda, but we still need to agree on the content. We need to make decisions about this. We need to discuss substantive topics. Once the agenda is designed we need to reach consensus. Secondly, Carlton says that he likes big groups. Well, I do not agree with him; I like small groups, but I'd like to clarify this.

The participation of the community does not depend on the size of the group but it depends on the communication channel, and if people do or do not use that communication channel. We can have a Working Group composed of two or three people and we can have one contact with the community and a greater follow up. We need to take into account the fluency of the communication, and I personally believe that working in a small group can produce better results than other groups. That was my proposal.

Anyway, the amount of people participating in a Working Group will be decided by the region. That is just my point of view, according to what I've seen in the two years I've been the Chair of LACRALO. This is of course open to opinion. Now, if there are no further comments on this particular point on the Agenda, Sylvia, I'd like to... I see Carlton is typing. Carlton?

CARLTON SAMUELS:

I want to properly explain what I meant when I said I prefer the larger groups. One of the things we do in LACRALO less well is involve greater numbers in the business of LACRALO. To me, we should do what we must to gather more people in sharing the thinking and the work of LACRALO. It's okay for us to have a small group that could jumpstart a process, but as soon as that process is jumpstarted, I believe we have a duty of care to find methods and means by which we gather more input from the larger group of the membership.

I think it's not that... When I see people in LACRALO I see them as thinking people who have opinions and who I know can contribute and have what it takes to provide significant contribution to any issue we might bring. I think we have to find ways to get them involved at an earlier stage. I have purposefully stepped back from doing lots of stuff because I think we need others to come forward and demonstrate that they can do stuff they think they really understand.

It's now true. I'm now convinced more than ever that we have a larger group of persons who are capable of providing input. We've just not been able to mobilize them into that active involvement. My worry is to ensure that we don't perpetuate the situation where we continue to depend on the small group to move things along, while there are others out there who might be gainfully included in any of the initiatives that we undertake here in LACRALO. That's my plea.

As we form the groups, even just as small groups to kick off a process, please remember that we must find a way to bring in others from the larger group so that we have good [frontmen? 01:14:22] and good participation from the larger membership. That's what I'm concerned about José. It's not so say that you can't start off with a small group, but there must be some kind of mechanism by which we will begin to include others in working on the issues. Thank you.

JOSÉ ARCE:

Thank you very much Carlton for your comment. I fully agree with your words. The way in which LACRALO is functioning, well, we can see that

sometimes the scheme is not working. I, as a Chair, and Sylvia, we were not able to achieve that. What I'm trying to do is find other ways to achieve participation, and when I say a small group, well if we can have a small group with very good contact with the community, that's good. We also see that with the groups that were created in Costa Rica, in Costa Rica we had four Working Groups with ten participants, and only four participants ended up working.

There were people who did not reply to the emails, people who did not participate... So this is a constant and continuous situation with LACRALO. I have seen this throughout the different conference calls. In my case as the leader of a region, I feel frustrated somehow, but at the end of the day I don't need to feel frustrated because we are volunteers.

Perhaps there might be people who cannot work or cannot contribute, but nobody can say anything about this because we need to start working and we need to have input. That's where my idea of having small Working Groups came from – where we can know that those four people, for example, participate and have a clear and concrete understanding of a topic and they have a very close relationship with the community.

For example, if we have a big group and that group will have contact with the community once a month, well, they should have contact with the community perhaps every single week. But if we have a small group and they have a close contact with community, well, that's fine as well. If someone wants to be part of a small group that's fine because nobody can prohibit... We are looking for ways to increase participation, and we

also need to take into account the different topics of interest of people working in the region.

That was my point of view, Carlton. I hope you understand this, but as I said before, we have the same dynamics and we'll see how we can work with that. Thank you very much for your comments. You know that I always take your words into account. I'm now going to move forward with the Agenda. We have two topics to discuss – two important topics. One of them is the elections for LACRALO's Chair and Secretary. Sylvia, would you like to take the floor?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Thank you very much José. I see that some participants had to leave the call. This is the last meeting of the year so I've posted in the chat the dates regarding the election process that we will have in January next year. Since we don't have time I've posted that information in the chat and this will be posted on the Wiki.

This is a process and in order to organize ourselves we are following the Rules of Procedure. We will start with the nominations for the Secretary and Chair positions in January. The rest of the dates, well, you can consult that information on the Wiki and in the chat. We still have seven minutes for the call.

JOSÉ ARCE:

Thank you very much Sylvia. I will speak now about Item #9 and then we'll have some time for other business. When it comes to Item #9,

Sergio Salinas Porto is the one in charge of this topic. I received some emails that the community would like to know when the community was called to participate, because there were many people interested in participating in this committee.

I do not have the reply right now. I don't know when the call was opened or when Sergio was called to participate in the Working Group, and when Sergio was appointed to that Working Group. I will forward this question to Sergio and Sergio can reply to the questions. This is for all the people asking about the process, and Sergio will be able to answer directly to the community. Sylvia?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

I would like to say that Sergio is part of this Committee because in a meeting in Buenos Aires, when Maureen came to explain this to us, he volunteered to be the Liaison. Maureen is in contact with all the RALOs and he volunteered himself to be the Liaison for LACRALO. Some people also participated in the group after Buenos Aires, but in fact there was not a formal procedure to create this Working Group. This took place in an ALAC meeting. That's all. Thank you.

JOSÉ ARCE:

Thank you very much Sylvia. I see that some people are happy with it being spontaneous, but some other people need consensus from the community. Let's see what happens with this. I will forward all these questions to Sergio, so please, I think you can be part of this Sub-

Committee. I don't have a reply to give you right now, but I've you'd like to be a member I think you can do it.

I see that Sergio will... Fatima is saying that Sergio will provide a report. I'd like to ask staff if Sergio has sent a report regarding this ALAC Metrics Sub-Committee?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Well, we have not received any report from Sergio Salinas Porto. We still don't have a report.

JOSÉ ARCE:

Okay. Now we can bring this call to a close. Fatima, you have the floor. Two minutes please.

FATIMA CAMBRONERO:

Thank you very much José. José, we need to discuss the last Item on the Agenda – LACRALO policy issues. I'd like to make a motion for the next conference call. This should be in the following call for Item #1, because if we're asking for involvement on substantive and important issues we cannot leave this items or these topics to the end. We need to discuss policy issues, so please, for the next call, put this Item as #1. Thank you.

JOSÉ ARCE: Thank you very much Fatima. We will do so. No problem. This Item some time ago was Item #2 or #3 on the Agenda. I don't know why it's now #10 but we'll move it. I see Dev?

DEV ANAND TEELUCKSINGH: Thank you. Just a reminder that the CROPP has begun, and this region, LACRALO, has available five travel slots, so we need to identify travel for outreach purposes for which we can send up to five persons. The travel has to take place before June 30th 2014, and there's a requirement to submit this to the CROPP Review Team eight weeks in advance. Please think about some events that might be useful for persons to attend for outreach purposes. Of course, merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

JOSÉ ARCE: Thank you very much Dev for your reminder. Alberto Soto, you have 30 seconds. In fact, 35 seconds because you're a friend of mine.

ALBERTO SOTO: Taking into account Dev's reminder I think we can take into account the plan we presented that was not approved for next year. So we can make the most of the CROPP, there are 17 countries where we don't have ALSes, so we can create a plan to attract the different ALSes in the region.

JOSÉ ARCE:

Okay, excellent. Thank you very much for your comment. We know that this funding was not approved for LACRALO. This is our last conference call of the year so I'd like to thank you all for this very active year. It was a very participatory year. We had a lot of participation. We have new ALSes. For me, as Chair of the region, it was very nice to share this year with you and I hope that you feel the same.

I believe that with the passing of time this region will become one and the differences that we identified in Costa Rica, and before Costa Rica, they will start disappearing – the footprint in the sand. I am very happy with the result, because from my position as Chair I'd like to see one unified region.

I wish you a very happy New Year and I hope this year has been very productive for you. I wish you have a very productive year next year, for you and for your families, because families are very important for human needs. Please tell your family that you love them. Thank you very much to the interpreters, thank you very much to staff. Thank you Sylvia and thank you all the participants in the Spanish and English channels. Happy New Year.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE:

Thank you very much José and thank you all for this wonderful year.

SILVIA VIVANCO:

Thank you very much and happy New Year.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]